

By the Committees on Ethics and Elections; and Reapportionment;
and Senators Haridopolos, Siplin, and Lawson

582-05550-10

20102288c2

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing the creation of Section 20 of Article III of the State Constitution to provide standards for establishing legislative and congressional district boundaries.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following creation of Section 20 of Article III of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 20. Standards for establishing legislative and congressional district boundaries.—The legislature shall establish contiguous single-member senatorial districts that do not overlap, contiguous single-member representative districts that do not overlap, and contiguous single-member congressional districts that do not overlap. Districts shall be equal in population. District boundaries and plans shall be drawn in a manner that respects communities of common interests other than political parties and that does not deny citizen rights to express favor or disfavor for incumbents or political parties. District boundaries and plans shall be drawn in a manner that does not deny or diminish opportunities for racial or language minorities to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice. The legislature shall balance and

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30 apply standards in this constitution to establish senatorial,
31 representative, and congressional districts, giving priority to
32 the standards in this section. District boundaries or plans are
33 valid if drawn in a manner that is rationally related to the
34 standards in this constitution and consistent with federal law.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
36 placed on the ballot:

37 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

38 ARTICLE III, SECTION 20

39 STANDARDS FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN LEGISLATIVE AND
40 CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.—Contiguous single-member districts
41 shall be drawn to: (1) equalize population, (2) respect
42 communities of common interests, (3) not deny citizen rights to
43 express favor or disfavor for incumbents or political parties,
44 and (4) not deny or diminish opportunities for racial or
45 language minorities to elect candidates they choose. Giving
46 priority to these requirements, the Legislature shall balance
47 and apply all constitutional standards for redistricting.
48 Districts are valid if drawn in a way that is rationally related
49 to standards in the State Constitution and consistent with
50 federal law.