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HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012

Transcribed by:  
CLARA C. ROTRUCK  
Court Reporter

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay,  
3 members, if we can get everybody to take their  
4 seats, we are going to start here. Katie,  
5 could you please call the roll?

6 THE CLERK: Representatives Adkins?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Bernard?

9 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

11 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

13 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

15 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Fresen?

17 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Frishe?

19 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Holder?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Horner?

23 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Hukill?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
2 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Here.  
3 THE CLERK: Jones?  
4 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here.  
5 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
6 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Here.  
7 THE CLERK: Legg?  
8 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.  
9 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
10 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Here.  
11 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
12 Rogers?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.  
14 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Here.  
16 THE CLERK: Schenck?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Here.  
18 THE CLERK: Workman?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Here.  
20 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Here.  
22 THE CLERK: We have a quorum.  
23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
24 very much, Katie.  
25 Good morning, members. We have a nice

1 long, full day today. How long we go will be  
2 determined based on the amount of public  
3 testimony we have and how much we want to talk  
4 about the maps that we are going to be  
5 proposing. So we are going to get everybody  
6 out of here as soon as we possibly can, but we  
7 also are going to make sure that we spend a lot  
8 of time to thoroughly analyze the maps that are  
9 before us.

10 As you know, we are here to workshop the  
11 options for Florida state legislative and  
12 congressional redistricting maps that were  
13 passed by the respective subcommittees. Some  
14 of you sit on those subcommittees, and some of  
15 you do not, so in that regard, I would like to  
16 thank the subcommittee Chairs and the  
17 subcommittee members who worked very hard to  
18 bring the product to this full Committee, and  
19 we appreciate all the effort that you've put in  
20 thus forth, as well as the staff, who have done  
21 just a tremendous job from the very beginning  
22 in making sure that we are prepared in all of  
23 our meetings.

24 I had the opportunity to watch nearly  
25 every subcommittee meeting, and it was the

1 product of what I thought was a very thoughtful  
2 discussion. I feel like every member of the  
3 subcommittee got a chance to learn about how  
4 this process works, had their opportunity to  
5 have input and frankly talk about something  
6 that can be very personal to members of the  
7 Committee and members of our body, and I  
8 thought that the dialogue that took place was  
9 very thoughtful and frankly appropriate and  
10 respectful, and I appreciate all the members  
11 for that.

12 I am also thrilled with the work product  
13 that has been put forth, both in terms of how  
14 those legal options that we have seem to  
15 demonstrate great legal compliance, and the use  
16 that -- the use of public input that we  
17 utilized throughout the process when it was  
18 legally appropriate.

19 So regarding today, I said back in  
20 September that this Committee would give each  
21 plan a second workshop, we would take a fresh  
22 look, which is what we are here to do today,  
23 and make sure that the public testimony that we  
24 have gotten since December gets one more look  
25 before we move forward and pass maps out of

1 this Committee.

2 Today's meeting will go just like this:  
3 First we are going to consider the public  
4 input. We will open the substance of the  
5 meeting by letting any members of the public  
6 who are here and wish to speak, the opportunity  
7 to do so. So if you are here in the audience  
8 and either you are here to share your thoughts  
9 with us on these maps or perhaps you need to  
10 supplement the information you have already  
11 provided us, we will be giving you that  
12 opportunity very shortly. Secondly, our staff  
13 will then present us with public suggestions  
14 regarding the maps that we've received since  
15 releasing options -- since releasing the  
16 options on December 6th. There's actually  
17 quite a bit of public testimony we have  
18 received since then. We have a lot of  
19 feedback, and our staff is going to walk us  
20 through it one at a time. When that is  
21 concluded, we will then walk through the  
22 options for Congress, State House and State  
23 Senate, and try to see if we can't get some  
24 good dialogue on that as well.

25 We will not be taking any votes today, so

1 we're not going to be taking any votes today,  
2 we will not be going over amendments. Today is  
3 simply a workshop.

4 We will be voting next Friday, though, in  
5 this very Committee. So what does that mean  
6 for each of us? This morning, the Rules and  
7 Calendar Committee recommended that we readopt  
8 the same procedure we had last year for  
9 amendments for redistricting bills for this  
10 Committee and for the floor. Basically what  
11 that means is, assuming that this is approved  
12 on the floor for next Tuesday, if you have any  
13 proposed amendments to file to the bills that  
14 we are workshopping today, those amendments  
15 would have to be submitted by Wednesday of next  
16 week, by noon. And the reason for that is  
17 because the same rules -- we are going to have  
18 a two-day -- basically a 48-hour rule to give  
19 the members the opportunity of the public and  
20 of the Committee to look at the amendments.

21 Now, substitute amendments only have to be  
22 filed a day ahead of time, and so the deadline  
23 for substitute amendments to the amendment  
24 would have to be submitted by Thursday by noon.  
25 So those are the two deadlines that you have to

1 make sure that you take into account before  
2 next week's meeting.

3 So, after today, we will have a quick  
4 turn-around. If you have an amendment, I  
5 suggest that you work with our staff and make  
6 sure that your amendments are properly prepared  
7 and that you are properly prepared to discuss  
8 them.

9 Again, this Committee will seek to vote  
10 out a single map for Congress, a single map for  
11 the State House and a single map for the State  
12 Senate by next Friday. That would put  
13 redistricting bills on the floor of the House  
14 the week of Thursday, the week four of session.

15 With that said, are there any procedural  
16 or timeline questions from members of the  
17 Committee? Procedural or timeline?

18 Okay. Seeing none, before we hear from  
19 the public, what we thought we might do and  
20 kind of set a nice tone for the meeting is to  
21 show you an example of how public input was  
22 utilized throughout the process of making of  
23 the maps that we have before us today, and to  
24 help us out, we have the House's Office of  
25 Public Information. They have prepared a very

1 short video that will walk us through some of  
2 the highlights of how we utilized that public  
3 input and how it impacted the process and the  
4 map options so far. So we've got a short  
5 little movie for everybody to wake you up. So  
6 Jason, if you could, go ahead and turn that on  
7 for us.

8 (Beginning of movie.)

9 THE NARRATOR: The Florida House of  
10 Representatives continues to gather record  
11 levels of public input as part of the 2012  
12 redistricting process. Using traditional and  
13 new media outreach, the House has spent the  
14 last 16 months working to educate and engage  
15 the public in all things Florida redistricting.

16 This effort fueled an unparalleled  
17 response. The House now boasts 30,000 visitors  
18 to each of its redistricting blogs. More than  
19 500 fans on Facebook received 440 posts by  
20 staff. Nearly 800 redistricting followers on  
21 Twitter viewed 1,700 tweets. More than 40  
22 tutorial videos are available on YouTube  
23 showing residents how to take part in the  
24 process, and especially how to use the House's  
25 state-of-the-art My District Builder

1 application. The channel boasts more than  
2 6,800 views.

3 In addition, more than 170 maps were  
4 submitted to the Florida Legislature for their  
5 consideration, 30 press releases were issued on  
6 redistricting, and the House hosted five formal  
7 media availabilities to help reporters  
8 statewide better understand the redistricting  
9 process and the My District Builder  
10 application, 3,500 subscribers signed up to  
11 receive regular e-mail updates about  
12 redistricting, public service announcements in  
13 English and Spanish ran in every major media  
14 market in the state.

15 The 2011 redistricting public outreach  
16 tour garnered nearly 5,000 attendees, and more  
17 than 1,600 people provided public testimony.  
18 In addition, hundreds more e-mailed, called or  
19 posted the House's numerous resources. The  
20 testimony is clearly reflected in the House's  
21 proposed maps.

22 MR. SIERRA: I live in eastern Leon  
23 County, and my House District is basically  
24 based in Jacksonville, Senate district is in  
25 Inverness. I would like to have these

1 districts more closer to home.

2 THE NARRATOR: How staff were able to  
3 include these comments from Joseph Sierra in  
4 each of the proposed congressional maps.

5 MS. WATSON: And we would like to be in  
6 the same district as -- or all of Clay County  
7 be together in something. That is our front,  
8 and there's a lot of people here from Clay  
9 County who feel exactly the same way.

10 MS. HUTTON: We would like our own  
11 representation from somebody that is from Clay  
12 County, that represents Clay County, the  
13 values, the issues, the community.

14 THE NARRATOR: These comments from both  
15 Lynn Watson and Marge Hutton were used in  
16 several options of the proposed House maps,  
17 which guarantee Clay County will have a  
18 Representative that actually lives within the  
19 county.

20 A VOICE: To see very core specifics  
21 coming out, people who are very involved, like  
22 the Supervisor of Elections, which I was  
23 surprised that so many represented it coming  
24 forward, saying, you know, draw the lines this  
25 way, please, because it makes such a huge

1 difference in our jobs.

2 THE NARRATOR: The redistricting committee  
3 heard from several Supervisors of Elections who  
4 asked for a major reduction in splits of voter  
5 tabulation districts, or VTDs. Our staff was  
6 able to reduce these splits by more than  
7 50 percent.

8 MS. REAM: In Hardee County, I definitely  
9 would like to see that they keep us with the  
10 inland counties.

11 THE NARRATOR: Each of the proposed State  
12 House and congressional maps accomplished this  
13 request from Kathleen Rheem.

14 MR. WELCH: I think in my particular area,  
15 the main thing is to focus on the distinct  
16 communities of interest between the coastal  
17 communities that exist and the rural heritage  
18 communities that exist in the eastern portions  
19 of the county which are based on agriculture.

20 THE NARRATOR: During the meeting, Casey  
21 Welch described that he would like to maintain  
22 Highway 17 as an artery for districts in Hardee  
23 County. All proposed maps reflect this design.

24 MS. DICKMAN: An appropriate dividing line  
25 would be east and west more than by county

1 necessarily.

2 THE NARRATOR: In Wesley Chapel, Jocelyn  
3 Dickman requested that districts in Pasco  
4 County be divided east and west. Pasco County  
5 happens to be the size of three House  
6 districts, and each proposed map consists of an  
7 east, west and central district.

8 MR. EASTMAN: I would like to see us have  
9 a district where the student voice gets heard  
10 as a unified thing instead of having us drawn  
11 into a district that waters down our voice.

12 THE NARRATOR: In Orlando, Brian Eastman  
13 asked for the UCF campus community to be kept  
14 whole, and all proposed State House maps comply  
15 with this request.

16 A VOICE: The area that I live in, my  
17 district stretches 60 miles north and 20 miles  
18 south, so we end up with a House district that  
19 just is all over the place. So we don't have  
20 much in common with many people in two other  
21 counties, and actually not much to do in common  
22 with people at the entire other end of this  
23 county.

24 THE NARRATOR: House staff were able to  
25 accomplish this request as all proposed House

1 maps create three compact seats entirely in  
2 Brevard County.

3 A VOICE: I would go ahead and leave the  
4 districts in Broward County more compact. I  
5 would make the districts in Broward County  
6 fewer.

7 THE NARRATOR: This request is reflected  
8 in each of the proposed House maps, as they are  
9 far more compact and aligned with municipal  
10 boundaries.

11 MAYOR BLACK: I would like to recommend,  
12 like I said, that instead of District 109,  
13 which is one in particular going across from  
14 Overtown, which is one of the most impoverished  
15 neighborhoods, to Miami Beach, which is one of  
16 the most exclusive, that they cut that off and  
17 just let 109 stay on the other side of Miami --  
18 the bridge from Miami Beach, because it doesn't  
19 make any -- the salaries and the incomes are  
20 completely different.

21 THE NARRATOR: Village of El Portal Mayor  
22 Daisy Black's comments are reflected in the  
23 proposed 2012 House maps. All proposals for  
24 this House district now stop at Overtown. In  
25 addition, they keep the Village of El Portal

1 whole.

2 MR. REYES: Right now we have four State  
3 Representative districts that cut right through  
4 the Town of Cutler Bay, and so we have four  
5 Representatives for one -- a town of 40,000.  
6 We have three congressional seats. So that  
7 needs to change.

8 THE NARRATOR: Jamie Reyes' opinions are  
9 reflected as each proposed House map keeps  
10 Cutler Bay whole. Each of the proposed  
11 congressional maps now keep Cutler Bay whole as  
12 well.

13 MR. MATTHEWS: I was born in Sarasota and  
14 I live in Bradenton now and I grew up by the  
15 airport, and the airport sits right on the  
16 county line, so the communities are very  
17 intertwined. I know from experience that  
18 there's a lot of community interaction between  
19 the counties, so I hope they don't draw  
20 districts strictly on county boundaries,  
21 because if they do that, they will ignore that  
22 community aspect, the greater community in  
23 Sarasota and Manatee County.

24 THE NARRATOR: House staff paid particular  
25 attention to David Matthews' comments as they

1 created congressional maps containing all of  
2 Sarasota and most of Manatee. In addition, the  
3 airport is in a singular district, and each  
4 House map has four districts entirely in  
5 Sarasota and Manatee County.

6 MR. RUSSO: Here in southwest Florida  
7 where it is a lot more common sense, I think  
8 that there should be three districts, as I  
9 mentioned, southwest Florida, one in Sarasota  
10 and Manatee County, the other in Charlotte and  
11 north Lee, and the third in south Lee and  
12 Collier, and in -- composing some interior  
13 areas and interior counties here and there as  
14 well.

15 THE NARRATOR: Joseph Russo's comments are  
16 reflected in all of the proposed 2012  
17 congressional maps precisely to how he  
18 described the three districts in southwest  
19 Florida.

20 MS. TRIPP: We are struggling  
21 economically, and when I look, I can't help but  
22 look at some of the districtings and seeing  
23 that the masses of the populations are over in  
24 the coastal regions, and then they come up and  
25 sweep through the Glades and through the Lake

1 Okeechobee regions, and so you have -- it's all  
2 split. But the mass -- the mass population in  
3 the district is over on the coast, which have  
4 no interest, have no same interest of the Lake  
5 Okeechobee regions. So I am hoping that during  
6 this process, that Senators and Representatives  
7 will take a hard look at that and look at the  
8 region at the heartland, and to preserve it, as  
9 well as to enhance it economically.

10 THE NARRATOR: Each proposed congressional  
11 map accomplishes Ashley Tripp's request, and  
12 the proposed House maps respect her comments as  
13 counties like Okeechobee, Glades and Highlands  
14 are paired with other south Florida rural  
15 counties.

16 House and Senate members took thousands of  
17 valuable comments like this into account by  
18 putting public testimony to paper, resulting in  
19 new proposed maps for Florida State House,  
20 State Senate and congressional districts.

21 To access more information about the  
22 House's proposed maps or to submit public  
23 input, visit [Floridaredistricting.org](http://Floridaredistricting.org) and tell  
24 us your story.

25 (End of movie.)

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
2 Thank you very much. And if we could, let's  
3 thank the Office of Public Information for  
4 doing a great job on that video. They took a  
5 lot of input, and I thought that was a  
6 tremendous job. Kudos to you guys for doing  
7 that. Thank you. We appreciate it.

8           With that, in light of public testimony,  
9 since we have now shown you our video that  
10 is -- I think it is up for an Oscar, is that  
11 right, Alex? Have we submitted that yet?

12           MR. KELLY: Yes.

13           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We are pretty  
14 sure it is being considered. We do have  
15 members from the public that are here and wish  
16 to speak. If you have not filled out a card,  
17 we have them for you, we would like for you to  
18 do that, but we do have one, I believe, that  
19 has so far come forward. That is Chairman of  
20 the Martin County Board of County  
21 Commissioners, Mr. Edward -- I hope I am saying  
22 this right -- Ciampi? Okay, great. Come on  
23 forward, Chairman, and we welcome you here, and  
24 thanks for being here and being a part of the  
25 process. Sir, there is a mike -- you have to

1 push the button there, the mike will come on.

2 Great.

3 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: I apologize. I  
4 didn't hear my voice, but at home, we have  
5 someone that does that and we have a couple of  
6 minutes, so I apologize.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Budget cuts,  
8 sir --

9 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- budget  
11 cuts.

12 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: So that means we  
13 won't have it either, then.

14 My name is Edward Ciampi. I am the  
15 Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners  
16 in Martin County. I am representing more our  
17 citizens since this was a unique opportunity to  
18 get an opportunity to address you this morning.

19 We were up here, a large contingent of us  
20 were up here from the Treasure Coast for  
21 Treasure Coast legislative days, and when I  
22 heard -- we had thought we had missed our  
23 opportunity to address you on the mapping for  
24 our area, and when I had heard that you would  
25 be meeting this morning, everyone went home

1           yesterday, but I decided to stay an extra day  
2           so that I would have a chance to present our  
3           case personally.

4           For those of you that are not familiar,  
5           Martin County is south of St. Lucie County and  
6           north of Palm Beach County on the east coast.  
7           We go from the ocean to Lake Okeechobee -- that  
8           is perfect, thank you -- and we are a community  
9           of approximately 144,000 residents. We have a  
10          couple of famous residents that you might be  
11          familiar with, Tiger Woods, Celine Dion, Venus  
12          Williams, and everyone thinks of themselves as  
13          --

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Representativ  
15          e Will Snyder.

16          MR. CAMPO: True. Senator Joe Negron,  
17          Gayle Harrell, we have been very well  
18          represented. And those three names in  
19          particular, one of the reasons that we -- that  
20          I wanted to come to address you.

21          We have done this on our own. We recently  
22          approved our commission district mapping. And  
23          I can imagine what a challenge it must be to  
24          try to map out the entire state. For us, we  
25          were trying to balance about 25,000 people into

1 each district, and where that number 18 is in  
2 blue is -- we call it west of the Turnpike, is  
3 beautiful country with very few citizens. So,  
4 for us, you know, to shape the five districts  
5 were challenging. Some needed 1,000, some  
6 needed to give up 2,000, just like you are  
7 doing, and we were pretty successful in that  
8 regard.

9 What our concern is, is Martin County, and  
10 hopefully some of you know our reputation, is a  
11 very unique place. We have a four-story height  
12 limit. We do not allow any buildings to be  
13 built higher than four stories. We have a very  
14 environmentally sensitive population. We in  
15 the last several years have taken our  
16 publicly-owned conservation lands from about  
17 eight or nine percent to 25 percent using -- we  
18 have taxed ourselves a half a cent sales tax  
19 and used that money to purchase conservation  
20 land so that it would never be able to be  
21 developed ever. And so the community has that  
22 mind set.

23 Now, different from our neighbors to the  
24 north and south, we have a very, very slow rate  
25 of growth and think of ourselves as a -- sort

1 of a jewel in regards to very little  
2 development, and very specific and defined  
3 development. And because of that, we have been  
4 fortunate with our representation in the past.  
5 Representative Gayle Harrell and Representative  
6 Will Snyder have done a remarkable job  
7 understanding our key sort of aspects of life,  
8 and we have been fortunate.

9 The concern now is that the way the maps  
10 are potentially going to be drawn, Martin  
11 County, the northern portion would go a lot  
12 more up into St. Lucie County, and with the  
13 possibility of that representation being -- the  
14 voters coming a lot more from St. Lucie County,  
15 and then south Martin County would potentially  
16 be defined much more by Palm Beach County. And  
17 residents -- there was a couple of articles in  
18 the newspaper, and you know how it goes, some  
19 blogs and some electronic newsletters have gone  
20 around, and I started to receive a lot of  
21 calls, and one of the reasons was that my  
22 district is Palm City, which in the last census  
23 has become the largest community, and for us,  
24 large is 23,000 people. Palm City is defined  
25 by the south fork of the St. Lucie River to our

1 east, 95 and the Turnpike to our west, the  
2 canal that heads you into Lake Okeechobee to  
3 our south. So it really is an isolated, kind  
4 of very defined community.

5 The other community, the county seat is  
6 the City of Stuart, and how the map looks to be  
7 drawn is slicing those two communities to the  
8 north and the south along Monterey Road, which  
9 is not like U.S. 1. It is a big road for  
10 Martin County, but in a lot of other counties,  
11 it is a country road. And our concern was that  
12 by splitting it like that and having some of  
13 the votes go north and some of the votes head  
14 south, it really did not give us the  
15 representation that we were hoping to maintain  
16 in Martin County.

17 If this was a one or a two-year process, I  
18 think we would all be more comfortable with  
19 that, understanding that things will change,  
20 but this is a decade process, and our concern  
21 is although in the past we have been very  
22 well-represented by the folks that I had  
23 previously mentioned, our residents are nervous  
24 that that might not be the case in the years  
25 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,

1 nine and ten.

2 So what we would hope is that -- and we  
3 did work with the website, which I will  
4 compliment you on is a very effective tool. We  
5 have had our own version, our GIS system, which  
6 allowed us to do it at the county level, but  
7 for residents, including myself, to be able to  
8 use yours, your mapping tool, was very, very  
9 helpful. And what our goal would be is to have  
10 all of Martin County inclusive fall to the  
11 northern section district, and all of Stuart  
12 fall to the southern district. We feel that  
13 that would be a much more compact version, the  
14 residents in Martin County, and especially in  
15 those two neighborhoods, it is sort of like a  
16 yin and a yang, Palm City and Stuart being  
17 somewhat next to each other. Slicing it one  
18 north and one south would then -- just as you  
19 see that dip in the road right where 95 and the  
20 Turnpike sort of intersect there, that is --  
21 yeah, that is Palm City right in that section  
22 that says -- right where -- if the cursor's a  
23 little bit to the left, if it went the other  
24 way where Palm City went north and Stuart went  
25 south, it doesn't really affect a lot of the

1 other maps. We had a couple of different  
2 variations that we were fair to understand your  
3 position, which if we create our perfect map,  
4 what does that do west, south and north. The  
5 version that I can send to you that we have  
6 worked on locally maintains very compact, it  
7 would be very easily understood for our  
8 residents, especially in the City of Stuart and  
9 in Palm City, and would really not disrupt the  
10 rest of -- a trickle effect, if you will, a  
11 rippling effect for the rest.

12 And that is what I would have to say. I  
13 can answer any questions if --

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Chairman,  
15 if I could, first of all, thank you for taking  
16 the time. I think it is -- it shows how much  
17 you care about your community that you stay up  
18 an extra day just to be here with us and sleep  
19 through a redistricting committee hearing, so  
20 we appreciate you participating in that.

21 But I will tell you, we have looked at  
22 several different variations of this, and I  
23 think what you are bringing forth certainly has  
24 some validity to it. We would love to see what  
25 you guys could suggest to us on paper. I know

1 in the map that we have currently here, the one  
2 that we are looking at has the City of Stuart,  
3 all of the municipality of Stuart, whole within  
4 the brown district there, or the burnt orange  
5 District maybe. The yellow district to the  
6 south, I believe, has -- I think it is split  
7 between the two. So Palm City -- is Palm City  
8 unincorporated?

9 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Correct.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. It is  
11 unincorporated. So part of the challenge we  
12 have had in the process is, you know, that the  
13 requirements that we live by speak specifically  
14 to cities and counties and unincorporated  
15 areas. We are able to view those, and we do  
16 try to pay attention to them when they can, but  
17 obviously, when you are trying to keep  
18 deviations down and everything else, it gets  
19 challenging.

20 But I will tell you the same thing I tell  
21 the members of this Committee and every member  
22 of the Legislature, if someone can bring forth  
23 an idea that helps us supply our maps and make  
24 them more compliant to the standards of  
25 Amendments 5 and 6 --

1 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Right.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- we will  
3 certainly take a very close look at them. So I  
4 would encourage you to get those to us on  
5 paper.

6 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: We have them  
7 electronically. We can submit them.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That would be  
9 great. And we will disseminate them to  
10 everyone on the Committee, and may be something  
11 we can take a look at next week when we are  
12 doing amendments.

13 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Thank you very much.  
14 I appreciate your time.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16 very much. Members, does anybody else have a  
17 comment or question for the Chairman?

18 Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER CIAMPI: Best of luck.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Take care.

21 Okay. Moving forward, is there anybody  
22 else from the public that wishes to speak?  
23 Anybody else? All right. Thank you very much,  
24 again, Commissioner.

25 Now that we have gone through the

1 speakers, we are going to go ahead and hear  
2 from our staff, who is going to walk us through  
3 some of the public suggestions that we have  
4 received via e-mail, letter, social media, et  
5 cetera. These are all thoughts that we have  
6 received from the public post December 6th  
7 since we have put the maps out. And so with  
8 that, Mr. Kelly, we are going to recognize you  
9 first to talk about the congressional.

10 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members.  
11 What myself and after me Jeff Takacs and Jason  
12 Poreda are going to be doing is going through  
13 public input, public suggestions that have been  
14 received since the House published its options  
15 for maps on December 6th, and we are going to  
16 be focusing on suggestions that we oftentimes  
17 in a general sense refer to as drawable  
18 suggestions where an individual has critiqued  
19 something and given us an alternative as to how  
20 to potentially improve the map.

21 And so what you have in your packet in tab  
22 one of your packet is you have the information  
23 that myself, Jeff and Jason will be presenting,  
24 and if you look at -- each page is numbered,  
25 and you will see a number of e-mails and so

1           forth, and posts on social media that we have  
2           received. And what I will do is I will refer  
3           to the page number. I am not going to present  
4           everything, so if I happen to skip something  
5           that you are interested in, just please let me  
6           know and I will be happy to double back and  
7           answer any questions you may have.

8                     But, again, tab one of your packets, the  
9           information received pertain to a number of  
10          different types of requests, whether it is  
11          referring to how counties and cities are  
12          treated, or like the prior discussion, how  
13          unincorporated areas are treated, and for the  
14          benefit of the discussion, what I will do is I  
15          will use the maps that are up, all -- we have  
16          all three congressional maps that are proposed  
17          up and available, so I will scroll through  
18          these just to give you an idea as to how these  
19          comments relate to the maps as well.

20                    So referring to page two in tab one,  
21          referring to Nassau County, there was a comment  
22          received from a Fernandina Beach commissioner  
23          regarding complimenting for keeping Nassau  
24          County whole. Nassau County is actually split  
25          in two of the three maps that are proposed.

1 Map 9041 and map 9045 split Nassau County, and  
2 I will just give you an example of that, but  
3 map 9043, which is also House Bill 6005, that  
4 particular bill keeps Nassau County whole  
5 again. So that was feedback from Nassau  
6 County.

7 Moving on to page three, feedback that  
8 came from a Duval County resident  
9 complimented -- complimented map 9041 as being  
10 a preferred map. And 9041, just to take a look  
11 at what that actually does in the Duval County  
12 area, this is actually that map, and the  
13 particular map places the east side of Duval  
14 County in one district, the west side into a  
15 different district, combining it with the  
16 eastern part of Nassau County and the northern  
17 parts of St. Johns County.

18 Moving on to page four and also page five,  
19 the Clay County supervisor's office has  
20 communicated with us regarding how  
21 Congressional Districts 3 and 5 interact with  
22 the geography, the roads and neighborhoods in  
23 Clay County. If you -- as members of the  
24 subcommittee, you will remember that some  
25 changes were made in the subcommittee meetings

1 to already take some of this input. We have  
2 received recently additional input from the  
3 Clay County supervisor's office as to how to  
4 best not split neighborhoods, best use  
5 roadways. So some of this has actually already  
6 been factored in, and then some of this we just  
7 received.

8 The one tough thing that you do get into  
9 with the congressional maps, this is a good  
10 example, a good reminder, is that because of  
11 the requirement to achieve perfect population,  
12 there is -- in almost every congressional  
13 district, there's going to be at least one  
14 place where a neighborhood may have been split  
15 in order to achieve that perfect population.  
16 So sometimes that does factor in and that may  
17 make certain recommendations not operable, but,  
18 again, we will be taking a look at this  
19 particular recommendation.

20 Moving on to page seven, let's skip page  
21 six, moving on to page seven, the point was  
22 raised -- if you remember the public meeting in  
23 The Villages, a reminder about keeping The  
24 Villages communities whole. The Villages is  
25 encompassed by northeastern Sumter County,

1 southern parts -- small southern parts of  
2 Marion County and generally the municipality of  
3 Lady Lake in Lake County is generically  
4 considered to be part of The Villages. And I  
5 will just take you to each of the maps just to  
6 show you how that area is impacted. And in map  
7 9041, The Villages community is actually kept  
8 whole, so just to give you an idea. As you can  
9 see, The Villages right there on the screen,  
10 and the county boundary, which will appear.  
11 And The Villages, again, generally speaking, is  
12 considered to be Lady Lake, the northeastern  
13 side of Sumter and southern parts of Marion  
14 County.

15 Taking a look at map 9043, again, a  
16 similar configuration, although on the Lake  
17 County side, the division very specifically  
18 goes in to take all of Lady Lake and all of  
19 Fruitland Park, and otherwise, no other parts  
20 of Lake County.

21 In looking at map 9045, a similar  
22 configuration; however, the Lake County impact  
23 spreads a little further, almost up to Eustis,  
24 but not including Eustis.

25 Moving on to page eight, a very lively

1 comment from a Lake County resident actually  
2 regarding this configuration. The Grand Isle  
3 community -- Grand Island community was split  
4 by a roadway. One of the impacts of using  
5 roadways, of trying to create a nice aesthetic  
6 look using major roadways and so forth, is that  
7 that can have the possibility of splitting an  
8 unincorporated community, and so that happens,  
9 and that happens in almost every map, and those  
10 are some of the tough decisions that you have  
11 to weigh over as far as whether using that  
12 roadway is the legally appropriate measure to  
13 take, or whether you want to take into  
14 consideration that unincorporated community.  
15 And that is the impact here, right where I am  
16 mousing over, that is the Grand Island  
17 community, and you can see the road goes right  
18 down through the community.

19 Moving on to page nine, there were just  
20 general requests to keep Marion County whole in  
21 the congressional maps, reacting to, generally  
22 speaking, the Fifth Congressional District as  
23 is drawn in each of the congressional maps.  
24 The fifth Congressional District is an  
25 African-American opportunity district, an

1 existing district today. It does take in small  
2 parts of the population. Most of the  
3 population in Marion County is not encompassed  
4 in Congressional District 5 in any of the maps,  
5 but, nonetheless, parts of Marion County are.

6 Now, I'll just zoom in to give you a view  
7 of exactly what is taken in Congressional  
8 District 5. It is, generally speaking, the  
9 municipality of Reddick that is taken into  
10 account, which you can see is kept whole in  
11 Congressional District 5, so that's a city is  
12 kept whole in the district; otherwise, the  
13 district, generally speaking, takes very  
14 non-populated portions of the county.

15 Moving on to item ten, coming back to  
16 Martin County, there was an e-mail received  
17 just regarding the congressional districts, and  
18 the individual also commented on the House  
19 districts, and later Jeff Takacs will be going  
20 over a number of public feedback we have  
21 received regarding the discussion from earlier,  
22 the House districts in Martin County, but  
23 regarding the congressional district, the  
24 request was simply to keep Martin County whole.

25 In all of the proposed maps, Martin County is

1 kept whole in the 18th Congressional District.

2 Moving on to item 11, there was a few  
3 e-mails received regarding the 22nd  
4 Congressional District, and that is the same in  
5 all the maps, so I will go to that area in map  
6 9045 to give you a view. The comment concerns  
7 the portions of the district that were defined  
8 largely just by the need to get equal  
9 population, the portions of the district that  
10 go into more southern central parts of Broward  
11 County, the Plantation area. The design of the  
12 districts, both 21 and 22, and even 20 was  
13 largely predicated on municipal boundary lines,  
14 and where municipalities could not be kept  
15 whole, trying to avoid multiple splits of a  
16 municipality. So if a municipality had to be  
17 split once, trying to make sure it was only  
18 perhaps split one time. And the area is also  
19 largely defined by District 20, which is a  
20 district that is impacted by both Sections 2  
21 and Sections 5 the of the Federal Voting Rights  
22 Act. So, again, the southern portion that the  
23 resident is asking to be cleaned up or changed  
24 is largely based on, again, equal population,  
25 and then also trying to keep city splits to a

1 minimum, if not keep municipalities whole,  
2 which there are several municipalities kept  
3 whole in both 21 and 22 and even 20.

4 The 12th page in your packet, if you  
5 remember from the subcommittee meeting regards  
6 the City of Hialeah, which is split in all the  
7 different maps, and during your last meeting in  
8 the congressional subcommittee, we had a brief  
9 presentation regarding this very issue, noting  
10 that in an effort to draw the districts with a  
11 more geometric type meeting point where the  
12 three Hispanic majority-minority existing seats  
13 meet, Districts 25, 26 and 27, as they are  
14 proposed in these maps, trying to create a more  
15 clear, defined meeting point, the City of  
16 Hialeah is one of the few cities that is split.  
17 Most cities are kept whole. It is one of the  
18 few that is split, and, again, it was to try to  
19 maintain existing opportunities for racial  
20 language minorities, for language minorities,  
21 but at the same time trying to create something  
22 of a more aesthetically compact shape to the  
23 districts, a meeting point that is more clearly  
24 defined for the residents in the affected  
25 communities. In order to look at possibly

1           keeping Hialeah whole, it would have to really  
2           be a dramatic redesign of these districts, but,  
3           again, that was the feedback from the City of  
4           Hialeah making that request.

5           I am going to skip on to item number 14  
6           and also item number 15. Both -- and Jeff will  
7           cover this somewhat later, too, and that is the  
8           House map. Regarding the Poinciana community  
9           in -- which is split between Osceola and Polk  
10          Counties, we have received feedback,  
11          essentially somewhat conflicting feedback or  
12          conflicting requests. Some residents of the  
13          area, including one who even submitted a State  
14          House map, some residents of the area request  
15          that Poinciana be kept whole in the maps, and  
16          some residents actually specifically request  
17          that Poinciana not be kept whole in the maps.  
18          And just to give you an idea, this is the  
19          Osceola County/Polk County division, and as you  
20          zoom in, you can probably best see this using  
21          the VTDs. You see Poinciana here. Poinciana  
22          is on both sides of the county line, and,  
23          again, in some of the maps, it is kept whole,  
24          in some of the maps, it is not kept whole, and  
25          so, again, we've received a request to keep it

1 whole and a request to not keep it whole.

2 I am going to skip on to items 18 to 22,  
3 which all relate to a similar issue, and that  
4 is how the congressional districts in  
5 Hillsborough and Polk County relate to each  
6 other.

7 In this particular example in terms of map  
8 9045, District 15 is predominantly a  
9 Hillsborough County district with about 90,000  
10 residents in Polk County. Taking a look at map  
11 9043 -- and, forgive me, I should say if anyone  
12 gets lost in terms of bill numbers and plan  
13 numbers, everyone, in your packet, there is a  
14 little cheat sheet with the plan numbers and  
15 bill numbers just in case any of this gets at  
16 all confusing. In map 9043, this map has the  
17 greatest concentration of both counties in  
18 terms of sharing the district or --  
19 Hillsborough County is approximately  
20 two-thirds -- a little more than two-thirds of  
21 the district, whereas all of the City of  
22 Lakeland and, in total, about 180,000 Polk  
23 County residents are in the district. And then  
24 in map -- in map 9041, the District does not  
25 impact Polk County at all. And the different

1           comments received in some cases, if you are  
2           looking at pages 18 and 22, some individuals  
3           actually suggested that those communities of  
4           Lakeland and that area should be combined with  
5           parts of Hillsborough County, but the City of  
6           Temple Terrace, the City of Tampa have  
7           requested that District 15 be concentrated in  
8           as much of Hillsborough as possible. In this  
9           particular instance, District 15, minus 5,700  
10          residents, is entirely in Hillsborough County.  
11          Those 5,700 residents were actually used to  
12          exactly balance the populations in Sarasota and  
13          Manatee Counties, which are approximately 5,700  
14          residents too many for a congressional seat.  
15          So, in this case, District 15 and District 16  
16          are basically paired up so that those counties  
17          can -- and largely have a single Representative  
18          who will come from their region. So, again,  
19          some of the input requested something more like  
20          what is in 9041, and some requested crossing  
21          the county line, including the City of  
22          Lakeland, that relationship between Polk and  
23          Hillsborough.

24                    Moving to page 23, this particular  
25          individual requested -- in terms of looking at

1 District 14, requested that that district be  
2 included entirely in Hillsborough County. The  
3 issue that -- the difficulty in doing so is  
4 that this district -- Hillsborough County is a  
5 Section 5 protected jurisdiction. This  
6 particular district has a population that is  
7 approximately about half either  
8 African-American or Hispanic, and so this  
9 district likely falls under the review of the  
10 pre-clearance process, and the argument would  
11 be that the combined African-American/Hispanic  
12 communities are able to select a candidate of  
13 choice, perhaps and possibly not  
14 African-American or Hispanic, but, nonetheless,  
15 able to select a candidate of choice. So in  
16 order to maintain that, the district needs to  
17 go into Pinellas County. Taking the district  
18 out of Pinellas County would almost certainly  
19 put that relationship in jeopardy and would  
20 probably create issues in terms of the  
21 pre-clearance process for this district, but,  
22 nonetheless, the constituent was nonetheless  
23 asking to have the district entirely in  
24 Hillsborough County.

25 Moving on to item number 26, these last

1           few items are actual maps that were submitted  
2           by members of the public in response to either  
3           proposals by the House or proposals by the  
4           Florida Senate.  Item number 26 that is in your  
5           packet is a map submitted by the redistricting  
6           of Florida class at Florida Gulf Coast  
7           University.  It is an interesting map in that  
8           it paints two extremes.  The map generally  
9           creates very compact shapes in terms of  
10          districts; however, it has a high degree of  
11          likelihood that it would have eliminated all  
12          three African-American and two of the three  
13          Hispanic seats in the state of Florida,  
14          existing districts today.  So the map would  
15          create some serious litigation concerns, but,  
16          nonetheless, it is an articulation of a very  
17          compact design and it paints those two  
18          extremes.

19                 Moving on to page 27, I won't spend much  
20                 time on this map.  The individual submitted a  
21                 map in response to the House's; however, the  
22                 population numbers were not drawn to the  
23                 mathematical quality, so most of what the map  
24                 does would have to be adjusted before it could  
25                 be utilized.

1           Maps 165, 166 and 167 were all submitted  
2           by a Hillsborough County resident who went sort  
3           of through an evolution of amending some of the  
4           House proposals. This individual was very much  
5           looking at what is now 9043. Initially in --  
6           on page 28 of your packet, plan 165, the  
7           individual makes a change to the Sarasota,  
8           Manatee and Hillsborough County -- or Counties  
9           area such that the municipality of North Port  
10          in Sarasota County is put in with a district  
11          that includes all of Charlotte County. So  
12          Sarasota County becomes split, but then what  
13          the individual does is keep Manatee whole and  
14          pushes that district, District 16, into  
15          Hillsborough County. In terms of looking at  
16          the different variables of compactness and  
17          other measurements, this is basically an even  
18          trade-off in terms of how the House maps  
19          currently -- or the House's proposals currently  
20          makes the districts more compact and so forth.  
21          This is basically a trade-off. It doesn't  
22          affect the overall totals in terms of county  
23          splits or city splits, so this is probably a  
24          great example of just what a policy decision  
25          would be in terms of a public suggestion.

1           Maps 166 and 167 carry the issue further.  
2           What this individual was doing was coming back  
3           to the Poinciana community and was looking at  
4           how to keep the Poinciana community whole in a  
5           district. In map 166, the individual keeps  
6           Poinciana whole, the District 17 that is  
7           largely coming from the rural, whole counties  
8           to the south of it, and in map 167, the  
9           individual takes an Osceola County-based  
10          district and grabs the bulk of the Poinciana  
11          community. The noted effect though of doing  
12          that is it did noticeably make the maps less  
13          compact compared to the House's proposals.

14          Map 168 was actually submitted by a -- I  
15          believe Sarasota County resident in response to  
16          actually one of the Senate's proposed maps.  
17          The individual in this case looked at the  
18          districts in Broward and Palm Beach County, and  
19          just to give you an example of how that might  
20          relate to the House's proposed maps, which are  
21          identical in that part of the state, this  
22          individual essentially took Districts 21 and 22  
23          for all intents and purposes, and instead of  
24          running the districts north to south, ran the  
25          districts east to west, but still with a focus

1 on trying to keep cities whole and so forth.  
2 It is a different look to the map, and it does  
3 potentially, depending on how the districts are  
4 drawn, create an opportunity to possibly make  
5 the districts more compact. It is something  
6 that we are taking a look at as to whether or  
7 not this kind of configuration could be  
8 utilized to help any of the maps. Not sure  
9 where that will end up, but we are taking a  
10 look at it.

11 In terms of maps 172, 173 and 174, which  
12 are pages 32 through 34 in your packet, 172 is  
13 really just an earlier version of 174, so you  
14 can probably disregard that and look at 173 and  
15 174.

16 173, this individual was reacting to one  
17 of the House's proposals, and in this  
18 particular case was actually looking at some of  
19 the districts in the same area, District 22,  
20 was also looking at the districts along the  
21 Treasure Coast, Brevard County and so forth.  
22 The end result, generally speaking, was that  
23 the individual created noticeably less compact  
24 districts in terms of creating more coastal  
25 districts, as opposed to using whole counties,

1           which actually had the effect of keeping the  
2           districts more compact as well.  So the  
3           individual went more for a coastal district  
4           design, and it actually made the compactness  
5           scores less compact.

6           174 is a similar -- similar situation, and  
7           the individual did the same thing on both  
8           coasts, making the districts more coastal, for  
9           instance, in the Sarasota and Manatee County  
10          areas, using the highway as opposed to keeping  
11          the counties whole, but, again, it had the net  
12          result of making the districts somewhat less  
13          compact.

14          And with that, members, there's some  
15          information that -- public input that the  
16          Committee, we received last evening as we were  
17          getting ready for the meeting, so your packets  
18          were already printed.  There is an additional  
19          -- some additional public input in your packets  
20          that both Jeff and I in our presentations will  
21          be speaking to, some last-minute input.

22          Lori Edwards, the Supervisor of Elections  
23          in Polk County, again referring to this  
24          particular packet, the Supervisor of Elections  
25          of Polk County did submit to us for

1 consideration to take a look at some  
2 communities that maybe could be better kept  
3 whole in Polk County. Oftentimes the  
4 Supervisors of Elections are concerned with  
5 voter islands, that being where a voter, when  
6 they draw the -- let's say the county  
7 commission district or the school board  
8 districts, and then you draw the state  
9 legislative and congressional districts, you  
10 have possibility of having sometimes one person  
11 or two people who have a ballot unto themselves  
12 that is completely unique. The net result of  
13 that is that that voter's vote could be  
14 revealed in terms of elections data when  
15 somebody looks for somebody that fits that  
16 exact profile. So we try to avoid that as much  
17 as possible, and anytime the supervisor has any  
18 consideration, which we take a look at it very  
19 seriously to try to help avoid those voter  
20 islands. So Ms. Edwards just submitted this to  
21 us. We really haven't gotten to look at it  
22 much more than just getting it last night,  
23 preparing for today, but we are planning to  
24 take a look at this.

25 Skipping on just a few pages to the fourth

1 page in this addendum, the Mayor of Tampa also  
2 sent an e-mail recently, coming back to the  
3 discussion of how Hillsborough and Polk County  
4 line up together with their congressional  
5 districts, the Mayor of Tampa sent an e-mail in  
6 support of map 9041, again asking for that seat  
7 that is mostly in Hillsborough County.

8 And relating also -- this will come up in  
9 Jeff's presentation. The next page comes from  
10 a current council member in the municipality of  
11 Oldsmar in Pinellas County. This particular  
12 individual asked that the House look at the  
13 Florida Senate's version of Congressional  
14 District 9, which stretches from northern  
15 Hillsborough through northern Pinellas. This  
16 particular individual made the case that  
17 Oldsmar and that part of the county had a  
18 relationship with northern -- northwestern  
19 Hillsborough County, and they asked that it be  
20 looked at. The reason why I mentioned the --  
21 how that relates to Jeff's proposal is we've  
22 actually received a resolution from the City of  
23 Oldsmar that Jeff will get into that actually  
24 requests very much the opposite. So it was an  
25 interesting request, but, nonetheless, this

1 particular council member asked that  
2 northwe- -- or northeastern or northern  
3 Pinellas County be lined up with northwestern  
4 Hillsborough County. And with that, I am going  
5 to turn it over to Jeff, unless you have any  
6 questions.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
8 Alex. Members, any questions for Alex before  
9 we move forward to the House? Okay, great,  
10 thanks.

11 Mr. Takacs, you are recognized.

12 MR. TAKACS: Thank you very much,  
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Before I get started going through the  
15 House map public input that we've received, as  
16 Mr. Kelly mentioned, don't forget that cheat  
17 sheet that is in your packet that refers to the  
18 bill number as it relates to the plan number as  
19 well. I will probably generally be referring  
20 to the plan number, so use that cheat sheet to  
21 understand which bill that plan number lines up  
22 with.

23 Going back to the main packet of public  
24 input that we've received, if you look to page  
25 36, we received some feedback from the Escambia

1 County Supervisors of Elections to try to avoid  
2 those voter islands that Mr. Kelly described  
3 just a moment ago within their county. This  
4 was prior to the adoption of the amendment that  
5 the House subcommittee had on each of the  
6 proposals, and we believe that some of those  
7 voter islands have been addressed by that  
8 amendment, but we're not sure if they all have.  
9 So what we have actually done is sent the  
10 amended proposals to the supervisor's office,  
11 asking that they review those and see if those  
12 voter islands are still there or if there are  
13 new ones, et cetera, and we are awaiting  
14 further feedback from them. So that is page  
15 36. And you will see on 37 and 38, that they  
16 are pointing out the actual voter islands  
17 between the districts.

18 Moving on here to -- to the next page,  
19 page 40 here, let me -- to the best of my  
20 ability, I am going to try to move around the  
21 map to show some of the different aspects of  
22 the public feedback that we have received and  
23 so you can actually get a look at what the  
24 proposal is. This is currently map number  
25 9027. The thing about page 40, we received

1           some testimony from the folks in Navarre and  
2           Navarre Beach and this area here where you see  
3           where my mouse is, in Santa Rosa County, asking  
4           that the folks of Navarre and Navarre Beach be  
5           united together. Under the prior proposal by  
6           the House subcommittee before the amendment,  
7           that District 2 extended all the way to that  
8           bottom section there, that little square type  
9           section in Santa Rosa County. As you can see  
10          in this amended version of 9027, that is no  
11          longer, and now District 3 comes down to the  
12          county line. That was in response to this  
13          request. We were actually able to accomplish  
14          what the folks in Navarre and Navarre Beach  
15          were seeking in the amendment.

16                 Moving on to page 41, this is actually  
17          regarding District 4 and how it comes up into  
18          the City of Crestview there just north of I-10.  
19          Previously, prior to the amendment, the  
20          district had just the city boundaries of the  
21          City of Crestview within it, and we received  
22          testimony asking if there was a better way to  
23          use roadways and other areas right around  
24          Crestview to make sure that neighborhoods that  
25          are just outside of the city limits who really

1 consider themselves a part of Crestview be  
2 included in that district, and as you can see  
3 here, that was also accomplished by the  
4 amendment by the subcommittee.

5 I am going to move ahead to page 43. This  
6 came to us by a resident in Bay County asking  
7 that -- there is a district wholly based in Bay  
8 County there, District 6, and they asked that  
9 the Panama City airport be included within that  
10 district. As you can see -- I will zoom in  
11 here just a little bit. Again, this was  
12 something that we received prior to -- prior to  
13 the -- to the amendment being adopted, and  
14 there was a change made to include a major  
15 portion of the airport wholly within District  
16 6. So that was accomplished in response to the  
17 public testimony that we received via that  
18 e-mail.

19 Moving forward to page 45, 44 is a  
20 previous communication that we received from  
21 the Leon County Supervisors of Elections  
22 office, the page 45 is actually an updated  
23 response to the actual amendments that were  
24 adopted by the -- by the House subcommittee.  
25 They have asked that some specific areas that

1 relate to the boundary between Districts 8 and  
2 9 be addressed to try to line up, similar to  
3 the voter island concept, but just trying to  
4 line up the districts to the county commission  
5 districts or to precinct lines, and we are  
6 currently reviewing those requests. You can  
7 see the actual specific areas on pages 46, 47,  
8 48 and 49. Just something to consider as we  
9 would be reviewing those potential changes,  
10 House District 8 is currently a  
11 majority-minority black district, and so what  
12 we would need to ensure is that those changes  
13 did not bring the black voting age population  
14 of that district below 50 percent. So that  
15 would be something that would need to be  
16 considered when looking at those changes.

17 I am going to zoom out here a little bit.  
18 We've gotten a couple of phone calls from a  
19 Taylor County resident who has left us some  
20 voice mails regarding the rural counties in the  
21 Big Bend area. Basically what this gentleman  
22 is saying is that he would prefer that the  
23 smaller rural counties in their region not be  
24 tied to Leon County, if at all possible. As  
25 you can see -- again, this is plan 9027. If

1           you look at that District 7, which has many  
2           whole counties within it, Lafayette, Taylor  
3           County here, Jefferson County, and so forth,  
4           there is a portion of that district, as you can  
5           see, in Leon County, which was simply done for  
6           population equalization. So this would be the  
7           actual plan that is closest to his request. He  
8           did also on the voice mail ask that Taylor,  
9           Madison and Lafayette Counties all be kept  
10          whole and together within a district, and you  
11          can see those three counties are here and that  
12          is accomplished by the House plans.

13                 Interestingly enough, I am going to zoom  
14          in here on the Gadsden County/Leon County area.  
15          We've received somewhat of opposite feedback  
16          from some residents in northeastern Gadsden  
17          County asking that they actually be linked with  
18          Leon County and with northern Leon County.  
19          There was some public testimony that we  
20          received in the Tallahassee public hearing, if  
21          you recall from the reports that we conducted  
22          as a committee on the public input, it was NW-3  
23          that outlined a specific attempt at a map that  
24          Mr. Doug Croley submitted showing what he was  
25          talking about as far as connecting northeastern

1 Gadsden County to northern Leon County. This  
2 on page 51 is simply saying that they support  
3 that concept that Mr. Croley brought forward.  
4 Just as a consequence as you consider that,  
5 that would be an additional county split  
6 between Districts 8 and 9 if that were to be  
7 addressed.

8 Moving on to page 52, this is a partial  
9 submitted map that we received from Mr. Roy  
10 Lyons. It specifically addresses -- I don't  
11 have that map here on the screen, but I'll just  
12 kind of go to that general area of the state so  
13 you can look at it. It addresses the kind of  
14 northeastern area of the state, excluding Duval  
15 County. And what he proposes is a district  
16 that would keep Baker, Union, Bradford Counties  
17 whole, and then have portions of Columbia --  
18 excuse me, it would have Nassau County whole as  
19 well, and then portions of Clay County. When  
20 you look at the map on the -- on the page  
21 there, on page 52, some things jump out at me  
22 when I first reviewed this map, the first of  
23 which is that Columbia County would be split.  
24 You can see there's a little bit of a  
25 carve-out, kind of an odd-shaped carve-out on

1 the map there by Mr. Lyons, which would lead to  
2 a county split for Columbia County. Also, too,  
3 it would also -- thinking about -- and I will  
4 get into this a little bit further when I  
5 actually go into the workshop of the various  
6 House proposals, but when you look at the  
7 populations of Nassau and Duval Counties  
8 combined, they equal roughly that of six House  
9 districts. So if you were to take Nassau  
10 County as Mr. Lyons has and placed it with  
11 other counties that are not Duval County, it  
12 would be a step away from that -- from that  
13 concept. Also, he splits the City of Lake  
14 City. And then also, too, looking at that  
15 District 3 there on page 52, the population  
16 deviation for that district would be minus  
17 4,007, which would actually be a new low water  
18 mark for population deviation on the plan,  
19 which would affect the overall population  
20 deviation for all of the House proposals. So  
21 some things to consider in regards to that map.

22 Moving forward, we're going to kind of  
23 zoom in here to the Duval County area on page  
24 53. We received some comments from some  
25 residents regarding the boundaries of Districts

1           15 and 16. As you can see here, District 15 --  
2           let me see if I can show it a little bit here.  
3           If you see where my mouse is there, that is  
4           actually the St. Johns River, and you will see  
5           that District 15 crosses over the river to grab  
6           some population. We have received some  
7           testimony similar to the one on page 53 that  
8           suggests that the actual river be used as the  
9           dividing line between the two districts. So  
10          that is something that we are currently  
11          reviewing as we move forward in this process.

12                 Moving on to page 54, I will just kind of  
13          zoom out here a little bit, we've received some  
14          testimony from the residents of the beach  
15          communities in Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic  
16          Beach and Neptune Beach, which is in this  
17          general area here. I will zoom in here just a  
18          little bit further so you can see where those  
19          areas are. We've received testimony from these  
20          folks asking that the district to the south,  
21          which is this pink district here, which is  
22          wholly located in St. Johns County, come up and  
23          grab these beach communities, and there's  
24          specific reason for that as they talk about the  
25          concept of District 11 and how it connects to

1 Nassau County. For those folks in this region  
2 here, or in these three beach communities, for  
3 them to travel north into Nassau County where  
4 the other portion of this district is, they  
5 contend that this is actually a non-contiguous  
6 district because there is no way to get from  
7 point A to point B. There was at one time a  
8 ferry that connected the two areas of land  
9 together, but it is my understanding that ferry  
10 has been shut down or is in the process of  
11 being shut down, so those folks are contending  
12 that that is a non-contiguous district and just  
13 talking about the general transportation issues  
14 that would come from District 11 as it is  
15 currently drawn. Thinking about connecting  
16 those communities to the district to the south,  
17 again, that would create an extra county split  
18 and would also be a step away from that concept  
19 that I talked about earlier of Nassau and Duval  
20 Counties being six districts wholly contained  
21 within the two counties.

22 But what I would like to do, Mr. Chairman,  
23 thinking about this issue of contiguity, with  
24 your indulgence, I would like to bring up Mr.  
25 George Meros to talk about contiguity and how

1           that would work with this specific example.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Meros,  
3           you are recognized.

4           MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
5           have looked at that issue, and we have done the  
6           research on the requirements of contiguity, and  
7           that district would comply with the contiguity  
8           requirement. The contiguity requirement does  
9           not require a specific roadway availability  
10          from one point to another; in fact, waterways  
11          can be crossed for contiguity purposes. So  
12          there is no legal problem with that map based  
13          on contiguity.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
15          Mr. Takacs.

16          MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17          I am going to move ahead to page 57. We  
18          received some input from the Clay County  
19          Supervisor of Elections office as it relates to  
20          the districts in their region. They have made  
21          two requests, the first of which is there's one  
22          census block that is used as the boundary --  
23          that is a part of the boundary, I should say,  
24          between Districts 18 and 19. They just ask  
25          that that one census block be swapped between

1 the two districts so that the district  
2 boundaries line up with the boundaries of Camp  
3 Blanding, which is a Florida National Guard  
4 base in the region. We have reviewed that  
5 request. That particular census block is  
6 essentially a roadway and doesn't affect  
7 population, so we are going to continue to  
8 review that request.

9 The second piece of that request talks  
10 about the actual plan that is on your screen  
11 here, which is 9031, and how these districts  
12 relate for Clay County, specifically Districts  
13 15 and 18. But basically they basically gave  
14 their comments saying they do not like this  
15 option of the three options, because of the way  
16 the districts traverse the various  
17 neighborhoods within northeast Clay County. So  
18 that was their input for that.

19 Moving on to page 59, Mr. Kelly already  
20 talked about the community of Poinciana. We  
21 have also received some comments regarding the  
22 House maps as far as how Poinciana is  
23 addressed, and I will kind of zoom in here a  
24 little bit so you can see it. Again, thinking  
25 about the community of Poinciana, it does cross

1 the county lines there. As you can see in this  
2 House proposal, the District 43 there stops at  
3 the county line, which would essentially split  
4 the community of Poinciana between the  
5 districts. Mr. Laytham expressed his  
6 displeasure for that current configuration, and  
7 to his credit, he did offer some maps in  
8 suggestion of how to change that. If you look  
9 at page 60, which is map 164, you can see how  
10 he works to address that, and a couple of  
11 things that jump out there, his District 42  
12 takes areas of the district that's in Polk  
13 County to presumably include all of Poinciana.  
14 The one challenge with this is that the  
15 District 43 in his map is an attempt to be a  
16 majority-minority Hispanic district, but,  
17 unfortunately, the Hispanic voting age  
18 population of that district dips below  
19 50 percent. It is a 49.15 percent. So that  
20 would be a consideration there. His second  
21 attempt at 163, map 163, actually puts District  
22 43 to have all of the community of Poinciana.  
23 One of the challenges that would be presented  
24 with this map is it does create an extra county  
25 split, and also, by trying to equalize the

1 population, he did end up also splitting the  
2 City of Kissimmee between two districts, which  
3 is currently kept whole in District 43 on the  
4 House proposals.

5 Next, if you look at page 62, we are going  
6 to talk about the east Orange County and east  
7 Orlando region as it relates to District 50.  
8 Essentially what this person has requested is  
9 that the western portion of east Orlando be  
10 separated from a district that would run up to  
11 Interstate 95, which is what District 50 does.  
12 So essentially, to put it in a different way,  
13 they believe District 50 comes too far to the  
14 west.

15 When you think of Orange County, and I  
16 will talk about this a little bit more when  
17 I've actually workshopped the various plans,  
18 municipal boundary lines were heavily used in  
19 the crafting of the districts in this region,  
20 and thinking about where District 50 is, there  
21 are no incorporated communities, no  
22 incorporated cities within that area. So in  
23 the other various districts in the Orange  
24 County region, municipality lines were heavily  
25 used there.

1           Also, too, I should mention, when you look  
2           at Brevard County -- I am going to zoom out  
3           just a little bit, and this was consistent with  
4           the public testimony that we received from the  
5           residents of Brevard County. They were seeking  
6           three House districts that were wholly within  
7           their county that would separate the northern,  
8           central and southern portions of the county,  
9           and you can see that on this proposal,  
10          Districts 51 through 53 achieve that. Brevard  
11          County's population is too large there. You  
12          can see there is a portion of District 50 that  
13          is in Brevard County, and that is because their  
14          population is too large for four districts, so  
15          that is where that extra district was built.  
16          Thinking about how the lines were drawn in  
17          Brevard County, when you start building to the  
18          south and go north, that is what happens with  
19          that extra area of population in northwestern  
20          Brevard County.

21                 I am going to move south here just a  
22                 little bit to Indian River County on page 63.  
23                 We received some testimony from some folks  
24                 seeking that Indian River County be split  
25                 between two different districts. It was also

1 suggested that Indian River County be linked in  
2 a district with Brevard County as opposed to  
3 Indian River County. Members, as you remember  
4 from the summer tour and the places where we  
5 have gone specifically in this Treasure Coast  
6 area, we received a lot of testimony throughout  
7 the state from folks in various counties asking  
8 that their counties be kept whole, and that is  
9 a principle that we have kept as much as  
10 humanly possible on these proposals. So that  
11 was what happened here. Obviously Indian River  
12 County is kept whole within this district, and  
13 for extra population, it goes into St. Lucie  
14 County.

15 That also kind of dovetails with the  
16 comments I just made about Brevard County.  
17 Brevard County, that southern district there,  
18 that county line is kept intact because of the  
19 comments we received from the residents of  
20 Brevard County asking that they have three  
21 whole districts within the county, a northern,  
22 central and southern district within the  
23 county.

24 Next I am going to move south here to  
25 Martin County. We have received quite a bit of

1 testimony from the residents of Martin County,  
2 and they have said some various things.  
3 Obviously we have had the Chairman of the  
4 county commissioner here today to present the  
5 view of keeping the unincorporated area of Palm  
6 City whole, as well as keeping the City of  
7 Stuart whole in the same district. We have  
8 also received testimony from residents of  
9 Martin County asking that Palm City be kept  
10 whole, we have received testimony from the  
11 residents of Martin County asking that Stuart  
12 be kept whole, but not linking the two together  
13 in the same district. They never -- they  
14 didn't take that next step. They simply said,  
15 "Please make Palm City whole," "Please make  
16 Stuart whole." As it was discussed earlier,  
17 the municipal boundaries of Stuart are kept  
18 whole within District 83, as you can see here.  
19 So, again, kind of some differing opinions from  
20 the residents of Martin County.

21 Taking a step further from that, we have  
22 also received testimony from the folks in  
23 Martin County asking that a district in Martin  
24 County not be connected with either St. Lucie  
25 County or Palm Beach County, which would --

1 thinking about the population of all of the  
2 surrounding counties, would only leave you one  
3 option, which would be to connect Martin County  
4 with Okeechobee County to the west.

5 And I will zoom in here a little bit.  
6 Lastly, thinking about the various testimony  
7 that we've received from the residents of  
8 Martin County, we have also been asked to have  
9 the St. Lucie River here used as the dividing  
10 line between a northern Martin County district  
11 and a southern Martin County district. And  
12 what specifically is interesting about that  
13 type of a request is that you see here where my  
14 mouse is, this is the city boundaries of the  
15 City of Stuart. If you were to use the river  
16 as the boundary line, you would cut the City of  
17 Stuart in half. So we have -- thinking about  
18 the previous comments we have received, it  
19 would be in conflict with other testimony we  
20 received from residents seeking to seek all of  
21 Stuart be kept whole within a district.

22 I am going to skip ahead. All of that  
23 various testimony from the residents of Martin  
24 County is in your packet, and let me get to the  
25 ending page so you know where that goes from.

1 It goes to page 76.

2 Moving on to page 77 in the packet, this  
3 deals with the City of Pembroke Pines and a  
4 specific neighborhood within that community  
5 called Pembroke Falls. It is currently divided  
6 between two House districts, District 99 and  
7 104. I will get to that area. And this  
8 testimony asks that -- that that neighborhood  
9 be kept whole within the district, preferably  
10 104 as it mentions in the testimony. And that  
11 is something that we are currently reviewing.

12 Moving back over to kind of the western  
13 area of the state here up to Pinellas County,  
14 as Mr. Kelly mentioned, we received a  
15 resolution from the City of Oldsmar as it  
16 relates to, specifically in this proposal,  
17 House District 64. You will see here that -- I  
18 will zoom out here just a little bit. As you  
19 look at House District 64 there, you will see  
20 that it has a portion in northwestern  
21 Hillsborough County and then comes into  
22 Pinellas County for population, and you will  
23 see as it takes that dip to the south, it  
24 actually has all of the cities of Oldsmar and  
25 Safety Harbor within its boundaries. Both of

1 those cities are kept whole within that  
2 district. Again, thinking about the testimony  
3 that we received on the congressional maps,  
4 what the testimony from the resolution was was  
5 that the people of Oldsmar, the City Council of  
6 Oldsmar has asked that they not be linked with  
7 a district that connects to Hillsborough  
8 County, again, thinking about the testimony  
9 that we receive on the congressional map, that  
10 it would be in conflict and that we have  
11 received testimony asking that those two  
12 communities be linked within a congressional  
13 district, so we're trying to sort through that.

14 When you kind of zoom out and look at the  
15 populations of Pinellas and Hillsborough  
16 Counties, specifically Pinellas, you will see  
17 that -- and, again, I am going to go more into  
18 detail about the proposals later, but you will  
19 see that there are five districts wholly within  
20 the county, and for population purposes, two  
21 counties -- two districts actually cross the  
22 county lines, 64, again, is the focus of the  
23 residents of Oldsmar. When you look at the  
24 populations of Hillsborough and Pinellas  
25 Counties in those northern -- in that northern

1 region specifically, there would have to be a  
2 district that crosses the county boundary line.  
3 For the city boundaries of Oldsmar and Safety  
4 Harbor, they are right there on the county  
5 line. So it just -- as -- from a map-drawing  
6 principle, it just made sense as we -- if we  
7 had to cross that county boundary line, to  
8 include entire municipalities, thinking about  
9 the standards that are in Amendment 5.

10 I am going to kind of sneak back down  
11 south here. If you look to page 80, we have  
12 received some testimony from some residents in  
13 Charlotte County, as well as the Enterprise  
14 Charlotte Economic Council, seeking that  
15 Charlotte County be split between two  
16 districts. Here you can see that on this  
17 proposal, that Charlotte County is kept whole  
18 and all together within a House district, kind  
19 of similar to the Indian River example a moment  
20 ago. As we traveled the state, we heard from  
21 residents in basically every community asking  
22 that their county be kept whole if at all  
23 possible in this process, and that is able to  
24 be achieved here mathematically for the  
25 residents of Charlotte County.

1           And I continue to move south here to Lee  
2 County. There are some testimony that we  
3 received from a number of different residents  
4 within Lee County, and the first is regarding  
5 the unincorporated area of Estero. If you will  
6 bear with me here, I will try to zoom in on the  
7 map to find that general area. If you look in  
8 this general area here where my mouse is, I am  
9 kind of going around the basic parameters of  
10 what Estero is. Currently, that unincorporated  
11 area is divided between two House districts,  
12 and we have received a significant number of  
13 communications and e-mails from the residents  
14 there asking to be kept whole within a  
15 district, and specifically to be kept whole  
16 within District 76, which is the yellow  
17 district there.

18           Thinking about that from the map-drawing  
19 perspective, we believe as we are reviewing  
20 this that with a few minor adjustments to the  
21 populations within the districts, that this  
22 could be accomplished, but, again, we are still  
23 reviewing that -- those requests that have come  
24 in to us.

25           Moving forward to page 84, this deals

1 with -- on the area of Pine Island within Lee  
2 County and how it relates to the Cape Coral  
3 area. This specific testimony asks that Pine  
4 Island not be included in a district that has  
5 the City of Cape Coral in it, but would rather  
6 be in this district here, the yellow district.  
7 You can see Pine Island here. This was  
8 something -- these comments were basically  
9 tailored to map 9021, which was actually a map  
10 that was not moved forward to the redistricting  
11 committee by the House subcommittee. So all  
12 three of the proposals have Pine Island in that  
13 District 76, the yellow district there.

14 The next is dealing with the community of  
15 Matlacha in Lee County. Let me see if I can  
16 find that. Here we go. If you kind of zoom in  
17 here, you can see the Matlacha community here  
18 right next to Little Pine Island. The  
19 boundaries of that community actually start in  
20 this region here and cross the waterway and  
21 come into this region here. The residents of  
22 Matlacha have asked that they be kept whole  
23 within a district and within that District 76  
24 there to the west. Obviously, the biggest  
25 consideration when contemplating that move is

1           that right now, as you can see, the waterway is  
2           used as the boundary way between the two  
3           districts. So you have to cross that  
4           geographic boundary line in order to bring in  
5           all of the community of Matlacha within  
6           District 76.

7           Members, I am now going to go to that  
8           additional public input packet that is in your  
9           packet as well. If you go towards the back of  
10          that packet, there are three specific things  
11          that we have received basically yesterday that  
12          we wanted to share with you.

13          The first was from Lori Edwards, who is  
14          the Supervisor of Elections of Polk County.  
15          She specifically talked about the communities  
16          of Solivita and Winetta. Currently they are  
17          both split within the county, and she has  
18          requested that if we took a little bit closer  
19          look at VTDs, that we could keep those  
20          communities whole. Again, obviously, we just  
21          received that commentary yesterday, so we are  
22          currently reviewing that to see if that is  
23          feasible. And if you look at that next page,  
24          she does outline on the map where those areas  
25          are. Also to -- forgive me, I actually skipped

1 one.

2 Prior to Ms. Edwards' request, we did  
3 receive some commentary from a resident in Clay  
4 County recommending maps 9025 and 9027. Those  
5 maps -- and I will show you here on this  
6 proposal. This actual -- actually, let me show  
7 you those proposals. The request from the  
8 resident there, and this actually echos the  
9 comments that were made in the Jacksonville  
10 public hearing that we heard, was that the  
11 residents of Clay County wanted a district  
12 wholly contained within the county. And you  
13 can see here, if you look at District 18, that  
14 district is wholly within Clay County, and that  
15 is why this resident has voiced their support  
16 for the two plans that do that.

17 And lastly, members, thinking about public  
18 input that we've received, we actually received  
19 a partially-submitted map yesterday from Graham  
20 Stacy. It is map number 175. It is the last  
21 page here of the additional input packet. It  
22 is actually a full map, but he only changes  
23 four districts, and it is in the east  
24 Hillsborough County area, and I will show you  
25 the current proposal for that region. What

1 Mr. Stacy was seeking to do was to keep some of  
2 the unincorporated communities, thinking about  
3 Fishhawk and Bloomingdale in this region right  
4 here, together and not be split between  
5 districts. When you look at the map that is on  
6 your packet here, you will see, if you kind of  
7 compare it to the proposed map, it appears that  
8 Mr. Stacy kind of sacrifices compactness in  
9 Districts 63, 58 and 57 to achieve this goal of  
10 keeping some of those unincorporated areas  
11 whole.

12 Mr. Chairman, that concludes the House  
13 public input.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great. Any  
15 questions for Mr. Takacs from the members?

16 Seeing none, we are going to move forward  
17 to the Senate, and we've got Mr. Jason Poreda.  
18 Mr. Poreda, you are recognized.

19 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Chairman. As we  
20 kind of get the computer set up here for a  
21 minute, I will just say we have received  
22 considerably less public input regarding --  
23 specifically regarding the State Senate map, so  
24 we will kind of go a little bit in reverse  
25 order that the other two maps would -- talking

1 about the written submissions first and then  
2 talking about the maps.

3 We have received two full maps that are in  
4 your packets here today, one by Patricia  
5 Sullivan and another one by Bruce King. First  
6 looking at Patricia Sullivan's map, she kind of  
7 redrew the kind of the central part of the  
8 state. That is page 87 in your books. She  
9 kind of took District 20 and kind of centered  
10 that around The Villages and north Lake County  
11 communities and kind of drew a district there,  
12 and then kind of redrawing the district kind of  
13 surrounding that area as a result of drawing  
14 that district. As you can see, District 14 and  
15 District 9 as a result of those changes really  
16 kind of have a long, irregular shape. It --  
17 she also impacts very slightly District 1,  
18 which is a district that traditionally elects a  
19 minority candidate of choice. She also splits  
20 Hernando County, which is kept whole on the  
21 Senate map, and makes some additional county  
22 splits as well. So there's some things to  
23 consider in her map there.

24 Then on Bruce King's map, he made some  
25 very minor tweaks to the map regarding city

1 splits, also kind of reorganized Lake County a  
2 little bit and then has a different orientation  
3 for the Panhandle districts. But that is the  
4 two maps that we have received in entirety for  
5 public submissions for the State Senate.

6 Now, kind of moving to some of the written  
7 testimony that we have received regarding State  
8 Senate map, first we will look at -- we  
9 received some input from the residents of Pasco  
10 County, as you can see here, just requesting  
11 that the Pasco County -- Pasco County be  
12 divided in a different way than it currently  
13 is. That would obviously have an impact to the  
14 districts that it is included in and possibly  
15 the surrounding area.

16 Next, as we've heard from the other two  
17 maps as well, requesting that The Villages be  
18 kept whole. And as you can see here on this  
19 map, on the Senate proposed map, The Villages  
20 are kept whole. So that goal is accomplished  
21 on this map as well.

22 And that is all the public input that you  
23 have in your packet. There's a couple other  
24 more general suggestions that we have received  
25 that don't necessarily apply to one specific

1 map, but they are some good examples to show  
2 here in the State Senate map, the first  
3 regarding Putnam County, requesting that either  
4 Putnam County be kept whole or splitting it  
5 using the St. Johns River that you can kind of  
6 see goes right by the City of Palatka and kind  
7 of down that way. The difficulty with that, on  
8 the current proposal, most of Putnam County is  
9 kept entirely within District 20, as you can  
10 see, but because of District 1, which is a  
11 district that traditionally elects a minority  
12 candidate of choice, that has the City of  
13 Palatka and part of -- part of Putnam County,  
14 it would be difficult to make those changes  
15 there.

16 Then moving down to Polk County, we have  
17 additionally received input about the Poinciana  
18 communities that we have talked about in the  
19 other maps, but more specifically, we have  
20 received input about the City of Davenport,  
21 requesting it be kept whole, and in the  
22 district that is mostly in Polk County. And I  
23 will turn on the city boundaries here so we can  
24 see the City of Davenport. You can see right  
25 there that it is currently split between two

1 districts, but this is actually an example of  
2 something that -- that the Senate  
3 Reapportionment Committee actually addressed in  
4 the next version of this map, keeping that city  
5 whole and in a district that is mostly within  
6 Polk County.

7 The last piece of input that I will talk  
8 about today is about the Hendry County. We've  
9 received input from residents in that county,  
10 and I will scroll the map down, requesting that  
11 Hendry County right there, as you can see  
12 highlighted, be kept whole and not be linked  
13 with Palm Beach, Broward or Miami-Dade County,  
14 just try to be kept with more rural  
15 communities. As you can see, Hendry County is  
16 kept whole; however, Hendry County is another  
17 one of the Section 5 protected counties here in  
18 the state and is currently linked with a  
19 district that elects a minority candidate of  
20 choice, so we have to take that into  
21 consideration with Hendry County, kind of  
22 limits what we can -- what is able to do with  
23 that.

24 And, Chairman, that concludes the input  
25 for the Senate.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great. Thank  
2 you very much. Members, any questions?

3           Okay. Seeing none, members, we are now  
4 going to move into the actual discussion in  
5 greater detail the options that are on the  
6 table, keeping in the order that we went before  
7 with Congress, State House and State Senate.  
8 As we go through the options, members, I  
9 welcome your thoughts as to how you think we  
10 should go through the process of narrowing down  
11 the choices for State House and State -- and  
12 congressional maps and Senate maps. So this is  
13 your opportunity, after we do the quick brief  
14 overview of the differences between the maps,  
15 we would welcome conversation about any maps  
16 that you are preferable to.

17           It would be my hope and goal, frankly,  
18 that by the end of today, we could be in a  
19 position where we would have some type of  
20 preference as to a map that we would like to  
21 move forward with for House, Senate and  
22 congressional. That way, as members are trying  
23 to file amendments and prepare for next week's  
24 committee meeting, we are all kind of on the  
25 same page.

1           So that being said, we are going to start  
2 off with Mr. Kelly, I believe, who is going to  
3 start off talking to us again about the  
4 congressional map and the differences between  
5 the three maps.

6           MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
7 thank you, members. I am just going to get the  
8 maps lined up for your viewing.

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Kelly, I  
10 may have gone out of order. Would you -- would  
11 you like me to represent -- recognize the  
12 Chairman of the committee first?

13           MR. KELLY: I would always defer to the  
14 Chairman --

15           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes. First  
16 of all, let me commend the Chairman of the  
17 subcommittee, Representative Legg, who did a  
18 great job in shepherding the three maps to us.  
19 Representative Legg, you are recognized to  
20 summarize in your opinion what you sent to the  
21 full committee.

22           REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Well, thank you,  
23 Mr. Chairman, and you are way too kind with  
24 your words, and Mr. Kelly does a much better  
25 job than I could ever do, and you are giving me

1 too much credit to say that I shepherded.  
2 Chair Holder and Vice-Chair Horner, they really  
3 did all the heavy work. I just sat around and  
4 watched them, so -- but with that,  
5 Mr. Chairman, I just want to maybe get some  
6 high level overviews for the members of the  
7 full Committee so they kind of know what we  
8 looked at and some of the rationale in terms of  
9 a high-level view.

10 As you know, we had seven options to look  
11 at in our subcommittee. I think that all seven  
12 were a major improvement over the current  
13 Florida congressional maps. I would have been  
14 happy to present any of these -- any of the  
15 seven maps to the full floor, because we -- I  
16 do believe that all seven of them were lawful  
17 and compliant with the new constitutional  
18 amendments.

19 Our subcommittee had an interesting  
20 discussion in our last meeting. We -- when we  
21 narrowed the option down to our three top  
22 choices, the subcommittee opted to use the  
23 standards that are in the law, compare the maps  
24 and pick the three choices that appear to best  
25 balance the standards that are in the

1 Constitution and federal law. I thought it was  
2 approp- -- that the appropriate recommendations  
3 from the members of the subcommittee, a  
4 recommendation, which basically was to let the  
5 standards in the law guide us, and I supported  
6 that recommendation. As a result, I think what  
7 you have in front of you is three excellent  
8 options for you to choose.

9 Just to speak briefly about the  
10 differences and the similarity between those  
11 maps, in all three, District 1 and 2 and 18 to  
12 27 are identical. The differences occur  
13 from -- basically from the north Florida  
14 counties that are east of the Panhandle through  
15 the central Florida and into the rural  
16 communities of south Florida. Map 9041  
17 stresses compactness slightly more so than the  
18 other standards. As a result, map 9041  
19 sacrifices some county and city splits. Map  
20 9043 really performs the balancing act of all  
21 three options, keeping more than 90 percent of  
22 Florida municipalities whole. That in itself  
23 is not some kind of legal threshold, but it is  
24 still a nice milestone to achieve. Map 9045 is  
25 in large part a similar map to 9041, except

1           that its attempt to keep some of the counties  
2           whole that 94 -- 9041 splits.

3           So when you look at these maps, you will  
4           see some trade-offs, and quite possibly you  
5           might even see some pieces of the maps that can  
6           be mixed and matched with others. I think the  
7           subcommittee did an excellent job in that  
8           regards, giving this Committee some real  
9           choices.

10           With that, Mr. Chairman, I just want to  
11           thank every member of the Committee for their  
12           hard work, too, on this, and those are our  
13           three recommendations to this Committee.

14           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15           very much, Chairman Legg. We appreciate that,  
16           and we do appreciate the hard work of the  
17           Committee, and commend your co-Chair and your  
18           Vice-Chair. You guys did a great job. And  
19           with that, we will turn it over to Alex to walk  
20           us through some of the detailed differences  
21           between the three maps. You are recognized,  
22           Mr. Kelly.

23           MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
24           thank you, members.

25           Using map -- using map 9041, let's say, as

1 a base where I will describe the common points,  
2 and then we will look at the other two as to  
3 where they differ. As Chair Legg said,  
4 Districts 1 and 2 are identical in all of the  
5 maps. Generally speaking, the districts just  
6 lean on the principle of keeping counties  
7 whole. The couple counties that are split are  
8 purely done so for the sake of equal  
9 population.

10 Moving to the southern end of the state,  
11 Districts 18 through 27, District 18 is a  
12 district that has all of St. Lucie County and  
13 all of Martin County, for the sake of equal  
14 population, a little bit of Okeechobee County  
15 and then goes into northern Palm Beach County.

16 District 19, moving to the southwestern  
17 part of the state, District 19 is all of the  
18 incorporated municipalities of Lee County, most  
19 of Lee County, minus some of the Lehigh Acres  
20 and North Ft. Myers unincorporated areas, and  
21 then it includes the coastline, including  
22 Naples, the entirety of Naples, and other  
23 communities along the coast in Collier County.

24 District 20, as we mentioned some earlier  
25 regards to the public testimony, Districts 20,

1           21 and 22, all three districts are primarily in  
2           Palm Beach and Broward Counties. District 20  
3           also there does have an extension into Hendry  
4           County, which is an important component.  
5           District 20 today is a majority-minority seat  
6           and today also serves the African-American  
7           communities of Hendry County, which is a  
8           Section 5 covered jurisdiction. So in terms of  
9           maintaining that, the district runs over into  
10          the Clewiston area, it includes the entirety of  
11          that, and in an effort to maintain Section 5  
12          compliance, the district, again, maintains its  
13          majority-minority status, and in the manner  
14          that it is drawn, the district actually  
15          includes the entirety of several municipalities  
16          in the southern Broward County portion and also  
17          in the near Lake Okeechobee/Palm Beach County  
18          portions.

19                 And Districts 21 and 22, kind of went over  
20          them before, they are drawn in a north-south  
21          pattern with the intent of trying to respect  
22          municipal boundary lines as much as possible,  
23          and really actually borrowing directly from  
24          some of the public plans that were submitted in  
25          terms of a strategy for how to keep these

1 municipalities whole in terms of -- mentioned  
2 earlier, some of the additional public input  
3 that's been received, some of the additional  
4 public input, if you look at District 20, the  
5 additional public input, instead of coming  
6 through the Loxahatchee and Royal Palm Beach  
7 area, District 20 was brought through Palm  
8 Beach Gardens, and so we are looking at that  
9 just to see if there's any advantages in terms  
10 of municipal splits and compactness and other  
11 measurements just to see if there's anything  
12 gained by taking a slightly different path. So  
13 we are taking a look at that based on some of  
14 the guidance that we have gotten from the  
15 additional public input.

16 Twenty-one, again, and 22, as described,  
17 are, generally speaking, drawn with the intent  
18 of trying to respect the municipal lines. I  
19 will give you a visual of that. We originally  
20 looked at trying to use perhaps the Turnpike in  
21 these counties in terms of designing the  
22 districts. However, the municipalities tended  
23 to cross that, to sort of cross those major  
24 roadways. So when you look at, for example,  
25 District 21 -- and this is actually a good

1 example of a municipality that perhaps with a  
2 minor adjustment we can actually probably keep  
3 whole in terms of -- in terms of Coconut Creek,  
4 but looking at the municipalities, you will see  
5 that in many cases, they are kept whole in one  
6 district or the other in attempts to strike a  
7 balance between complying with the Voting  
8 Rights Act, but at the same time trying to  
9 respect the political geography as much as  
10 possible.

11 District 23 encompasses much of southern  
12 Broward and also the northeastern areas of  
13 Miami-Dade County. District 23 is in large  
14 part impacted by what you have in Miami-Dade  
15 County, which are four majority-minority  
16 districts, three of which are Hispanic, one of  
17 which is African-American. I will turn the  
18 city boundary lines off, turn the counties back  
19 on, just so you can see where the split occurs.

20 So in looking at District 24 is a  
21 majority-minority African-American seat, also  
22 with a concentration of Haitian-American  
23 residents. And then scrolling back out,  
24 Districts 25, 26 and 27, again, our strategy  
25 here was obviously, one, to maintain compliance

1 with the Voting Rights Act, which was to  
2 maintain the ability for these districts to  
3 perform for the Hispanic community's candidate  
4 of choice, but also to try to bring something  
5 more of a clean look, a more compact, geometric  
6 type look to where these districts meet. If  
7 you remember from the subcommittee, for the  
8 members of the subcommittee, we discussed a lot  
9 using the Tamiami Trail as a line where kind of  
10 diving in to the Fountainebleau area where the  
11 districts all meet, trying to -- if you think  
12 about how this translates not just to  
13 redistricting, but ultimately to voters going  
14 back out with new districts, using those clear  
15 roadways to try to minimize voter confusion and  
16 so forth, but, again, trying to bring a much  
17 more compact shape, and the numbers bear out  
18 that the districts are significantly more  
19 compact than the existing plans.

20 Now, in terms of some points that are  
21 fairly common, although not identical, in all  
22 the maps, Congressional District 5 in all the  
23 maps travels from the Jacksonville area through  
24 Palatka to Gainesville through northern Marion  
25 County -- we mentioned before about the public

1 testimony regarding the Reddick area -- and  
2 then through Lake County into Apopka, some  
3 differences in terms of this district compared  
4 to the current map and the way it's been drawn  
5 here, it is not perfectly identical in all  
6 three submissions, although it is very, very  
7 similar. First it was drawn in order to  
8 maintain the existing opportunity for  
9 African-American -- the African-American  
10 community. The NAACP submitted a map that drew  
11 the seat at exactly a 48 percent black voting  
12 age population, so in all three examples, it is  
13 just slightly above that, a couple hundredths  
14 of a percentage above that, that mark being  
15 that that's what the NAACP submitted.

16 The district now encompasses the entirety  
17 of Green Cove Springs, the entirety of Palatka,  
18 the entirety of Apopka. It no longer impacts  
19 Seminole County, it no longer impacts Volusia  
20 County. So to the extent possible, we tried to  
21 marry up the provisions -- the sort of Tier 2  
22 provisions in Amendment 6 that look at  
23 political and geographical boundary lines and  
24 try to make sure that if the district was  
25 traveling through a city, where possible, it

1           could include the entirety of that city, and  
2           where unnecessary, the district would not split  
3           a county if that was not necessary to maintain  
4           the opportunity to elect. So some very subtle  
5           differences when you dive into the details.

6           In all the maps, District 7 keeps Seminole  
7           County whole, albeit it does it in a different  
8           fashion in each of the maps. In plan 9041,  
9           Seminole County is whole and the  
10          Seminole/Volusia County line is not crossed.  
11          The district in all three maps does include the  
12          entirety of Maitland and the entirety of Winter  
13          Park, but in this particular example, 9041, all  
14          the population that's not in Seminole is in  
15          Orange County. Go look at plan 9043. In this  
16          particular instance, beyond Maitland and Winter  
17          Park, most of the additional population that's  
18          not in Seminole County is in Volusia County.  
19          The way it was drawn -- I will turn on the city  
20          boundary lines. The way it was drawn is to  
21          encompass the entirety of municipal boundary  
22          lines in Volusia County. So the fact that it  
23          is crossing the county line, it has all of  
24          Deltona, all of De Bary, and I believe that is  
25          Orange City. So while it is crossing a county

1 line, respecting those municipal boundary  
2 lines. And then I do believe in 9045, it is  
3 more similar to -- yes, it is more similar to  
4 9041 in which it is all Seminole and then parts  
5 of Orange County.

6 So in terms of northeast Florida, now to  
7 get into some of the more significant  
8 differences, in northeast Florida, the effects  
9 of the map on Nassau County are similar in maps  
10 9041 and 9045. Nassau County is split so you  
11 have a district that is the east side of Duval  
12 County, the east side of Nassau County and the  
13 northern half of St. Johns, splitting the city  
14 of St. Augustine.

15 In the case of map 9043, 9043, which had  
16 the lowest county splits of all the maps, map  
17 9043 split 22 counties. Map 9041 split 26.  
18 Map 9045 split 23. Map 9043 attempts to use  
19 the population that is left over from  
20 Congressional District 5 in Duval, aligning  
21 that with Nassau, aligning that with Baker, to  
22 create a district that is otherwise the entire  
23 remaining portions of Duval, all of Nassau and  
24 all of Baker. And I will just put the county  
25 lines on to give you that visual. In part,

1 that was how 9043 was able to maintain county  
2 lines in a better fashion.

3 In terms of District 3, there is a similar  
4 district in all the maps that is essentially a  
5 north Florida district, in this case in 9043,  
6 that district does not include any parts of  
7 Baker or Duval Counties or Nassau County. So  
8 in that case, in 9043, the district pushes  
9 further down into the Marion County area as a  
10 result. In looking at the effects of that, the  
11 portion of District 11 that is Marion County is  
12 what essentially is typically affected by how  
13 far over District 3 comes. In every case,  
14 Marion County is still a significant portion of  
15 a congressional district, but in the case of  
16 9043, it's less of a portion of a congressional  
17 district.

18 In all three of the maps, if you look at  
19 District 6, there's a similar district,  
20 however, as it relates to the Seminole County  
21 district that we mentioned earlier. In map  
22 9043, the sort of Volusia/Flagler/St. Johns  
23 County district with some of Putnam includes  
24 the entirety of St. Johns, the entirety of  
25 Flagler, and then it does not include the

1           entirety of Volusia. In the other plans, the  
2           district splits St. Johns, still includes the  
3           entirety of Flagler, but then keeps Volusia  
4           whole. So essentially there is the trade-off  
5           of either keeping Volusia or St. Johns County  
6           whole, but, again, in map 9043, which splits  
7           Volusia County, all the municipal boundary  
8           lines were kept whole.

9                    Coming back to District 11, which we  
10           mentioned before, generally speaking, District  
11           11 includes the entirety of Citrus County, some  
12           or all of Sumter, portions of Lake. Depending  
13           on how far down District 3 pushes south and  
14           depending on how far District 12 pushes north,  
15           that determines what portions of Lake County  
16           are maintained in the seat. So, for example,  
17           in map 9043, the district is entirely Hernando,  
18           Citrus, the balance of population, the most of  
19           the population in Marion, all of Sumter and the  
20           Lady Lake and Fruitland Park areas, those  
21           municipalities are kept whole. Whereas, go  
22           look at 9041, 9041 only splits Marion County  
23           two ways, because District 12 is pushing up and  
24           taking in most of Hernando County. Now, as a  
25           result of that though, Hernando County is split

1 in map 9041. Citrus County is kept whole.  
2 Citrus County is kept whole in all of the maps.  
3 Sumter County in this particular case is split,  
4 and District 11 goes a little further into --  
5 into Lake County, although it is not a  
6 significant amount of population of Lake, the  
7 bulk of the main cities in Lake that are  
8 heavily populated are still in District 10.  
9 But, again, that just gives you a sense of the  
10 push on the district depending on what is going  
11 on in Districts 3 and 12.

12 And then looking at map 9045, this  
13 particular case, the sort of Pasco County-based  
14 seat has the entirety of Hernando County, and  
15 there is a seat that is most of the population  
16 of Marion, all of Levy, all of Citrus, all of  
17 Sumter and includes a greater portion, just  
18 slightly though, but a greater portion of the  
19 Lake County area. As a result of that, the  
20 municipality of Leesburg is split in that  
21 exchange.

22 In terms of how those districts sort of  
23 create a sort of pressure in the middle of the  
24 state, you always have a district that is --  
25 District 10 that is in part Lake County, Orange

1 County, northern Polk. Depending on the other  
2 districts, that affects the proportion of those  
3 counties. In this particular example, looking  
4 at map 9045, the proportions that are Lake,  
5 Orange and Polk are fairly similar to each  
6 other. It is actually about 250,000 residents  
7 in Lake, about 10,000 fewer than that in  
8 Orange, and then 180 or so thousand in Polk  
9 County.

10 District 9 in all the maps attempts to  
11 create something of an opportunity for Hispanic  
12 Floridians to vote together, to coalesce, but  
13 at the same time does so in a very compact  
14 fashion, albeit a different fashion in each of  
15 the maps. So in the case of 9045, the map  
16 includes the entirety of the Poinciana  
17 community, most of -- excluding what's north --  
18 or northeast or west -- sorry, northwest of  
19 Interstate 4, Osceola County, and then portions  
20 of Orange. Give you a comparison to map 9041,  
21 map 9041 doesn't include the southern, more  
22 rural parts of Osceola County. So those parts  
23 are cut off for a more east to west type  
24 district. And then map 9043 attempts to create  
25 more of a squared-up type District 9,

1           attempting to create a more compact shape. Map  
2           9043 does not go into Polk County, that being a  
3           major difference. Map 9043, the balance of the  
4           population is definitely in Orange County with  
5           a couple hundred thousand residents from  
6           Osceola County, but it does not go into Polk.  
7           So it respects the county boundary line in map  
8           9043.

9           Taking a look at the Tampa -- Tampa Bay  
10          area, there are some commonalities, but then  
11          there's also some significant differences.  
12          Again, we talked about how some of the maps  
13          have a sort of Pasco-based seat that goes north  
14          and grabs most or all of Hernando. Map 9041  
15          does that. It grabs about 60,000 residents in  
16          the Oldsmar area in Pinellas County. It  
17          attempts to maintain Section 5 compliance with  
18          District 14. Hillsborough County  
19          African-American/Hispanic residents are  
20          combined with Pinellas County African-American  
21          residents. District 13 maintains a seat  
22          entirely in Pasco -- I'm sorry, Pinellas  
23          County.

24          District 15, thinking back to some of the  
25          public input that you heard before, District 15

1 is the one where the Mayor of Tampa, the  
2 municipality of Temple Terrace had communicated  
3 their preference was this more Hillsborough  
4 County-based version of District 15, which only  
5 has 5,700 residents from Manatee County, so for  
6 all intents and purposes, it is almost entirely  
7 a Hillsborough County seat. The result of that  
8 is that District 17, which is largely southern  
9 Polk County, very rural parts of Polk County,  
10 Bartow, those areas, southern Osceola and  
11 several very rural counties kept whole, and  
12 then also the entirety of Charlotte County,  
13 that district has a more almost squared-up type  
14 northern border to it, not perfectly squared,  
15 the lakes and such in Polk County and Osceola  
16 County make it difficult to create a nice  
17 perfect line, but, nonetheless, it has a more  
18 squared-up northern border. And because 15 is  
19 entire- -- mostly in Hillsborough, and 16 is a  
20 Sarasota/Manatee seat, you essentially have a  
21 very clean sort of western wall to the district  
22 until you get down to the entirety of Charlotte  
23 County.

24 Just to show you how that changes in the  
25 other maps, in the case of map 9043, District

1           15 is drawn more to try to really take in a  
2           very, very compact shape. It includes the  
3           entirety of Lakeland. In this particular  
4           district, this is the most of Polk County that  
5           is included in the 15th District, albeit it is  
6           still more than a two-thirds Hillsborough  
7           County seat. Again, District 16, similar to  
8           the others, minus 5,700 residents, it is  
9           otherwise the entirety of Sarasota/Manatee.  
10          District 17 is similar, albeit because District  
11          17 is going into sort of the Fishhawk -- or  
12          south of the Fishhawk area, as Jeff was talking  
13          about before, in Hillsborough County, it  
14          accounts for some population there, doesn't go  
15          as far north into Polk County, albeit Polk  
16          County is probably still -- I think it is still  
17          the most significant population base in the  
18          various versions of District 17.

19                 And then just to compare to map 9045, as  
20          we kind of talked about before, the District  
21          15, minus 90,000 residents, is otherwise  
22          entirely in Hillsborough County. District 17  
23          in this particular case takes in a greater  
24          number of Hillsborough County residents. So in  
25          terms of population, the Hillsborough and Polk

1 County residents would greater rival each other  
2 in this district, with Charlotte sort of  
3 trailing in third in terms of the county's  
4 impact on District 17.

5 And with that, Mr. Chair, those are the  
6 differences between the maps, and I would be  
7 happy to answer any questions.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great.  
9 Members, before we move to suggestions or  
10 questions or any suggestions, are there any  
11 specific questions about the maps or the  
12 presentation that Mr. Kelly just provided us?  
13 Any questions?

14 Okay. Seeing no questions, are there any  
15 suggestions or comments based on the maps that  
16 we just discussed?

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Chair?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes,  
19 Representative Hukill, you are recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Chair.

22 Yes, I do have a suggestion concerning  
23 where we should be going on this. I think it  
24 would be helpful to us as members and probably  
25 help avoid some public confusion for us to

1 narrow in on a map today. The map I like is at  
2 9043, which is behind tab HB 6005. I think  
3 this is a great map. I think when you look at  
4 various things like city splits and county  
5 splits, it is an absolutely great map. It also  
6 does a very good job with trying to balance the  
7 various standards that we have to use in this  
8 process.

9 And so my suggestion is that we use this  
10 as a base map for next Friday and that we  
11 narrow it down to that choice today, so that  
12 everyone knows what map we are working off of.  
13 And if there are potential changes that people  
14 want to make or file amendments, we can use  
15 this as our base map and draft to this map. So  
16 my suggestion is that we narrow in and select  
17 map 9043.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chair.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for  
22 that suggestion. I think we've got  
23 Representative Workman, Representative Bernard,  
24 then Representative Schenck, we will go in that  
25 order. You are recognized, Representative

1 Workman.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Mr. Chairman,  
3 thank you for recognizing me.

4 I wasn't thinking along those lines, but  
5 now that she said it, based on Amendment 6, you  
6 know, it sets a lot of standards, especially in  
7 the second tier of the law, roadways, bridges,  
8 waterways, county lines, city lines, and  
9 looking at for 9043, I want to concur with that  
10 statement. I think we should make that the  
11 base map.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
13 very much, Mr. Workman.

14 Representative Bernard, you are  
15 recognized, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chair.

18 I think my question -- it may be a  
19 question, not a suggestion, but going to -- I  
20 guess we can look at 9043 since that is the one  
21 that we're talking about. Looking at the  
22 configuration of the south Florida  
23 congressional maps, on 9043, I am looking at  
24 District 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. I am really  
25 concerned about the way that these districts

1 have been drawn in regards to -- like  
2 specifically District 24 where it goes into  
3 Broward County. It just seems to me that if  
4 the Tier 1 -- if we are looking at Tier 1 where  
5 we are creating the minority districts first,  
6 it just seems to me that that district should  
7 be specifically in Miami-Dade County where we  
8 would bring it down into only Miami-Dade  
9 County, and going into the creation of District  
10 20, to me, it is just -- just looking at it and  
11 going into Amendment 6, I just believe that  
12 there's other ways that we can -- we can  
13 recreate that district for it to be different.  
14 Going -- this -- going into -- a majority part  
15 of that district is in Broward County, and  
16 going into how we have drafted -- the House  
17 maps that you draw, Mr. Chair, I was looking at  
18 House map where you drafted District 92, 94 and  
19 95 where they are predominantly  
20 majority-minority seats. However, when you  
21 come down to south of Broward in the House  
22 maps, District 101 and 102, those are  
23 additionally majority-minority seats also.

24 So, to me, it just seems like it would be  
25 better and -- to have District 22 to be a

1 majority-minority district where it would come  
2 down from the creation of District 92, 94, 95,  
3 and then to come down along the east side and  
4 then to capture District 101 and 102 according  
5 to the House maps, and that way, District 22  
6 would only be in Broward County, whereas we can  
7 change how we draft District 20 where District  
8 20 would be specifically only in Palm Beach  
9 County, and where now that would -- now  
10 District 24 would be in Dade County where it  
11 would be a majority-minority seat, District 22  
12 would be specifically only in Broward County,  
13 and it would be a majority-minority seat if you  
14 bring it down to cover those parts in District  
15 101 and 102, and then now District 20, you can  
16 reconfigure it to make that district,  
17 specifically the population of Palm Beach  
18 County, where the total -- the total population  
19 of Palm Beach County, you have a 17.3 percent  
20 black population and a 19 percent Hispanic  
21 population. If you recreate District 20 where  
22 it would go along the east side and to include  
23 the cities of West Palm Beach, Palm Springs,  
24 all the way down to Delray Beach and Boca  
25 Raton, that would be a compact district and you

1 can still send that district out to the Glades  
2 where it would cover the Cities of Belle Glade,  
3 Pahokee and South Bay, and still include the  
4 town of Clewiston, which would be a Section 5.  
5 What that would do is it would change District  
6 20 to potentially be more of a coalition  
7 district. I haven't looked at the numbers, but  
8 it seems like it would be a coalition district  
9 in Palm Beach County where the residents of  
10 Palm Beach County would get to elect a  
11 Representative of their choice, Broward County  
12 would get District 22 as a majority-minority  
13 seat and would be as compact as possible, and  
14 District 24 would shift down into only Dade  
15 County and it would be compact as possible, and  
16 that way, the maps would be better drawn and  
17 the residents of Palm Beach County, Dade and  
18 Broward would get to represent -- would get to  
19 elect a Representative of their choice and it  
20 would be compact.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you. I  
22 think I know what you are talking about -- no,  
23 it was actually a very good explanation, and I  
24 appreciate you taking the time to offer that.

25 A couple of things. The first thing I

1 want to mention is the maps -- for all the  
2 members, just so you understand, all the  
3 districts that were referenced by Mr. Bernard  
4 are actually the same in all three maps. So it  
5 is -- the concepts he is talking about would  
6 apply to all three of the maps in the same way.

7 The second thing, I want to be clear that,  
8 you know, we are not drawing any maps first,  
9 whether they are minority-majority maps or  
10 otherwise. Certainly we are cognizant of what  
11 the Constitution says, cognizant of the fact  
12 that we do not want to have retrogression in  
13 any of our majority-minority districts, but at  
14 the same time, we are not drawing any first. I  
15 want to clarify that.

16 Before I turn it over to Alex Kelly to  
17 speak directly to your question, I will tell  
18 you I think the beauty of this process and the  
19 beauty of democracy and the beauty of the  
20 legislative process and the committee process  
21 is that any member at any time can offer an  
22 amendment. So what you just said certainly is  
23 a lot of information, sounds like a dramatic  
24 change to the map. I would encourage you,  
25 Representative Bernard, to put it on paper,

1 offer it as an amendment for next Friday's  
2 meeting, so we can actually take a look at it,  
3 analyze it. Wednesday, noon deadline is the  
4 deadline for the amendatory process. We would  
5 love to take a look at it. We have different  
6 forms of measurement that we can utilize and we  
7 have utilized for the last six months, and we  
8 will take that amendment and those changes into  
9 consideration, and if they make dramatic  
10 improvement to the map, the members of this  
11 Committee will have an opportunity to vote on  
12 it. So with that, I would encourage you to do  
13 that. And, Mr. Kelly, if you would like to  
14 address some of the comments as well, you may.

15 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Representative Bernard, we attempted over  
17 the course of drawing the maps, several of the  
18 items that you raised. In terms of -- starting  
19 with District 24, in terms of maintaining its  
20 majority-minority status, we were not able to  
21 do so entirely in Miami-Dade County. You could  
22 theoretically reduce the seat by six or seven  
23 percentage points, but -- running over to the  
24 coastline, but you still would have a question  
25 as to whether that six or seven percentage

1 points is, in fact, a diminishment, and you  
2 would still need to go to Broward County  
3 somewhat to maintain the majority-minority  
4 status.

5 So in terms of looking at that issue, we  
6 have looked at that and don't believe that you  
7 can maintain a majority-minority status for  
8 District 24 entirely in Miami-Dade County.  
9 And, again, at the very minimum, too, you would  
10 also be raising a question as to whether the  
11 drop in the black voting age population may be  
12 significant enough to be a diminishment.

13 In terms of District 20, again, we had  
14 problems with the numbers. Unless you actually  
15 did combine some of those communities in  
16 Broward County, as you mentioned, in terms of  
17 like the State House map, today's State House  
18 map, Districts 92, 93 and 94, 92 of which is --  
19 which is actually a 34 percent black voting age  
20 population, but in terms of using those  
21 communities and in terms of going into Palm  
22 Beach County without drawing in those  
23 communities, it is very difficult, if possible  
24 at all, to maintain the majority-minority  
25 status.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mr. Chair?

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes,  
3 Representative Bernard.

4           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Chair.

6           I didn't say for it to go into Palm Beach  
7 County where I shifted District 22 to go along  
8 the east coast from District 92, 94 and 95 and  
9 then for it to go down all the way to the  
10 county line, the Miami-Dade and Broward County  
11 line, to cover the House District 101 and 102  
12 where those are basically majority-minority  
13 seats. So from 92, 94, 95, would come down to  
14 the county line, to the Broward County line,  
15 and not go into Palm Beach County.

16           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think what  
17 we will do, because we could probably stand  
18 here all day and try to understand exactly what  
19 we are talking about, I think it would be much  
20 better and clearer for the Committee and for  
21 the public who is watching if they could  
22 actually see on paper what it is Representative  
23 Bernard is talking about, so Representative  
24 Bernard, if you could work on a hard copy and  
25 as an amendment or maybe something that you

1           could submit to the Committee as a whole, I  
2           think that we certainly want to make sure that  
3           we are taking a look at that. And anyone else  
4           who has suggestions in the same light, no  
5           matter whether it is in south Florida or any  
6           part of the state, we want to make sure that  
7           these maps are as legally compliant as they  
8           possibly can be, and we are willing to look at  
9           any amendment in any form. So thank you for  
10          bringing that forth, Representative Bernard.

11                   Representative Schenck, did you have  
12           something to offer to the conversation?

13                   REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: I think so. As  
14           we were going through the maps -- certainly I  
15           want to congratulate Alex and staff on all the  
16           hard work they have done on the congressional  
17           maps. Alex, as you were going through them,  
18           the thing I noticed, and I wanted to talk to  
19           map 9041, is the fact that that map splits St.  
20           Augustine and Nassau County, but it also splits  
21           Sumter and Hernando County, and I find that  
22           those splits are unnecessary, especially since  
23           the other two maps do not do that. So it would  
24           be my preference that we discard map 9041 and  
25           focus on the other two.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much. Any other comments from the  
3 Committee?

4           Representative Horner, you are recognized,  
5 sir.

6           REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman.

8           I think 9043 is a fine map. I liked all  
9 of them, and kudos to the team, did a great job  
10 putting together. Chairman Legg and Chairman  
11 Holder and the staff did a good job.

12           I just want to make sure that -- I think  
13 in some of these other maps we've got some good  
14 opportunities to reduce splits in some cities  
15 and some counties. And so if there is some  
16 opportunity to take some good concepts from the  
17 other two and incorporate them in 9043, that we  
18 will be able to do that through the amendatory  
19 process. And I really look forward to seeing  
20 Representative Bernard's amendment, so I hope  
21 we are not getting too locked in to 9043 and  
22 will be open to some of those changes.

23           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I will  
24 address that. I think that is a good point.  
25 Is there any other comments or suggestions

1 before we move forward?

2 Okay. Here is what I will say:

3 Representative Horner, you bring up a good  
4 point. I think there's been several  
5 suggestions made by members that 9043 should be  
6 the congressional map that we work off of. I  
7 am inclined to go in the same direction. I  
8 think what it does is it brings clarity to  
9 everybody if we have now one map that we are  
10 focusing on, which would be 9043.

11 But to Representative Horner's point, we  
12 are not locked in to everything in 9043, and if  
13 people want to bring forth amendments, if  
14 there's some of the other maps that have been  
15 submitted that you like certain portions of  
16 them better, we can file amendments to 9043 and  
17 make it a better product. So what we are going  
18 to do, just for -- so everybody has a clear  
19 understanding, we are going to move forward  
20 with 9043, that will be the map that we will  
21 take up next Friday, and we can file amendments  
22 to that map.

23 So if anybody has any questions about  
24 that, concerns about that, now would be a good  
25 time to talk about it. Any questions or

1 concerns? Yes, Representative Rogers, you are  
2 recognized.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chair.

5 I don't know, when I came into this  
6 meeting, I was under the assumption that we  
7 weren't going to move any maps out of this  
8 Committee today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We are not.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Okay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: In fact, all  
12 maps will be available next week. What we are  
13 doing is, we are trying to give clarity to the  
14 public. We are also trying to give clarity to  
15 the members, so that 9043 appears to be the map  
16 that everyone seems to be favorable to. No one  
17 else has suggested another map. So for  
18 purposes of clarity for next week, if you are  
19 going to file an amendment, you would file an  
20 amendment to 9043. So 9043 can be changed, it  
21 can be amended. We are going to look at all  
22 amendments and have votes on them. But 9043  
23 would be kind of considered the base map. So  
24 that is -- is that clear?

25 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Very clear, but we

1 are not limited to just 9043?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No, but if  
3 you liked a portion of another map, you could  
4 essentially get to the same place in a  
5 different way where you could take the -- you  
6 could take the provisions of another map and  
7 amend it onto 9043 and essentially it would  
8 become the other map that you may have  
9 preferred, so -- and if you want more detail,  
10 we can get you with staff and myself and we can  
11 talk further about -- to make sure that any  
12 concerns that you have are addressed. Thank  
13 you, Representative Rogers.

14 Any other comments or questions?

15 Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Kelly. We  
16 are now going to move forward into the House  
17 map. Representative Schenck, who is co-Chair  
18 of the House Committee, we'll give you an  
19 opportunity to give us a brief overview while  
20 Mr. Takacs is getting prepared. But great job  
21 to you and co-Chair Dorworth. You guys did a  
22 tremendous job in the House, and drawing 27  
23 maps is one thing, drawing 120 maps is a  
24 totally different thing, and I thought that you  
25 guys did a great job. Really appreciate the

1 product you have brought forth, and look  
2 forward to hearing about the differences  
3 between the three, but you are recognized for a  
4 brief introduction.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair, and I just want to give a brief  
7 overview before I turn it over to Jeff Takacs,  
8 who I call the machine, and can probably talk  
9 about it for hours, but I have warned him not  
10 to.

11 The Committee co-Chair Dorworth and I  
12 worked with were great, had a lot of good  
13 suggestions, and so we limited -- passed on  
14 three maps that we are going to talk about  
15 today. So let me just quickly give the  
16 overview.

17 Maps 9025 and 9027 are virtually  
18 identical, with the exception of Districts 7, 8  
19 and 9, which is in the Big Bend area, and I  
20 have told Jeff to spend a little time with that  
21 and those. And then map 9031 is identical to  
22 9027 in the Big Bend area, but there are  
23 several differences in Duval and Clay County,  
24 as well as the central Florida area of Lake,  
25 Seminole and Orange Counties as well. So map

1 9031 is -- is -- has a difference in two areas  
2 of the state.

3 Mr. Chairman, those are the differences  
4 between the three, and so then I would suggest,  
5 much like we just did with the congressional  
6 maps, we will have the machine go through those  
7 maps, have some discussion and try to narrow it  
8 from three to one so that we can have a working  
9 base map for next Friday as well on the House  
10 maps.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That sounds  
12 good. Thank you, Representative. And with  
13 that, we will recognize Mr. Takacs to walk us  
14 through the differences in the map.

15 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 With Chairman Schenck's blessing, I would like  
17 to go through a three-hour presentation on the  
18 120 districts of the map.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Not granted.

20 MR. TAKACS: I would like to kind of do  
21 this on a region-by-region basis and walk  
22 through the map as we travel around the state.

23 If you look at the Panhandle region there,  
24 looking at Districts 1 through 4, you will see  
25 that essentially that region is bookended by

1           Districts 1 and 4 that are wholly within their  
2           respective counties of Escambia and Okaloosa,  
3           Districts 2 and 3 cross from Escambia into  
4           Santa Rosa, and then Santa Rosa into Okaloosa.  
5           An interesting point, the population of Santa  
6           Rosa is that in that it can be kept whole  
7           within a House map; however, it is land-locked  
8           between two counties that have to be split. So  
9           that is why you see the configuration the way  
10          that it is as far as Santa Rosa being split  
11          between Districts 2 and 3.

12                    Moving forward here into the -- moving  
13           east from Districts 5, and I will talk about  
14           the Big Bend area. As Chairman Schenck  
15           mentioned, Districts 7, 8 and 9 are one of the  
16           pivot points, decision points, between maps  
17           9025 and 9027, and I will show those one by one  
18           as we continue to move forward.

19                    District 5 here, you can see whole  
20           counties was the driver of the building of this  
21           district. As you can see, all of these  
22           counties are whole here, Jackson County and so  
23           forth. As you move south to District 6, it is  
24           wholly contained within Bay County, and Panama  
25           City is kept whole within that region as well.

1 I should also mention District 1 in Escambia  
2 County does keep the City of Pensacola whole as  
3 well. District 2 is the City of Gulf Breeze.  
4 So that is a common theme as we travel about  
5 the map as far as using municipal boundary  
6 lines as dividing lines and keeping cities  
7 whole within the various districts.

8 Again, this is map 9025, and you can see  
9 what District 7 does -- I'm sorry, this is map  
10 a 9027. What you can see here is what District  
11 7 does is it has a larger swath of smaller  
12 rural counties and keeps them all united,  
13 thinking about Lafayette and Taylor, Jefferson,  
14 Wakulla, Franklin and so forth, keeping them  
15 all together within a district, and then for  
16 population purposes, having it in a portion of  
17 Leon County.

18 District 8 is a majority-minority black  
19 district. It does contain all of Gadsden  
20 County -- again, thinking about keeping  
21 counties whole within this process, it contains  
22 all of Gadsden County, as well as portions of  
23 Leon.

24 The biggest pivot point between maps 9027  
25 and 9025 is really District 9. You can see

1 here on this option that District 9 is wholly  
2 contained within Leon County. I will show you  
3 the other option, which is 9025. Bear with me  
4 for just a moment. And I will kind of toggle  
5 back and forth so you can see the difference  
6 between the two. Here is District 9 in this  
7 option, which is 9025, and you can see that it  
8 has more of a portion of Leon County as far as  
9 its -- the way that it is cut, and it actually  
10 splits the City of Tallahassee in three, and  
11 then it goes into Jefferson, Taylor and  
12 Lafayette Counties. Again, I will kind of go  
13 back and forth, but, again, this -- obviously,  
14 this district is not wholly contained within  
15 Leon County. Another difference, again, as I  
16 mentioned, is that this option splits the City  
17 of Tallahassee between three districts. The  
18 other option, which I will go back to, splits  
19 the City of Tallahassee twice. You can see  
20 this version here. So, again, that is the only  
21 difference between maps 9025 and 9027, so I  
22 will continue to move forward and explain  
23 essentially both of those maps simultaneously.

24 Moving on into the north and northeast  
25 Florida region here, you can see District 10

1 again keeping counties whole within this  
2 district. A portion of Alachua County is used  
3 for District 10. In a previous draft of these,  
4 and this was something that the subcommittee  
5 examined, there was an option that would have  
6 had the Alachua County only split twice, but  
7 what that does is essentially for population  
8 purposes, would then actually split Union  
9 County between two districts there, 19 and 10.  
10 So their preference was to make that third  
11 split within Alachua County to keep Union  
12 County whole, and then, again, this district be  
13 based on keeping counties whole.

14 I am going to move into the Nassau and  
15 Duval County area. As I had mentioned earlier,  
16 if you look at the populations of Nassau and  
17 Duval combined, they equal roughly that of six  
18 House districts, and you can see that this plan  
19 and all of the plans -- I should say Duval  
20 County is another pivot point in one of the  
21 maps, and I will explain that at the end, but  
22 in maps 9025 and 9027, that principle is  
23 adhered to with these six districts, again,  
24 using -- Nassau County being kept whole, and  
25 then coming into Duval, and then the other five

1 districts being wholly contained within Duval  
2 County.

3 Districts 13 and 14 recreate  
4 majority-minority black districts within the  
5 region, and, again, thinking about county lines  
6 and other roadways as far as boundaries, that  
7 was the driver as far as building Districts 12,  
8 15 and 16.

9 I will zoom out here a little bit and talk  
10 about kind of the area just below Duval County.  
11 When you look at St. Johns County, District 17  
12 here, that district is wholly contained within  
13 St. Johns County. It is then connected here,  
14 District 24, as far as the county, which is a  
15 district that has all of Flagler County and  
16 then a portion of St. Johns County, and then  
17 that comes into areas of Volusia County, which  
18 I will talk about in a moment.

19 Moving here just over a bit, as we saw on  
20 the video a moment ago, the residents of Clay  
21 County requested that they have a district  
22 wholly contained within the county. That is  
23 here in District 18. Sorry about that. And  
24 you will see that that -- that district does  
25 keep the City of Orange Park whole and keeps

1 the City of Green Cove Springs whole, but  
2 within District 19, again, using municipal  
3 boundaries to attempt to keep cities whole as  
4 much as possible. District 19, including that  
5 southern portion of Clay, has all of Putnam  
6 County, as well as all of Bradford and Union  
7 Counties whole within it.

8 Moving over into kind of this area here,  
9 District 20, this recreates a black opportunity  
10 district within Alachua and Marion Counties.  
11 District 21 has the remaining portion of  
12 Alachua County, and then keeps these two  
13 counties whole. Bear with me for just a  
14 minute. I'm trying to see where I can see all  
15 the county names. Sorry. There we go,  
16 excellent. Now we can all see the county names  
17 as we look through these districts as well. So  
18 District 21 keeps all of Gilchrist and Dixie  
19 Counties whole within it as well. Again,  
20 keeping counties whole, the next district,  
21 which is District 22, has all of Levy County  
22 and then a portion of Marion County. District  
23 23 is contained all within Marion County. That  
24 was something we heard from the public  
25 testimony from those residents, keeping --

1           trying to keep a district wholly within Marion  
2           County.  Actually, I am going to turn those  
3           county names off, if you will bear with me, so  
4           that we can see the district numbers as well.

5                     Now I will talk about the Volusia County  
6           area.  Thinking about how District 24 comes  
7           into Volusia County, if you take that  
8           population and what is left within the county,  
9           you can create three districts wholly contained  
10          within Volusia County, and that is achieved by  
11          Districts 25 through 27.  District 26 recreates  
12          a black opportunity district, and then District  
13          25 has kind of more of the coastal areas here,  
14          and some cities are kept whole here in the  
15          southern end, and then District 27 consists of  
16          basically the southern end of Volusia County.

17                    Moving on to central Florida, central  
18          Florida is one of the decision points between  
19          maps 9025, 9027 and 9031.  Again, this  
20          configuration for central Florida is the same  
21          between 9025 and 9027.  It is different in  
22          9031, and I will discuss that at the end rather  
23          than try to go back and forth.  It is a rather  
24          large area, and I will just describe that at  
25          the end.

1           Looking at -- if you look at -- here we  
2           go. I wanted to turn those county boundaries  
3           on. If you look at Seminole County here with  
4           Districts 28 and 29, they are both wholly  
5           contained within Seminole County, and using a  
6           major roadway of U.S. 17/92 as the dividing  
7           line between the two districts. I will kind of  
8           zoom in here a little bit, too, so you can see  
9           some of the municipal boundaries, as keeping  
10          cities whole, again, was a theme as far as  
11          building these districts in this region, as I  
12          had mentioned earlier. Looking at the City of  
13          Lake Mary and looking at the City of Longwood,  
14          they are both kept whole, as well as the city  
15          here, which is Winter Springs, as well as  
16          Oviedo. So those are all kept whole between  
17          the two districts.

18                 As you -- as you move to the south here  
19                 with District 30, it does span Seminole and  
20                 Orange County. Thinking of the Maitland area,  
21                 as well as Altamonte Springs, those are areas  
22                 that have a lot of commonalities, even though  
23                 the county line separates them.

24                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Jeff, there  
25                 are some curious members who are wondering if

1           when you were helping draft District 30, if you  
2           were trying to make it look like a 1957 Chevy.  
3           Would that be appropriate?

4           MR. TAKACS:   Mr. --

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Zoom in on  
6           that for us.  Is it a Chevy?

7           MR. TAKACS:   Folks, I have said that  
8           redistricting is an art, not a science, but --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:   Just kidding,  
10          of course.

11          MR. TAKACS:   Certainly, certainly.

12          Thinking about -- kind of talk about  
13          Orange County a little more globally.  Thinking  
14          about Orange County, again, this is a big pivot  
15          point between the different maps.  If you look  
16          at this region here, I am going to kind of pull  
17          out Districts 45, 46 and 48.  District 45 would  
18          be a new black opportunity district within the  
19          region, District 46 would recreate a  
20          majority-minority black district in the region  
21          and District 48 would recreate a  
22          majority-minority Hispanic district within the  
23          region.  That majority-minority Hispanic  
24          district spans Orange and Osceola County, and I  
25          will talk about that in a moment, but we were

1 able to keep that district wholly within Orange  
2 County, again, looking at county boundaries as  
3 the driver of keeping these districts within  
4 counties.

5 District 49, as was mentioned in the  
6 video, kind of a UCF-based district, and I have  
7 already talked about kind of Districts 50  
8 through 53 here in the Space Coast area, so I  
9 will kind of move into the more of a center  
10 area of the state.

11 District 31, a northern Lake County-based  
12 seat, which does come into areas of Orange  
13 County here. District 32 wholly based within  
14 Lake County. District 33 keeps Sumter County  
15 whole. It looks at the area that is The  
16 Villages. That has been mentioned previously.  
17 Interestingly enough, the House subcommittee  
18 examined this in great detail many weeks ago as  
19 far as the concept of trade-offs between  
20 keeping counties whole and cross-county  
21 jurisdictions, and they were able to determine  
22 that they can achieve both by keeping Sumter  
23 County whole, as well as this region known as  
24 The Villages. Again, looking at this region,  
25 thinking about District 34, again, that keeps

1 all of Citrus County whole, comes into  
2 Hernando. District 35 keeps all of Hernando  
3 County whole.

4 When you look at Pasco County, its  
5 population is that of -- equally of three House  
6 districts, so that is what is achieved here  
7 with 36 through 38. Again, trying to equalize  
8 the populations, but utilizing roadways is --  
9 was the driver as far as the separation between  
10 the western, central and eastern districts  
11 within Pasco County.

12 Moving into the Polk/Osceola region here,  
13 I will kind of start out of order here. If you  
14 look at District 40, that is a district wholly  
15 contained within Polk County and has the most  
16 of Lakeland within it. District 39 has the  
17 northern portion there of Polk County, and then  
18 for population purposes, comes into Osceola  
19 County. District 41, again, wholly contained  
20 within Polk County. As we look at Districts 39  
21 and 41 -- actually, I'm going to zoom in and  
22 look at some of the city boundaries here.  
23 There are a lot of municipalities within Polk  
24 County, as you can see, that have a lot of  
25 meandering boundaries. As we have looked at

1 the boundaries between 39 and 41, we are  
2 continuing to evaluate if there's opportunities  
3 to keep more cities whole within this county,  
4 within the districts, and we are going to  
5 continue to evaluate that, and continue to  
6 evaluate that across the map, to be honest.

7 Looking at District 42, it has the  
8 majority of Osceola County and comes into the  
9 eastern portion of Polk County. As I mentioned  
10 here, District 43 is a majority-minority  
11 Hispanic district that is wholly contained  
12 within Osceola County. This would be a new  
13 opportunity for Hispanic-Americans in that  
14 region to elect a candidate of their choice  
15 that previously did not exist.

16 I will kind of move to the -- I will move  
17 to this region here. Thinking about the  
18 four-county region of Pinellas, Hillsborough,  
19 Sarasota and Manatee Counties, if you look at  
20 the county boundaries here, you can see that  
21 they are all kept intact, and that's because  
22 those four counties' populations are that of  
23 equal of 18 House districts. So what we did  
24 was put those 18 House districts wholly within  
25 those four counties and tried to cross county

1 boundary lines as few as possible, thinking  
2 about Districts 64 and 70, crossing county  
3 boundary lines. I should mention District 70  
4 is a black opportunity district. And then  
5 looking at the way that 70 kind of bisects  
6 Sarasota and Manatee County, it was actually  
7 enabling us to have four whole districts within  
8 both of those two counties. So that would  
9 explain that region here. And just kind of  
10 coming back up to Hillsborough County, I should  
11 mention that in this region, District 61  
12 recreates the black majority-minority district,  
13 and District 62 is actually a majority-minority  
14 Hispanic district. That used to be an  
15 opportunity district, but with the population  
16 growth in that region of the Hispanic  
17 community, it is now a majority-minority  
18 district within the county. You can see  
19 basically we just kind of segmented that off as  
20 almost like a wheel as far as looking at this  
21 area here from 63, 58, 57, 59 and 60; again,  
22 keeping all of those districts wholly within  
23 the county, using roadways as the predominant  
24 divider between the districts and when possible  
25 -- the City of Tampa is a large city, it is

1           actually too large to be kept whole within a  
2           House district, so it is divided within this  
3           plan. I will kind of zoom out here and talk  
4           about --

5                    REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could,  
6           I think Mr. Kelly wanted to add something to  
7           the conversation.

8                    MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just  
9           wanted to note, too, as it pertains to the  
10          minority opportunity and majority-minority  
11          districts in the Hillsborough County area,  
12          Hillsborough County is a Section 5-covered  
13          jurisdiction, so there is a significant amount  
14          of legal issues involved in terms of  
15          maintaining those opportunities. Just wanted  
16          to add that.

17                   REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
18           Continue.

19                   MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
20           As you look at this larger central Florida  
21          area, again, trying to keep counties whole was  
22          the driver here. You can see that these two,  
23          Hardee and DeSoto Counties, are kept whole  
24          within this district as it moves up into Polk  
25          County. As you recall from the video, we

1 received testimony asking for U.S. 17 to be the  
2 major artery of a district, and that is  
3 achieved with District 56. District 55 keeps  
4 all of Highlands, Okeechobee and Glades County  
5 whole, then for population purposes, comes into  
6 St. Lucie County, which is a county that has to  
7 be split based on its population. I mentioned  
8 Indian River County earlier in the public  
9 comment. It is kept whole within District 54,  
10 and, again, coming into St. Lucie for extra  
11 population.

12 Looking at St. Lucie County, District 84  
13 is wholly contained within the county. It is  
14 actually not -- they don't have that  
15 opportunity now. They are -- they sought that  
16 in the public testimony that we received, that  
17 they wanted to have a district wholly contained  
18 within the county, and District 84 achieves  
19 that.

20 We have talked a little bit at length  
21 about Martin County and how it is divided.  
22 There is one thing that I should mention --  
23 actually two things I would like to mention.  
24 One is that we have taken a pretty serious look  
25 at the concept of keeping Martin County whole

1 within a House map, the population of Martin  
2 County is so that it could be kept whole, but  
3 the -- there are several challenges that are  
4 presented with that.

5 When you look at the way District 82 is  
6 configured and how it comes into Palm Beach  
7 County here, the population of Palm Beach  
8 County that is in District 82 then allows us to  
9 have eight districts in Palm Beach County  
10 wholly contained within the county. And I will  
11 zoom in here a little bit. You will see that  
12 that Palm Beach County/Broward line is kept  
13 intact based on that population. So thinking  
14 about that, just taking a step back, if you  
15 were to take that population out of this  
16 district and put Martin County whole all within  
17 a district, what you would end up happening is  
18 that all of the districts essentially south of  
19 Martin County would end up needing to be  
20 redrawn, and that county line be broken. And  
21 then also thinking about as you move to the  
22 north and to the west, all of these districts  
23 would push up and push to the northwest, so you  
24 would see a potential of 70 to 80 districts  
25 that would need to be redrawn as a consequence

1 of keeping Martin County whole within this  
2 plan.

3 Martin County is situated in that it is in  
4 between two counties, St. Lucie and Palm Beach,  
5 that need to be -- that need to be split based  
6 on its population, but it is also surrounded by  
7 counties that can be kept whole as you look at  
8 Okeechobee County and Glades County and so  
9 forth. So that is a challenge that was  
10 presented there.

11 Again, talking about Palm Beach County, as  
12 I mentioned, eight districts are wholly  
13 contained within the county. There are two  
14 districts that I want to point out  
15 specifically, Districts 87 and 88. District 87  
16 would be a new majority-minority Hispanic  
17 district within the county, it would be a new  
18 opportunity for Hispanic Americans in that  
19 region. And District 88 is a majority-minority  
20 black district that runs north to south along  
21 transportation corridors, thinking about 95 and  
22 U.S. 1. As you can see here, as we kind of  
23 zoom in here a little bit, you can see that  
24 city boundaries were heavily examined as we  
25 were building the districts in this region and

1           trying to keep cities whole within this various  
2           districts within this county.

3           I will move forward here to Broward  
4           County. Again, that Palm Beach County/Broward  
5           line is kept whole, as you can see here. When  
6           you look at Districts 92, 94 and 95, they are  
7           black opportunity districts. And you can see,  
8           again, looking at the concept of keeping cities  
9           whole and using roadways was predominantly  
10          used, when possible, when building these  
11          districts.

12          When you think about the more urban areas,  
13          and we will talk about this as I move forward  
14          into Miami-Dade County, thinking about there  
15          are so many municipalities in Broward and  
16          Miami-Dade Counties, that what we tried to do  
17          was if we had to break a city boundary was  
18          use -- was use roadways in order to do that.  
19          So that way when voters are trying to  
20          understand what district they live in, they can  
21          say, well, if you live between this street and  
22          this street, and this street and this street,  
23          you are in the district, and that is what you  
24          can see here by a lot of the square-like shaped  
25          districts within Miami-Dade County.

1           I should mention that District 101 here  
2           that is in Broward County, wholly in Broward  
3           County, is a black opportunity district, and  
4           District 102 here is a majority-minority  
5           district that crosses both into the Broward and  
6           Miami-Dade County lines.

7           Thinking about Miami-Dade County as a  
8           whole, all of the 11 majority-minority Hispanic  
9           districts are recreated within this proposal.  
10          That was actually as a result of an amendment  
11          that the House subcommittee examined to make  
12          changes to District 113 to do that, to recreate  
13          that majority-minority district. Looking at  
14          Districts 107, 108 and 109, they are  
15          majority-minority black districts, with  
16          concentrations of Haitian populations --  
17          Haitian-American populations, I should say,  
18          being within Districts 107 and 108.

19          Again, as you look at this county as a  
20          whole, there's a lot of square or  
21          rectangle-shaped districts that are using  
22          roadways as their boundaries to create those  
23          smooth edges and create those shapes. And,  
24          again, thinking about city boundary lines,  
25          we -- they talked Cutler Bay in that video,

1 that is kept whole within this region as well.

2 Moving a little bit further south, when  
3 you look at Districts 117 and 120, 120 is the  
4 district that has all of Monroe County within  
5 it. That was requested by the people of that  
6 region, and then it comes up here into  
7 Miami-Dade County for population purposes. And  
8 then District 117 is a black opportunity  
9 district within this region. That is actually  
10 a recreation of that opportunity for those  
11 residents in that region.

12 I will zoom out here and kind of curve up  
13 here to the western side and just kind of  
14 finish out by talking about Collier, Hendry and  
15 Lee Counties. You can see here Collier County  
16 has three districts within it. District 80 has  
17 the northern portion of the county, and then  
18 includes all of Hendry County, again, keeping  
19 counties whole within this district as much as  
20 possible. Looking at District 105, it crosses  
21 Collier County into Miami-Dade County and  
22 Broward County. That is a similar  
23 configuration to a district that exists today  
24 that was as a result of a DOJ pre-clearance  
25 issue, and that was linking the Hispanic

1 communities within Collier to that of  
2 Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. District 106  
3 is wholly contained within Collier County. It  
4 also keeps the City of Naples whole and runs  
5 along Tamiami Trail here as its border within  
6 the district between it and 105.

7 Again, looking at Lee County, as we will  
8 finish up these two maps, Lee County has a  
9 population that is roughly that of four House  
10 districts, and you can see that there are four  
11 districts that are wholly contained within the  
12 county in this proposal. District 77 is the  
13 bulk -- actually has all of the City of Cape  
14 Coral within it, and that is the bulk of that  
15 district, 78 has all of the City of Ft. Myers  
16 within its boundaries, District 76 has all of  
17 Bonita Springs and Sanibel within its  
18 boundaries and links those barrier islands  
19 together with areas to the south, and then  
20 District 79 is an east Lee County seat.  
21 Thinking about Lehigh Acres and the testimony  
22 that we received there, that was their desire,  
23 to see that created. And that is essentially  
24 maps 9025 and 9027.

25 What I would like to do briefly is just

1 talk about the differences of where 9031 has  
2 with those other maps, and it is in two  
3 regions. It is in the northeast Florida area  
4 with Duval and Clay Counties, and then in  
5 central Florida, and I will just briefly  
6 describe both of those and show those to you  
7 here visually.

8 The major difference with 9031 is when you  
9 look at Districts 15 and 18 and how they  
10 connect Duval and Clay Counties, you can see  
11 that, thinking about the previous plans,  
12 District 18 kept all of Clay County whole  
13 within those plans. This would deviate from  
14 that. District 18 comes down into areas of  
15 Clay County. And then District 15 is, you  
16 know, a smaller geographic shape and then comes  
17 in to grab all of Orange Park within Clay  
18 County. So that is the difference with 9031 in  
19 that region.

20 In looking at central Florida, the biggest  
21 difference here is when you look at District  
22 45. When I mentioned the previous maps,  
23 District 45 was a -- is a black opportunity  
24 district with a VAP, a black VAP, of roughly  
25 40 percent. That decision point removes

1           that -- removes that seat and only has the  
2           majority-minority black district within it  
3           here, which is 46. And you can see the ripple  
4           effect of what happens with the various  
5           districts within Lake, Seminole and Orange  
6           Counties. There are -- now you see three  
7           districts cross the Seminole County/Orange  
8           County line, 29, 30 and 49, and then District  
9           39 becomes the district that is wholly  
10          contained within Lake County, and then 32  
11          becomes a southern Lake County using the  
12          Turnpike as a dividing line as it crosses into  
13          Orange County.

14                 Mr. Chairman, those are the differences.

15                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
16                 very much, Mr. Takacs.

17                 Members, are there any questions of Mr.  
18                 Takacs in regard to the three maps that we just  
19                 walked through? Any questions? Questions or  
20                 suggestions?

21                 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Suggestions.

22                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Let's do  
23                 questions first. Are there any questions  
24                 first?

25                 Okay. Seeing no questions, Representative

1 Nehr, you are recognized for a suggestion or  
2 comment.

3 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chair.

5 That was a great presentation, thank you  
6 so much. And based on this presentation, I  
7 noticed, and please let me know if I am wrong,  
8 that the maps 9025 and 9027 are almost nearly  
9 identical. And what I noticed also in these  
10 two maps is that they both create a new very  
11 compact seat in Orange County. What I really  
12 like about that new seat is that it has a  
13 significant African-American population, and I  
14 think that this is a great opportunity for  
15 minority constituents.

16 So when I also no- -- when you were  
17 mentioning the map 9031, I noticed that it did  
18 not create that seat. So I would prefer that  
19 we created that seat, so I would prefer maps,  
20 Mr. Chairman, 9025 and 9027, and I would  
21 suggest that we don't even consider 9031.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
23 you for that suggestion.

24 Members, any other suggestions?

25 Representative Workman, you are recognized

1 for a suggestion, sir.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Thank you very  
3 much, Chairman.

4 I don't like 9031 either, just what it  
5 does to Clay County, to be honest with you. So  
6 9025 or 27 I think are the better two.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
8 you for that comment.

9 Representative Holder, you are recognized  
10 for a comment -- anybody else on deck? No,  
11 okay. Representative Holder, and then  
12 Representative Adkins.

13 Representative Holder, you are recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chair.

16 9027 definitely gives Leon County -- if we  
17 remember in the very beginning when we were  
18 looking at this area, Leon County would have  
19 its own seat, which in 9025, it doesn't. And I  
20 think that that makes 9027 a lot more  
21 consistent with following the county lines,  
22 which we have been talking about. So I would  
23 -- I would suggest 9027 over 9025.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.  
25 Thank you, Mr. Holder.

1 Representative Adkins for a comment.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Chairman. I recall staff mentioned that  
4 map 9027 would only split Tallahassee two ways  
5 as opposed to the three ways in the other map.  
6 So it is a subtle difference, but I think it is  
7 an important one, and I think that 9027 is a  
8 map that I certainly would be comfortable with.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Other  
10 comments, suggestions, questions?

11 Representative Kiar, you are recognized  
12 for a comment.

13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chair. Actually, it is a question with  
15 regard to District 104. I thank you very much  
16 though.

17 I am just wondering -- I am pretty  
18 familiar with this area and I was wondering, is  
19 that a Hispanic access seat now, or no?  
20 District 104?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think  
22 Representative -- not Representative -- Alex  
23 Kelly is going to answer that question.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you.

25 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1           Representative, I believe the Hispanic  
2           voting age population exceeds about 43 percent  
3           probably at this time. That may be too low to  
4           say that it's got a reasonable chance of  
5           performing for a Hispanic candidate. It  
6           certainly increases the number of Hispanic  
7           Floridians in a seat in that area, but I  
8           probably would hesitate to call it an  
9           opportunity district, because typically in that  
10          part of the state, when you look at -- in terms  
11          of voting age population and then actually  
12          participating in the electoral process, there  
13          is sometimes a 10 to 15 percent drop-off in  
14          that. But, again, it is certainly a greater  
15          concentration than the prior districts.

16                 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. May I  
17                 ask one other question, Mr. Chair?

18                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, sir.

19                 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. Then the  
20                 only other question I was wondering, I am  
21                 looking at -- I am just curious. I think it is  
22                 District -- I want to say 105 where it  
23                 stretches from basically Collier all the way to  
24                 Miami-Dade, and I just -- I was just thinking  
25                 about this while I was watching, as I was

1 looking at it. Is that -- is that only in  
2 Collier County, or does that go all the way  
3 across the state?

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Jeff, you are  
5 recognized.

6 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 That district does cross Collier County  
8 into Miami-Dade County, as well as Broward  
9 County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. May I  
11 ask a follow-up, Mr. Chair?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes for a  
13 follow-up.

14 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: I am just wondering,  
15 you know, and this is my own personal -- I  
16 don't really understand if this is right or  
17 not, but I know that in, for example, the  
18 current Senate map, not the one that was  
19 passed, but the one that people are still  
20 currently serving in, it kind of reminds me to  
21 be a similar district to Dave Aronberg's former  
22 district and Lizbeth Benacquisto's district  
23 right now where it just stretches across the  
24 state, and I know, for example, in the Senate  
25 maps they determined that they wanted to cut

1           that, because they believed it didn't comply  
2           with the new amendment. So I am just  
3           wondering, on this one district, because it  
4           does seem to stretch straight across similar to  
5           that, is it -- does this district comply with  
6           the new amendments when it comes to compactness  
7           and things of that nature?

8                    REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Very good  
9           question, and I think Alex has got an answer  
10          for it.

11                   MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12                   Representative, ten years ago the  
13          Legislature attempted to redraw something of  
14          this seat entirely on the western side of the  
15          state in Collier County and so forth. The  
16          Department of Justice refused to pre-clear the  
17          seat. The House had to go to federal court  
18          with the Department of Justice there. The  
19          concern there was that Collier County, which is  
20          a covered jurisdiction under Section 5 of the  
21          Voting Rights Act, the concern there was that  
22          Hispanic Floridians would not be able to elect  
23          a candidate of choice. Had the Legislature  
24          just connected the seats in Miami-Dade, they  
25          would be able to elect a candidate of choice as

1 part of -- I believe it was a court settlement  
2 -- counsel is nodding yes -- as part of a court  
3 settlement. The Legislature agreed to redraw  
4 that seat, connecting it with Miami-Dade  
5 Hispanic residents to maintain that ability to  
6 elect. So that seat was actually a  
7 court-ordered drawing.

8 Just so you know, in terms of a  
9 difference, in terms of talking about  
10 cross-state seats, as part of that settlement,  
11 the effect of it was that there was another  
12 district that was also drawn across state in  
13 order to minimize what that court settlement  
14 required, and that cross-state district has  
15 been eliminated. But, again, this seat was  
16 actually required per a court settlement and a  
17 refusal to pre-clear.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chair. That was very helpful.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.  
21 Any other questions, suggestions, from members?

22 Yes, Representative Rogers, you are  
23 recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: I am asking for a  
25 definition of "opportunity districts."

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You would  
2 like a definition of "opportunity districts"?

3           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: As it relates  
4 to --

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: A legal  
6 definition?

7           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No, I will take  
8 your --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No, you don't  
10 want mine. Mine would probably not be as  
11 accurate. We have Mr. Meros here. Is there a  
12 legal definition of an opportunity district,  
13 and if so, maybe our legal counsel could give  
14 that to us.

15           You are recognized, Mr. Meros. Thanks for  
16 being here. Would you turn the microphone on,  
17 please?

18           MR. MEROS: There really is no precise  
19 definition of an opportunity district or an  
20 influenced district. The notion is that the  
21 minority population would be sufficient to have  
22 a significant influence and impact on policy  
23 decisions. Sometimes you might want to say an  
24 opportunity district might be one that could,  
25 in fact, elect the minority's candidate of

1 choice, but may not. But those are -- those  
2 are not legally precise terms. I guess you  
3 didn't like that --

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: For a  
5 follow-up.

6 MR. MEROS: -- explanation.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Okay. How does  
8 that differ from a coalition district?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Meros?

10 MR. MEROS: Well, a coalition district is  
11 one where either the minority population would  
12 coalesce with another minority population and  
13 vote similarly, or a minority population would  
14 coalesce with a non-minority population and  
15 vote similarly. That is the notion of two  
16 groups getting together and voting in the same  
17 way.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Maybe we can  
19 have more coalition voting in the Florida  
20 Legislature, what do you think about that?

21 Representative Rogers, do you have a  
22 follow-up? You are good? Okay, great.

23 Thank you, Mr. Meros, for clarifying both  
24 of those terms for us. We will continue to  
25 work on our coalition building in the Florida

1 House for sure.

2 Any other questions or suggestions from  
3 members?

4 What I have gotten from this is, you know,  
5 there was a couple of suggestions to not move  
6 forward with 9031 on the premise that it did  
7 not have the minority-majority seat and the  
8 access seat in Orange County. There was some  
9 suggestion -- when you really look at 9025 and  
10 9027, they are essentially the same everywhere  
11 except for in the Tallahassee area. You have  
12 one that has three county splits, or three  
13 districts in one county; the other one has two.  
14 I think in the spirit of the law and what we  
15 are trying to do, the preferable district would  
16 be 9027, which I think we had a few people  
17 mention. So that doesn't mean that anything in  
18 9025 or anything in 9031 that you may like,  
19 members, or anything else cannot be  
20 incorporated, but for the purposes of moving  
21 forward and for clarity for the membership who  
22 are going to be filing amendments, I think we  
23 should move forward with 9027, and any  
24 amendments that members may have can address  
25 them to 9027 for next week's committee meeting.

1           Does anybody have any questions or  
2           comments about that? Representative Kiar, you  
3           are recognized.

4           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you,  
5           Mr. Chair. So the maps are -- the only map  
6           then that is going to move forward is 9027 at  
7           this time? So the other two are -- is that  
8           what you --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It is not --  
10          they will all be available for the committee  
11          meeting next week, but the truth is now the  
12          nuances between the districts are now becoming  
13          much smaller. And so as opposed to hearing and  
14          taking the time to go through three maps, the  
15          idea would be we focus on one map. If you like  
16          a portion of another map, you can file an  
17          amendment, we would help you file the amendment  
18          to add that -- those distinctions to 9027. So  
19          it is -- if you want to incorporate any of the  
20          maps that we are currently looking at now or  
21          any other thing, or any other map that has been  
22          drawn in the past, we can incorporate it, but  
23          just so that members are clear about what to  
24          draft amendments to, we are going to focus on  
25          9027.

1           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you very much.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other  
3 questions?

4           Okay, great. Moving forward, we are going  
5 to move to the Senate map introduction. Before  
6 we do that, I would like to recognize Chairman  
7 Representative Nehr, who has done a great job  
8 on the Senate maps, and along with his partner,  
9 Representative Hukill.

10           Representative Nehr, you are recognized to  
11 give us a brief description, and then we will  
12 turn it over to Jason Poreda to explain the  
13 difference, or explain the map.

14           REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chairman.

16           Before Mr. Poreda gives a more detailed  
17 presentation of the Senate map proposal, I  
18 wanted to share with the members of the  
19 Committee some details regarding the plan as a  
20 whole and how it compares to the current  
21 district plan that we have right now.

22           For the 40 districts in this map, there is  
23 only a 1.84 percent total population deviation.  
24 Compared to the current map, the bill reduces  
25 the number of county splits from 45 all the way

1 down to 31, and the number of city splits from  
2 126 to the really low number of only 78, and I  
3 think that is a very, very good thing that we  
4 did.

5 In looking at some of the more  
6 mathematical compactness scores relating to  
7 perimeters and height and width of districts as  
8 it looks on the map, this proposed committee  
9 bill consistently improves the compactness of  
10 Florida's 40 State Senate districts. Looking  
11 at some of the more functional compactness  
12 measures, such as drive times, the bill again  
13 consistently improves these measures of  
14 compactness compared to the existing State  
15 Senate map.

16 The bill maintains Florida's commitment to  
17 compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act  
18 of 1965, both Sections 2 and 5, and the  
19 Florida's constitutional standards regarding  
20 racial and language minorities. In fact,  
21 Mr. Chairman, the bill increases the number of  
22 50 percent plus Hispanic voting age population  
23 districts from three in the current map to five  
24 in the proposed committee bill. So the bill  
25 would most likely increase representation for

1 Hispanic Floridians.

2 Mr. Chairman, thank you for the  
3 opportunity, and that concludes my comments.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
5 very much, and congratulations again. With  
6 that, we will move to Mr. Poreda, who is going  
7 to walk us through some of the details of the  
8 map.

9 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
10 will try to get through the map as briefly as  
11 possible so we can get out of here. So I will  
12 kind of follow along with what Mr. Kelly and  
13 what Mr. Takacs did and kind of talk about the  
14 map regionally, as opposed to getting into the  
15 specifics of exactly what each district does.

16 So I will first talk about Districts 2 and  
17 4, which kind of work in conjunction to each  
18 other. They are kind of horizontally drawn  
19 districts that one includes the coastal  
20 community of those counties, the other, the  
21 more rural parts of those counties, and then  
22 ends at the county line of -- I will turn on  
23 the county names so you can see them -- of  
24 Jackson and Bay County before moving further  
25 east.

1           Kind of talking about -- I will kind of  
2 start with talking about -- it's District 6 on  
3 this map, but kind of talk about it with  
4 District 3 and District 14 that you see there.  
5 District 6, 3 and 14 all encompass basically  
6 just whole counties. You can see District 6 is  
7 made up entirely of whole counties,  
8 specifically, Gadsden, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty,  
9 Franklin, Taylor, Wakulla, Jefferson, Leon,  
10 Madison and Hamilton Counties. District 3  
11 encompasses a lot of the counties -- whole  
12 counties along the Nature Coast, as well as a  
13 part of Marion. District 14 includes all of  
14 Clay County, Bradford County and Alachua  
15 County. So you can see that the -- how they  
16 were all drawn.

17           Then kind of moving over into the  
18 northeast Jacksonville area, I will first talk  
19 about District 1 that you see here on the map,  
20 which kind of stretches from the Jacksonville  
21 area down through St. Johns County and the  
22 Putnam County, eventually ending up in the  
23 Daytona Beach area around in Volusia County.  
24 That is a district that was redrawn that  
25 traditionally elects a minority candidate of

1 choice, and this map kind of maintains that  
2 same opportunity. District 5 and District 8  
3 kind of drawn keeping with that minority  
4 opportunity district that you see right there  
5 kind of in mind. District 5 encompasses most  
6 of the rest of Duval County and then keeps  
7 Nassau County whole, and District 8 kind of  
8 runs along the coast of St. Johns and Flagler  
9 down into Volusia County there.

10 You can see here District 20 keeps -- has  
11 the majority of Marion County, including all of  
12 the City of Ocala, the majority of Putnam  
13 County, and then goes a little bit into Lee and  
14 Sumter Counties to keep The Villages community  
15 whole, and then some of the municipalities here  
16 in Lee County whole as well on the north side.

17 Kind of getting into the central Florida  
18 area, District 19 is another district that  
19 recreates a -- or kind of maintains a -- the  
20 opportunity for minorities in the areas of  
21 Orange County and part of Seminole County to  
22 elect their candidate of choice, a district  
23 that has traditionally elected their candidate  
24 of choice.

25 District 24 is a new majority Hispanic

1 district that was drawn in central Florida that  
2 encompasses part of Orange, Osceola and Polk  
3 Counties. And then you can see some of the  
4 public input that we received from Volusia  
5 County was asking to keep the majority of that  
6 county wholly together, and which this does  
7 going a little bit south into Brevard County  
8 and also Orange County for population.

9 Kind of going back over to the Gulf Coast,  
10 you can see that kind of south of District 3  
11 and District 20 that we talked about before,  
12 District 11 here encompasses most -- all of  
13 Hernando County and then a lot of Pasco and  
14 Sumter Counties.

15 And then kind of in the Hillsborough area,  
16 as we mentioned before, Hillsborough County is  
17 a Section 5-protected county. District 18 that  
18 you see here is a district that was redrawn to  
19 create the opportunity for minorities in that  
20 area to elect their candidate of choice. This  
21 map kind of recreates that opportunity.

22 District 10 and District 13 are drawn wholly  
23 within either Pinellas or Hillsborough County  
24 to kind of give them a seat there. District 15  
25 kind of wraps around that majority-minority

1 district that we talked about before,  
2 encompassing the rest of Osceola County and the  
3 north part of Polk County and a little bit of  
4 south Orange County there.

5 In the center of the state, you see  
6 District 17 that keeps several counties whole,  
7 including the south part of Polk and then going  
8 over to include the more rural parts of St.  
9 Lucie and Martin Counties. And District 28 and  
10 26 kind of run along the coast, the Space  
11 Coast, down to the Treasure Coast here, kind of  
12 keeping those communities whole there.

13 Going kind of back over to the Gulf Coast  
14 real quick, you can Sarasota County was kept  
15 whole in District 23, and then the more coastal  
16 areas of Lee and Collier County were kept whole  
17 or kept together in District 37.

18 Moving back over to kind of the southeast  
19 Florida area, kind of zoom in a little bit so  
20 you can see the District 29, which is a -- it  
21 looks like a very thin district that kind of  
22 runs from Palm Beach to Broward County. That  
23 is a majority-minority black seat that was  
24 recreated on this map. And the other districts  
25 that you can see drawn around them kind of keep

1 those communities together kind of around  
2 there, and a lot of respect was drawn to city  
3 boundaries. Maybe I can try to turn them on so  
4 you can see them, zoom in a little bit. That  
5 is how some of these areas in here were drawn,  
6 keeping that minority district in mind,  
7 obviously splitting some cities, but where  
8 possible, keeping the other boundaries whole.

9 And then as you go south, District 39, as  
10 I mentioned before, residents of Hendry County  
11 were asked to not be connected with residents  
12 of Dade County. That is another district  
13 that -- because of Hendry and Collier Counties'  
14 Section 5 protection, that is another district  
15 that was drawn -- recreated to maintain the  
16 same opportunity that exists today in that  
17 district.

18 And then there are three other districts  
19 in Dade County that have a voting age --  
20 Hispanic voting age population of above  
21 50 percent. That would be 38, 36 and 35 here  
22 on the map.

23 District 33 that you see there kind of  
24 stretches over the Broward/Miami-Dade line.  
25 That is a district that is a majority-minority

1 black seat that was redrawn as well.

2 And that's kind of the basic points of the  
3 map.

4 A VOICE: Is there a fourth?

5 MR. POREDA: I'm sorry, that is right.  
6 District 40 that you see right here that has  
7 part of Hialeah, that is actually a fourth  
8 majority-minority Hispanic district in Dade  
9 County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, great.  
11 Members, any questions for Mr. Poreda in regard  
12 to the Senate map? Okay, Representative Kiar.

13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: I just have a quick  
14 question. I have been wondering about -- on  
15 District 39, you see how there's -- you know,  
16 it is a big district, but then all of a sudden,  
17 there's like a little line that shoots all the  
18 way through to butt up against the other  
19 majority-minority district, and I am just  
20 wondering, that little line right there, what's  
21 the need for it and does that make a district  
22 contiguous?

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
24 recognized.

25 MR. POREDA: Yes, that district does

1 remain contiguous. It is all wholly kept  
2 together. The reason for those -- that kind of  
3 extension of the district is to increase the  
4 black voting age population of the district to  
5 maintain that same opportunity since it is  
6 connected to Collier and Hendry County, the  
7 protected counties under Section 5.

8 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Just one follow-up?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
10 recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: So I guess my  
12 follow-up question to that is, does that then  
13 decrease the black voting age population of  
14 District 33, or does that still remain the  
15 same?

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
17 recognized.

18 MR. POREDA: It doesn't decrease it under  
19 50 percent. It is still an over 50 percent  
20 majority-minority seat. The exact  
21 percentage -- if you will give me a moment.  
22 The percentage of the black voting age  
23 population in District 33 that you see there on  
24 the map is 57.75. On the current map that it  
25 is right now, it is currently 59.23 percent.

1           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Thank you. Thank  
2 you, Mr. Chair.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You're  
4 welcome. Thank you.

5           Any other questions? Representative  
6 Bernard, did you have a question? You are  
7 recognized, sir.

8           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Chair. This will also be long-winded.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Then you can  
11 probably predict what my suggestion will be.

12          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: But I just want  
13 to get it on the record, Mr. Chair.

14          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Please do so.

15          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: This is my  
16 attempt to redo the minority districts in  
17 District 29 and 33, which will change the  
18 current -- this map, District 25, 29, 30, 34,  
19 31, 32 and 33.

20          First let's go into District 29. What I  
21 am proposing is based on the map that we -- the  
22 House map that we picked, to configure it to be  
23 more along the line of District 92, 94 and 95.  
24 District 92, the total black population is  
25 52,674.84. The District 94 is 85,310.57.

1 District 95 is 89,304. That would lead you to  
2 a total of 227,290 black population. If you  
3 combine those three districts, that totals  
4 466,169, which would change that district to a  
5 total black population of 48.76.

6 In regards to the Hispanic population in  
7 that district, the -- in District 92, the total  
8 Hispanic population is 27,530, in District 94,  
9 it is 18,842 and in District 95, it is 26,206,  
10 which would total 72,578.35, which would lead  
11 you to a total Hispanic population of 15.57.

12 The total Haitian population in that  
13 district, in 92, is 16,391, 16,527, 20,150,  
14 which is a total of 53,068 population, which  
15 would lead you to a total of 11.38 Haitian  
16 population.

17 The total District 29 now would be --  
18 basically it would look like exactly District  
19 92, 94, 95, and where it wouldn't stretch into  
20 Palm Beach County and where it would maintain a  
21 compact shape in Broward County. The cities  
22 that it would include would be -- it would make  
23 the cities of Deerfield Beach more compact, Ft.  
24 Lauderdale more compact, Oakland Park more  
25 compact, Pompano Beach more compact, Wilton

1 Manors, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate, North  
2 Lauderdale, Tamarac, Lauderdale Hill, Lazy Lake,  
3 Plantation, North Lauderdale and Sunrise, and  
4 that would be that district.

5 What it does is it changes how you would  
6 draw the districts, the population in Palm  
7 Beach County would also have to change. Based  
8 on the current House map that we -- that we  
9 said we are going to go with, currently  
10 District 87 as it is drawn is a  
11 majority-minority seat, and District 88 --  
12 District 87 is a majority Hispanic seat and  
13 District 88 is a majority-minority seat. If a  
14 district is drawn from -- from the top of the  
15 -- I think from North Lake all the way down to  
16 the Delray Beach line, and it includes -- if  
17 you go from Military Trail east to Dixie, or if  
18 you go all the way out to the ocean, where if  
19 you include the districts of 89, 90 and 91,  
20 that would give you a total population of --  
21 the total black population would be 30 percent,  
22 the total Hispanic population would be  
23 28 percent. The total voting age population, I  
24 believe, would be near a 28 percent black  
25 population and about a 26 percent Hispanic

1 population. Therefore, in Palm Beach County,  
2 the residents of Palm Beach County would be  
3 able to elect a Representative of their choice  
4 by creating a coalition district where now they  
5 would be different.

6 Now, what that -- the cities that this  
7 district would include would be the cities of  
8 Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Park, Lake  
9 Worth, Lantana would be a stronger district,  
10 Mangonia Park, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach  
11 would be much stronger. You would have the  
12 cities of Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Green Acres,  
13 Lake Shores, Palm Springs, Hypoluxo and the  
14 City of Atlantis.

15 Next, because of the total population of  
16 Broward County, based on the census, Broward  
17 County's got a population of 1,748,066  
18 population. The total population for Broward  
19 County is 26.7 black, 25.1 percent Hispanic,  
20 43.5 percent white. So the total black  
21 population in Broward County is 466,733.62 and  
22 the total Hispanic population is 438,764.66 and  
23 the total white population is 760,408.71. By  
24 changing District 29 to be predominantly in  
25 Broward County, now what we can do is we have

1 to change District 33, which is a -- which is  
2 now a Miami-Dade and a Broward County seat.  
3 What I am proposing is that the Miami-Dade  
4 District 33 seat would stay only in Dade  
5 County, and that would include the district of  
6 107, 108 and 109, which is the districts that  
7 we drew out of this Committee. Now, what  
8 you -- then what you would have to do is  
9 District 31, as is proposed, what I am  
10 suggesting is that we make that a coalition  
11 district where it would be compact where you  
12 would include the district of 101 and 102 and  
13 you could add part of District 100 and part  
14 of -- where you would probably split Miami  
15 Gardens into two. By doing that, then District  
16 31 would be a coalition district where it would  
17 be -- you could probably add -- if you add  
18 District 101 and 102, the total black  
19 population for District 101 and 102 is  
20 138,277.21, the total Hispanic population is  
21 112,012.46 and the total Haitian population is  
22 18,000. What I am proposing is that by  
23 changing District 29 and 33, they would be more  
24 compact and you would additionally add two  
25 coalition districts and one in Broward and one

1 in Palm Beach County where those residents in  
2 Broward and in Palm Beach County would get to  
3 elect a Representative of their choice.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much, Representative Bernard. We  
7 appreciate that very thorough explanation, and,  
8 again, I think I would suggest, as opposed to  
9 responding to it, I think you've got some very  
10 interesting suggestions there, I think we would  
11 like to see them, and would encourage you or  
12 other members to take a look at it in an  
13 amendatory process, and that way we can see it  
14 exactly for what it is and have a chance to  
15 vote on it next Friday, but thank you very  
16 much.

17 Representative Clarke-Reed, you are  
18 recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chair, and thanks for indulging me in this  
21 question that has been coming up. Will you  
22 please tell me, in all of these maps that we  
23 are drawing, how are we counting the prison  
24 population? Are they counted as voters in the  
25 district that the prison is in? I just want to

1 clarify that.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think I  
3 know the answer to this, but I want to make  
4 sure we are saying it right, so I am going to  
5 let Alex answer.

6 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Representative Clarke-Reed, every Florida  
8 resident, including inmates, are counted. So  
9 whatever district they are counted in, they are  
10 counted as a resident.

11 In terms of -- and just, you know, where  
12 this subject goes sometimes in terms of things  
13 like whether a minority district will perform  
14 and things like that and does the prison  
15 population affect that, you do look at  
16 additional -- additional information to verify  
17 that a district will perform. So if you have a  
18 prison in a district, and if that district is  
19 perhaps, let's say, a minority district, you  
20 still look at additional information to make  
21 sure that the district would perform, or have a  
22 likelihood of performing for a minority  
23 candidate of choice. But every Florida  
24 resident who was here in the state April 1,  
25 2010, is counted in this process.

1           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Follow-up,  
2 Mr. Chair?

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: For  
4 follow-up.

5           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you  
6 very much, Mr. Chair.

7           Thank you for that answer. Follow-up: Is  
8 -- are the prisoners counted to the district  
9 that they come from or their home district or  
10 are they counted to the district that the  
11 prison is in?

12           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: They are  
13 counted in the district that they live in,  
14 which would be the prison that they are in.

15           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: I don't think  
16 you answered my question.

17           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, I did.  
18 They are counted in the prison that they are  
19 in.

20           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: They are  
21 counted in the prison that they are in?

22           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

23           REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Okay, thank  
24 you.

25           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other

1 questions, suggestions?

2 Okay. Well, I think as we move forward  
3 with the Senate map, certainly Representative  
4 Bernard and many others have suggested ideas,  
5 certainly they can do that by filing  
6 amendments. Again, the amendment deadline is  
7 Wednesday at noon. Substitute amendments would  
8 be Thursday at noon. So please get those in in  
9 time for that.

10 Well, members, this has been a long  
11 committee meeting. If anyone doesn't have  
12 anything else to share, I just want to thank  
13 you for your indulgence today. I think we've  
14 got a lot of work done. And as I explained  
15 earlier, things are going to move very quickly  
16 now, and next Friday when we ultimately take  
17 these maps to the floor, we will -- I'm sorry,  
18 as we vote to take these maps to the floor, we  
19 will be making some decisions. So if you need  
20 or if you think you need our staff to help you,  
21 please reach out to them, but with that, I  
22 appreciate everyone's thoughts today and  
23 Representative Schenck moves we rise.

24 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 167 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-recording;

And I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2012.

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CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014

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HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012

Transcribed by:  
CLARA C. ROTRUCK  
Court Reporter

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay,  
3 members, if we can get everybody to take their  
4 seats and get settled, we are going to get  
5 started. If we can get everybody to get  
6 settled, I think we have everybody seated.

7 Katie, if you would, please call the roll.

8 THE CLERK: Representatives Adkins?

9 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Bernard?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

13 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

15 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

17 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Fresen?

19 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Frishe?

21 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Holder?

23 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Horner?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Here.

1 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Here.  
3 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
4 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Here.  
5 THE CLERK: Jones?  
6 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here.  
7 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
8 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Here.  
9 THE CLERK: Legg?  
10 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.  
11 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
12 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Here.  
13 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Here.  
15 THE CLERK: Rogers?  
16 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.  
17 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
18 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Here.  
19 THE CLERK: Schenck?  
20 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Here.  
21 THE CLERK: Workman?  
22 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Here.  
23 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?  
24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Here.  
25 THE CLERK: A quorum is present.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much, Katie.

3           Good morning, members. Thank you for  
4 hanging around on a Friday. We are certainly  
5 going to try to be judicious with everyone's  
6 time, but I think we all know that we are here  
7 to do a very important job, so we are not going  
8 to rush through it. We are going to make sure  
9 everybody has an opportunity to participate.

10           I want to thank the Committee. I think  
11 this has been a very long process, and  
12 hopefully today will be the culmination of a  
13 committee that has been very deliberate,  
14 started nine or ten months ago, and has worked  
15 for a product -- multiple products that I think  
16 we can be proud of.

17           Members, at our last meeting, we  
18 workshopped seven options for Florida's two  
19 State Legislative maps and Congressional map.

20           Regarding the State House map, last week  
21 members of the Committee recommended that we  
22 take up House Joint Resolution 6011, which is  
23 plan 9027, this week.

24           Regarding the Congressional map, there  
25 were members of the Committee that recommended

1 that we take up House Bill 6005, which is plan  
2 9043, this week as well. As such, today we  
3 will take up the maps in the following order:

4 The proposed State House map, House Joint  
5 Resolution 9011 will be first. The proposed  
6 Congressional map, House Bill 9005 will be  
7 second, and the proposed Senate map, House  
8 Joint Resolution 9001 will be third.

9 There are amendments drafted to each of  
10 these. There are two amendments drafted to  
11 House Joint Resolution 9011, there are two  
12 amendments drafted to House Bill 9005 and  
13 there's -- that is a six, okay. We have a  
14 misprint on my script. It is not 9001, 9006.  
15 That is probably an important thing to point  
16 out. And -- what's that? 6001. Okay. So let  
17 me clarify that for everyone.

18 The House Joint Resolution for the State  
19 Senate map is 6001, not 9001. That is my  
20 fault, I apologize for that, 6001.

21 In regard to amendments, there are  
22 amendments drafted to each of these. There are  
23 two amendments drafted to the House map, 9011,  
24 there are two amendments drafted to the  
25 Congressional map, 9005, and there's one

1 amendment drafted to the House Joint Resolution  
2 for the Senate map, 6001.

3 Just so that we are all on the same page  
4 here, Vice-Chairman Precourt has filed an  
5 amendment to each of these Bills, and I have  
6 filed amendments both to the House State map  
7 and to the Congressional map.

8 Everyone here should have received an  
9 e-mail from me Wednesday noting that I filed my  
10 amendments based on a request from three  
11 organizations, including the League of Women  
12 Voters of Florida, who very recently submitted  
13 maps for our consideration.

14 I filed those amendments as a courtesy to  
15 those organizations so that their suggestions  
16 for us and their critiques of us could be heard  
17 here on the record. As I have stated  
18 repeatedly to everyone here, that if you have a  
19 way to make these maps more legally appropriate  
20 or compliant, we certainly want to give your  
21 ideas a fair consideration.

22 I did ask that they be here to explain  
23 their maps in the same manner that every other  
24 proposal before you has been explained. Just  
25 at the outset, I want to let you know that they

1 have declined to explain via a letter that they  
2 sent us last evening.

3 Now, with that said, members, there are --  
4 are there any questions of us or anything I  
5 have stated thus far about the process going  
6 forward for today? Any questions?

7 Okay. Seeing no questions, at this time,  
8 we are going to take up House Joint Resolution  
9 9011, which is -- 6011, which is also State  
10 House Map 9027. Members, this is the sixth tab  
11 in your packets.

12 Representative Schenck, who is Co-Chair of  
13 the Committee, you are recognized to explain  
14 the Bill, sir.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Chair, and it is great to be here on  
17 another Friday redistricting with you and the  
18 rest of the Committee.

19 Last week as a committee, we decided to  
20 consider HJR 6011, which is also map 9027, as  
21 the base map for this week. HJR 6011 makes  
22 dramatic improvements to Florida's State House  
23 map, particularly when you just look at the map  
24 side by side with the current House map that  
25 was adopted in 2002.

1 Overall, it has a 3.97 percent population  
2 deviation. The Joint Resolution splits only 30  
3 of 67 counties, compared to 46 in the current  
4 map, and only splits 84 of a total of 411  
5 cities in the state, compared to 170 on the  
6 current map.

7 Just to put that in perspective, by  
8 population and geography, you must split 29  
9 counties. So splitting 30 counties is only one  
10 above what is physically even possible.

11 Pursuant to federal and state law, this  
12 proposed map preserves the existing  
13 opportunities for racial and language  
14 minorities in Florida to elect the candidate of  
15 their choice. We believe that this map  
16 actually creates new opportunities in certain  
17 areas of the state. It does all of this while  
18 also being significantly more compact than the  
19 current map.

20 To be very frank, Mr. Chair and members of  
21 the Committee, I am astounded as to how compact  
22 the staff was able to get all 120 districts,  
23 even most of the minority districts.

24 With that, Mr. Chairman, we are all  
25 familiar with the Bill, and so I will turn it

1 over to you for amendments.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
3 you very much for the explanation.

4 Members, we are going to move right into  
5 the amendatory process, so why don't we move on  
6 to the first amendment.

7 Amendment number one, State House Map  
8 9049, which is by Vice-Chair Precourt.  
9 Representative Precourt, you are recognized to  
10 explain your amendment, sir.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chair.

13 Members, this amendment, which is also map  
14 9049, I believe you have it in your packets, it  
15 makes a number of changes to the base map. And  
16 due to the detail that we have here, I am going  
17 to go ahead and turn it over to staff to  
18 provide a much more detailed presentation.

19 The guys who can run the computer like a  
20 wizard, but overall, the amendment seeks to  
21 make what you guys had as an already good  
22 product even better.

23 Some of the changes resulted from staff  
24 just going back and taking a second and a third  
25 look at what they had already drawn, and, you

1 know, really it is more like a 20th and a 30th  
2 look.

3 So we had them go back and take a second  
4 and third look over the map, find other  
5 improvements that could be made, and we also  
6 got more comments from members of the public  
7 and several Supervisors of Elections, as well  
8 as local county and municipal officials. So  
9 we've got a number of things that we considered  
10 in making these changes and improvements.

11 In addition to several other things  
12 though, I think you are going to see something  
13 very impressive. The staff were able to  
14 make -- reduce -- changes that reduces the  
15 cities split from an already impressive only 84  
16 down to 75. So that is something to pay close  
17 attention to as we are going through this  
18 presentation.

19 And with that, Mr. Takacs, can you go  
20 ahead and take us through the changes  
21 themselves?

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
23 recognized, Mr. Takacs.

24 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Members, in your packets, there are --

1           there's an amendment packet in each of your  
2           binders.  So if you want to take a look at  
3           that --

4           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  And, members,  
5           if you can, it is actually a separate packet,  
6           if you pull it out, it's -- you got it, okay.

7           MR. TAKACS:  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8           I am just going to walk through the  
9           different areas of the map that are changes  
10          between the map that was workshopped last week  
11          and the amendment that Vice-Chair Precourt has  
12          filed.

13          First we are going to look in Pinellas  
14          County.  I am going to zoom in here.  We were  
15          able to discover that the city -- the Town of  
16          Indian Shores could be kept whole, all within  
17          one district.  You will see here that there is  
18          the city there on the screen.

19          By just making a minor adjustment to the  
20          boundaries of 66 and 69, all of the Town of  
21          Indian Shores is brought into District 66.

22          Moving over to Brevard County, a similar  
23          situation.  As we were scoping through the map  
24          and looking for different areas, different  
25          cities and municipalities that could be kept

1 whole within the map, we discovered that both  
2 the City of Palm Bay, which you see here on the  
3 screen, as well as the City of Melbourne Beach,  
4 could be kept whole.

5 You see this is actually the amendment  
6 before you, and that is what is accomplished  
7 here, both the City of Palm Bay and the City of  
8 West Melbourne -- I'm sorry, Melbourne Beach  
9 are whole within the two districts.

10 Moving further south into Miami-Dade  
11 County, we were able to discover that the Town  
12 of Medley could be kept whole within a  
13 district.

14 The adjustment was made between Districts  
15 103 and 110. You will see here -- there, that  
16 is where the Town of Medley's boundaries are,  
17 and you can see that now that is all brought  
18 into District 103.

19 Staying in Miami-Dade County, the Town of  
20 Sweetwater can also be kept whole within a  
21 district. So the adjustment was made to  
22 District 105 to include all of that city within  
23 the district.

24 One of the other things that we were doing  
25 as we were reviewing this map was to see if

1           there were ways to improve the way that  
2           districts follow natural or geographic boundary  
3           lines, and one of those examples in this  
4           amendment is the difference -- the boundary  
5           between Districts 100 and 107.

6           As you zoom in here, you will see that the  
7           city boundary there kind of zigs and zags right  
8           along U.S. 1, and there were some boundary  
9           issues there where we were trying to pick up  
10          pieces of that particular municipality, which  
11          was already split between the two districts.

12          So what we did -- I will turn the city  
13          boundaries off. As you can see, we just  
14          straightened out that line to use U.S. 1, you  
15          know, that geographic boundary line between the  
16          two districts.

17          A similar concept in Volusia County  
18          between Districts 26 and 27. There was a --  
19          East Graves Avenue was used as the boundary  
20          between the two districts here, and I will zoom  
21          in and show you that here in just a moment.

22          And basically what we did was we  
23          straightened out that line. It does affect two  
24          people that are -- that were in that un- --  
25          kind of that jagged edge that we had

1           previously, but, again, we have smoothed that  
2           out between Districts 26 and 27, and you will  
3           see here that's where that line is here. We  
4           just straightened that line out, again, to  
5           better follow the roadway.

6                     As the Chairman said, thinking about  
7           public testimony, I will move into Lee County.  
8           We received a significant amount of testimony  
9           from the folks of the Estero community in Lee  
10          County requesting that they be kept whole.

11                    As we had mentioned in the meeting last  
12          week, that we believe that maybe with some  
13          possible minor adjustments to the districts,  
14          that could be achieved, and that's what's done  
15          here.

16                    You will see in District 76, which is the  
17          yellow district here, this is the general area  
18          of Estero, and as you can see, the lines were  
19          adjusted to make Estero whole within that --  
20          within that particular district.

21                    I should also note that as we were looking  
22          at Lee County as a whole, we made some changes  
23          to District 78 as well. It still has all of  
24          the City of Ft. Myers within its boundaries,  
25          but we wanted to use the roadways as a better

1 boundary and geographic boundary between  
2 Districts 78, 79, and 78 and 76. So that's  
3 what that change is there.

4 Going back to the concept of keeping  
5 cities whole, we took a hard look at Polk  
6 County, and I'm going to turn the city lines  
7 back on so that you can see.

8 When you look at the Bill that we  
9 workshopped last week versus this amendment  
10 that is before you today, we were able to  
11 determine that four municipalities in Polk  
12 County could be kept whole with some  
13 adjustments between 39 and 41, as well as a  
14 minor adjustment to 42.

15 The municipalities that are kept whole --  
16 I will kind of zoom in here a little bit closer  
17 so you can take a look. The cities that are  
18 now kept whole is Auburndale. You can see they  
19 are wholly within 39, Lake Alfred, which is  
20 wholly within 41, Haines City, which is here,  
21 that is wholly within 41, and then as I  
22 mentioned, with a minor adjustment to 42, the  
23 City of Frostproof is now wholly within that  
24 district.

25 Moving up into Duval County, thinking

1 about the testimony that we reviewed last week,  
2 we heard from some testimony that there was a  
3 request to see if there were some districts  
4 that could better follow the St. Johns River as  
5 a use of a geographic boundary between the two  
6 districts.

7 After last week's meeting, we took a look  
8 at Duval County as a whole to see if that could  
9 be achieved, and you will see here, with the  
10 amendment, that it is. If you look between  
11 Districts 15 and 16 now that the St. Johns  
12 River is used as the boundary between the two  
13 districts, as we adjusted the population  
14 between those two districts, what we were also  
15 able to discover was that we could improve the  
16 compactness of 14 and 12, as you can see here  
17 on the screen, and then also increase or  
18 improve the functional compactness, thinking  
19 about drive times, for the residents of  
20 District 11, which is the green district here  
21 that comes into Nassau County and into portions  
22 of Duval. So that is, again, what the Duval  
23 County change would look like.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Takacs,  
25 if you could, I think Mr. Kelly wanted to add

1 something to that.

2 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Just to add to this, looking at District  
4 13, which is right in the center of the county,  
5 it has been a fairly compact seat in any of the  
6 designs, but what we did notice in examining  
7 this is that we had split several  
8 neighborhoods.

9 So what we did was we adjusted a number of  
10 the lines just to make sure that a neighborhood  
11 is completely in one district or completely in  
12 another. So we did some general cleanup to  
13 District 13, which is also a majority-minority  
14 seat. Just wanted to add that. Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chair.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Kelly.

18 Mr. Takacs, you are recognized to  
19 continue.

20 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Moving south into Palm Beach County, when  
22 we looked at Districts 81, 85 and 86, we saw  
23 two things: One, that there was a possibility  
24 for those districts to be drawn more compactly,  
25 and also to bring in the unincorporated area of

1 the acreage to make that wholly within one  
2 district.

3 So that is what this portion of the  
4 amendment does here. The acreage area that I  
5 am talking about. I will turn the city  
6 boundaries off -- is in this general vicinity  
7 here. It is kind of an inverted L-shape. So  
8 what we did was kind of we smoothed this line  
9 out here and then brought the line down here.

10 I should also mention that while doing so,  
11 we were still able to keep the municipalities  
12 of Wellington, Loxahatchee Groves and Royal  
13 Palm Beach wholly within 86 as a part of that  
14 change. That was not -- those municipalities  
15 were not affected in this amendment. They were  
16 always in 86 to begin with.

17 I am going to move back up. We received  
18 some comments from various Supervisors of  
19 Elections' office. You know, as we mentioned  
20 last week, one of those was from the Clay  
21 County Supervisor's Office. I am going to zoom  
22 in here real close. They asked that one census  
23 block that was on the boundary between  
24 Districts 18 and 19 be moved into District 19.

25 I am going to do my best to zoom in on

1           that particular census block so you can see  
2           what we're talking about. They requested that  
3           that be done so that the boundaries line up  
4           with the Camp Blanding Florida National Guard  
5           base. So that is done here in this amendment.

6                     And if you will bear with me here, I will  
7           work to find that -- that particular census  
8           block. It affects no population, it was along  
9           a roadway, and actually what we did was we  
10          actually brought in the census block that was a  
11          very small census block on top of the one they  
12          asked so that it would create a squared-off, 90  
13          degree angle for that roadway.

14                    I am going to go over to Leon County now.  
15          As we had mentioned last week, the Supervisor  
16          of Elections' Office in that county asked us  
17          for a series of changes between the boundaries  
18          of Districts 8 and 9. You can see them here.

19                    In the series of requests that they gave  
20          us, there were three requests that they asked  
21          in whole, and their second request was actually  
22          a two-part request.

23                    What we had found is we had looked at  
24          making all three of those changes, that the  
25          black -- the black voting age population for

1 District 8, which is currently a  
2 majority-minority black district, would  
3 actually have dropped to 49.99 percent, taking  
4 away that majority-minority status for that  
5 particular district.

6 So what we did was we made all of the  
7 changes possible to preserve that  
8 majority-minority district and also following  
9 the request of the Supervisor of Elections. So  
10 of the three requests, we essentially honored  
11 two and a half of those requests.

12 And lastly, Mr. Chairman, ending at the  
13 beginning, the Escambia County Supervisor of  
14 Elections' Office asked us to take a look at  
15 the boundary between Districts 1 and 2 and how  
16 they interacted with the city boundary of  
17 Pensacola.

18 I am going to zoom in here so you can take  
19 a look at what we did. What we did was in this  
20 region here, we initially had used, I believe,  
21 this roadway here where my mouse is as the  
22 boundary in this particular area of the two  
23 districts, and they requested that we drop that  
24 down so that it would match up with the City of  
25 Pensacola's line, and so we did that in

1           accordance to their request.

2           And, Mr. Chairman, that is the amendment.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
4           very much, Mr. Takacs.

5           Members, are there any questions on the  
6           amendment? I think we had a question from  
7           Representative Bernard. You are recognized,  
8           sir.

9           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
10          Mr. Chair.

11          Jeff, going back to -- in Palm Beach  
12          County, District 85 and 86, it appears to me  
13          that initially you had the community of Century  
14          Village in -- I think in District 85, and I  
15          don't know where it is at now, if it's been  
16          shifted to District 86, or is it still in 85?

17          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
18          recognized.

19          MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20          Let me get to that area on the map and we  
21          can -- we can see. Thinking about the  
22          amendment, Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that --  
23          and I will zoom in here a little bit closer,  
24          Representative Bernard.

25          The only area that was affected in 85 is

1           this area here, and then when you look to 86 to  
2           make up for the population in order to make the  
3           districts more compact, that came from this  
4           area here. So I don't know if you are able to  
5           see, if that shows you enough visually to  
6           answer your question.

7           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Okay. So is it  
8           in 86 now? I just want to know which one --

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think what  
10          he is saying, Representative Bernard, is that  
11          the swap of population was between those two  
12          districts of 85 and 86.

13          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you very  
14          much, Mr. Chair.

15          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other  
16          questions, members, in regard -- Representative  
17          Jones, you are recognized.

18          REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Thank you,  
19          Mr. Chairman, and I know I heard you state what  
20          the breakdown was in terms of the number of  
21          cities and the difference with what this  
22          amendment made. Can you tell us what that  
23          split count is?

24          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
25          recognized.

1 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 After the amendment, there would be 75  
3 Florida cities that are split. Prior to this  
4 amendment, it was 84.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
6 very much. Any other questions, members?

7 Okay, seeing none, is there any public  
8 testimony on the amendment? Any public  
9 testimony on this amendment?

10 Okay. Members, any debate on the  
11 amendment?

12 Seeing no debate, Representative Precourt,  
13 you are recognized to close on the amendment.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chair, and just in closing, I want to draw  
16 everyone's attention to the level of detail in  
17 tightening this up and the effort that staff  
18 put into this.

19 It was -- they were tremendously helpful,  
20 and you can see how difficult it is and how  
21 challenging to get this just right. So thank  
22 you, Mr. Chair, for tasking us with this.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.  
24 And with that, if the administrative assistant  
25 would please call the roll.

1 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?  
2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.  
3 THE CLERK: Representative Adkins?  
4 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.  
5 THE CLERK: Bernard?  
6 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.  
7 THE CLERK: Chestnut?  
8 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.  
9 THE CLERK: Dorworth?  
10 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.  
11 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?  
12 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.  
13 THE CLERK: Fresen?  
14 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.  
15 THE CLERK: Frishe?  
16 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.  
17 THE CLERK: Holder?  
18 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.  
19 THE CLERK: Horner?  
20 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
21 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
23 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
24 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
25 THE CLERK: Jones?

1 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.

2 THE CLERK: Kiar?

3 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.

4 THE CLERK: Legg?

5 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Nehr?

7 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Precourt?

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Rogers?

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.

12 THE CLERK: Rouson?

13 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: No.

14 THE CLERK: Schenck?

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Workman?

17 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Show the

19 amendment passes.

20 Members, at this time, I am going to turn

21 the gavel over to Vice-Chair so that I can

22 explain the next amendment.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,

24 Mr. Chair. Okay. You are recognized to

25 explain the next amendment.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much.

3           Members, probably a little uncustomary, if  
4 that is even a word, for the Chairman of the  
5 Committee to offer an amendment, but I thought  
6 it was important.

7           The League of Women Voters and many  
8 organizations have followed this process since  
9 the very beginning. They have traveled around  
10 the state with us as we did public hearings and  
11 have been, frankly, a part of this throughout  
12 from the very first day this committee met.

13           And so when they asked us to consider a  
14 map that they had taken the time to draw, I  
15 thought that it would be perfectly appropriate  
16 for this committee to do so, and so I offered  
17 it because the workshop process had been done,  
18 we are now into the amendatory process.

19           So the only way essentially to consider it  
20 would be to file it as an amendment, and I  
21 thought that that would be the appropriate  
22 thing to do.

23           We have worked extremely hard to make this  
24 process a no-surprises process. We have made  
25 this, I believe, to be very open, very

1 transparent. I think we have followed the  
2 letter to the law up until the very end. And I  
3 have to say I am a little bit disappointed that  
4 the League has chosen not to speak, and I want  
5 to just one more time before I go into the  
6 explanation of the map, I know there are  
7 members of the representative of the League of  
8 Women Voters that are here, Mr. Wilcox, who  
9 serves as their lobbyist.

10 Mr. Wilcox, we would love to have you come  
11 and express any of your thoughts on this map.  
12 I know y'all worked hard on it. We have had  
13 many others express thoughts, and just one more  
14 time we would love to give you a chance to do  
15 that or share any words with the Committee.  
16 Not prepared to do that? Okay.

17 Well, I think the citizens of Florida  
18 deserve better than a 12-page letter the night  
19 before the Committee meets, and I think the  
20 citizens of Florida deserve better than a map  
21 proposed to this Committee two and a half days  
22 before we take a vote.

23 We put our maps out on December 6th,  
24 members, we put all of our maps out on  
25 December 6th. We have been talking about them

1 for six or eight weeks. Any amendments could  
2 be filed, any comments could be made. We've  
3 made adjustments to the maps based on  
4 suggestions from members of this Committee and  
5 members of the public.

6 We have made adjustments based on what we  
7 thought to make the map more legally compliant.  
8 And, frankly, I find it disappointing that  
9 anyone would suggest first calling our maps --  
10 looking at them in a derogatory manner saying  
11 that they don't follow the letter of the law,  
12 and then refusing to stand before us and  
13 explain to us how theirs does, and I am very  
14 disappointed by that.

15 But, Mr. Chairman, since we don't have  
16 members to speak on that, I think that it is a  
17 frankly unfortunate political and more likely  
18 probably a legal stunt that this is taking, and  
19 I frankly find it offensive personally how  
20 hard -- given how hard this Committee and given  
21 how hard this Chamber has worked to try to make  
22 this process fair and open.

23 And with that, that is my explanation of  
24 the amendment.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,

1 Representative Weatherford.

2 Members, are there any questions of the  
3 Representative on the amendment?

4 Seeing no questions, is there any public  
5 testimony on this amendment? Second chance,  
6 another bite at the apple.

7 Seeing no public testimony, members, we  
8 are moving right into debate. Is there anyone  
9 that wishes to debate on this amendment?

10 Representative Eisnaugle, you are  
11 recognized in debate.

12 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Vice-Chairman. I will keep it brief.

14 I view this amendment and the letter that  
15 I have had a chance to review, the 12-page  
16 letter, as nothing more than pre-textual. The  
17 letter states that the House map is plainly  
18 drawn to favor incumbents. It has an entire  
19 section discussing that.

20 I was incredibly disappointed when I read  
21 the letter, because while it mentions several  
22 members of the Legislature and several  
23 districts who are not drawn into the same  
24 district, it utterly fails to discuss and  
25 adequately discuss those members who are drawn

1 into the same district as other members.

2 And, Mr. Vice-Chairman, it -- you know, I  
3 was shocked by that, frankly, because  
4 personally I know that there are members drawn  
5 into the same district as other members.

6 Frankly, sir, you and I are drawn into the  
7 same district in this map, and yet this letter  
8 fails to even put it in a footnote. I find it  
9 disingenuous, I find the amendment  
10 disingenuous, and, Mr. Chairman, I am also  
11 offended by it, and I encourage the Committee  
12 to reject this amendment.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14 Representative Eisnaugle.

15 Further debate on the amendment?  
16 Representative Workman.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: I was going to  
18 speak, but Eric has chinned me up, and I did  
19 review the map and, you know, they try to do  
20 this nesting thing that flies in the face of  
21 our minority districts.

22 They create a map that is going to be  
23 difficult to get Hispanics elected in  
24 predominantly Hispanic areas, and I find it  
25 insulting, because we spent so much time early

1 making maps that would not degrade their right  
2 to choose, to elect a person of their choice,  
3 and these maps tend to -- well, not tend to --  
4 seem to fly in the face of that basic tenet  
5 that we put together.

6 It reduces the black. I can go on and on  
7 with what it reduces in regards to our minority  
8 populations, but I won't. So I certainly want  
9 to say that I am in favor of voting this map  
10 down loudly.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
12 Representative Workman.

13 Further debate? I think we have a  
14 question or debate from Representative Frishe.  
15 You are recognized.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: It's kind of a --  
17 thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is kind of a  
18 question. I thought we were hearing from the  
19 League of Women Voters. Clearly we are hearing  
20 from the Audubon Society, because we are  
21 talking about nesting now, not redistricting.

22 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you for  
23 that comment, Representation Frishe.

24 Now we will move to Representative Nehr.  
25 You are recognized in debate.

1           REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
2           Mr. Chair.

3           You know, it is very inherent in this  
4           process that we hear from people and  
5           organizations regarding the maps and how --  
6           suggestions on how to improve those maps.

7           We have heard many suggestions over the  
8           course of many months that we have gone around;  
9           however, it is always consistent in those cases  
10          that the citizens and the groups took the time  
11          to explain all of their reasonings behind the  
12          suggestions and the changes.

13          And, likewise, our own staff made many  
14          recommendations, and in addition, explained  
15          them fully to everyone how they affected the  
16          legality of the maps.

17          Everything I have heard and seen when I  
18          looked at the maps and the letter I have read  
19          does not explain anything. The League does not  
20          explain why they say our maps are poorly drawn,  
21          they don't explain why theirs are better.

22          Now, I have no idea why they have done  
23          that, why they refuse to come out and explain  
24          anything. It is -- as far as I am concerned, I  
25          don't see any reason why any of us could vote

1 in favor of the League's maps today, and I  
2 suggest that everyone vote this amendment down.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
4 Representative Nehr.

5 Further debate on the issue?  
6 Representative Julien, you are recognized.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Bernard.

8 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Bernard, sorry.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: We look alike.  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Justice is  
12 blind.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chair.

15 At this time, I am going to vote against  
16 the map since we received -- I think it was  
17 filed on Monday, and I haven't had the chance  
18 to review the map fully to understand the  
19 impact of the map. So at this time, I will  
20 vote against the map.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
22 Representative Bernard.

23 Representative Horner, you are recognized  
24 in debate.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 I've spent a little bit of time looking at  
3 the subcommittee product, looking at the  
4 League's map, and the thing that strikes me is  
5 the exceptional job that the subcommittee did  
6 and the staff has done in using whole counties  
7 in putting these districts together, or keeping  
8 districts entirely within a county. To be only  
9 one over your -- the mathematical possibility  
10 is, frankly, amazing.

11 It looks to me the League gave precedence  
12 to this nesting concept and felt that nesting,  
13 which is not mentioned anywhere in the  
14 Constitution, was somehow more important than  
15 preserving political boundaries, and  
16 specifically county boundaries.

17 And we spent all summer hearing from folks  
18 that it was important to preserve these county  
19 boundaries, we needed to go by Amendment 5. So  
20 just looking at it on its face, our maps have  
21 fewer county splits and they are more compact.  
22 So it is an easy choice for me, and I will be  
23 voting down this amendment.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
25 Representative Horner.

1 Further debate?

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Representative  
4 Hukill, you are recognized in debate.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 I have to reiterate what some people have  
8 said. We did spend a lot of time, many members  
9 traveled throughout the state this year, so  
10 that we could hear from so many people in very  
11 different parts of the states and how they felt  
12 that we should be completing this process.

13 And yet when I look at this amendment and  
14 some of these districts, and they're areas that  
15 we visited, which you look at Duval County and  
16 you look at Polk and the Space Coast and  
17 southwest Florida, I can't even find the words  
18 to describe some of these districts.

19 And I think that if we had the  
20 opportunity, I know we don't, but if we had the  
21 opportunity to go back face-to-face and visit  
22 some of these areas, that at the very least,  
23 the people we spoke to would be extremely upset  
24 and probably would be very vocal and -- about  
25 these particular types of districts.

1           I do want to compliment the members of the  
2 public who did spent an awful lot of time  
3 devising their maps and giving us comments so  
4 that we could understand their thinking and how  
5 they arrived at their feeling about the maps  
6 and the maps that they created, and I think  
7 that it is a compliment to the many people who  
8 did take the time to explain it to us, because  
9 it is very important to us, and that is -- and  
10 even more important today as we sit here and  
11 the League refuses to explain how they  
12 developed their districts and what their  
13 process and what their thought process was.

14           So I do once again want to compliment the  
15 subcommittees and also this Committee, and I  
16 would vote not in favor of this amendment.

17           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
18 Representative Hukill.

19           Further debate? Representative Dorworth,  
20 you are recognized in debate.

21           REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Chairman. Like you, the allergies in town  
23 can get to me a little bit, so forgive my -- my  
24 voice is a little weak today.

25           But I do find some irony that the

1 organization whose battle cry throughout the  
2 legislative hearings on redistricting was "Show  
3 us the maps," showed us the maps about 60 hours  
4 before we were expected to vote on the maps.

5 When you, Mr. Chairman, and the Chairman  
6 in the Senate, Senator Gaetz, made a  
7 conscientious decision for us to travel  
8 throughout the state, hold hearings and to have  
9 the most transparent process certainly in the  
10 history of redistricting in the state of  
11 Florida, and possibly in this country, by  
12 offering an open-source software so that people  
13 could see the programming tools that we use,  
14 they made the conscientious decision to bring a  
15 map, to not share with us who authored that  
16 map.

17 We have no idea who did, we don't know  
18 what computers were used for it, we don't know  
19 if they were operatives for one particular  
20 political party, we don't know anything about  
21 it. And today we as a deliberative body are  
22 being asked to vote on them. We are not able  
23 to ask any questions.

24 And the juxtaposition to me of our  
25 committee staff standing before you, week after

1 week, offering amendments and showing why we  
2 were doing it, improving compactness, showing  
3 fewer city splits, fewer county splits,  
4 adhering to all the standards set forth by  
5 Amendments 5 and 6 in our Constitution were  
6 brought there, and instead what we see today is  
7 a map, a half-hearted explanation and a  
8 steadfast refusal to address it all.

9 So I think it is pretty obvious which way  
10 I am leaning on that, but I think I would be  
11 very much opposed to doing it. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
13 Representative Dorworth.

14 Representative Legg, I believe you wanted  
15 to debate.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chair.

18 You know, going throughout the state and  
19 the public hearings, I have attended over half  
20 of them, and one of the -- kind of the  
21 nomenclature that was said is dealing with  
22 compactness, and many of the folks and mainly  
23 from the League of Women Voters said when they  
24 said, you know, when we asked them what was  
25 their definition of "compactness," and they

1           says, "Well, we'll know it when we see it," you  
2           know.

3                   And I looked at -- I look at the map up  
4           there and I look at our region, or my region,  
5           in particular, the Tampa Bay region over there,  
6           and if that is the definition -- their  
7           definition of "compactness" compared to our --  
8           the map that's been proposed, I would be  
9           shocked and amazed.

10                   My three-year-old could draw something a  
11           little bit more compact than that. That is  
12           anything but compact. I find it is kind of  
13           insulting to those many folks that went out  
14           there and spoke at the public hearings and the  
15           definition of "compactness," you know.

16                   And I will just have to also say, you  
17           know, for once, I am going to enjoy voting  
18           against Chair Weatherford for -- I think it's  
19           the first time I've ever done that.

20                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: I am sure he is  
21           happy that we could tee this up for you.

22                   Further debate, anyone? Any further  
23           debate? Okay. Seeing no further debate,  
24           Representative -- Chair Weatherford, you are  
25           recognized to close on your amendment.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much, Chairman.

3           Before I close, I know we have had a  
4 chance to hear from all the members of the  
5 Committee, but I do think that there are  
6 probably some -- some legal issues and maybe  
7 some details that I am probably not equipped to  
8 answer to close out this debate and make sure  
9 that everyone has all the information before we  
10 take a vote.

11           So I would like to just very briefly, as  
12 part of my close, ask staff and our legal team  
13 to walk us through some of the details that are  
14 in this map that I think need to be  
15 transparently discussed before we take a vote.  
16 So I would like to transfer that over to Mr.  
17 Kelly.

18           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: You are  
19 recognized, Mr. Kelly.

20           MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
21 members, and Mr. Chair, pursuant to your  
22 request, in the time that we were afforded when  
23 the letter was received last night.

24           We did -- as staff, we did a cursory  
25 review of the letter, again, to the extent of

1 time we had. Right now, Mr. Fairbrother is  
2 passing out a copy of the letter to any of the  
3 members who have yet to see it.

4 There were -- we do note some statements  
5 made in the letter that are, in fact, not  
6 correct, and in other cases are revealing in  
7 terms of this process and the legal issues  
8 involved in this process.

9 First, page one of the letter, the League  
10 and others state that their maps contain more  
11 whole counties and more whole cities than do  
12 the Legislature's proposed maps.

13 However, looking at the tables provided on  
14 pages three to four, their own data illustrates  
15 that this is not the case. In terms of county  
16 splits -- Mr. Takacs has put on the screen a  
17 chart for you.

18 In terms of county splits, the House map  
19 proposed, the Precourt amendment that was just  
20 adopted, the House map only splits 30 counties,  
21 the League map splits 32.

22 In terms of -- and just to -- this covers  
23 the Congressional map briefly as well. In  
24 terms of the Congressional map, the amendment  
25 that is being considered later today would

1 split 21 counties. The League amendment would  
2 split 22. Not a great difference, but,  
3 nonetheless, the statement on page one of the  
4 document is inaccurate.

5 In terms of municipal splits, as you can  
6 see on the screen, in terms of the State House  
7 map, the Precourt amendment brings the city  
8 split total down to 75. The League amendment  
9 is at 70. Out of Florida's 411 municipalities,  
10 there's a difference of five.

11 Note, in terms of the document that was --  
12 the letter that was provided by the League,  
13 they are stating that there are over 1,000  
14 cities in the state of Florida.

15 Not sure whether it was an intentional or  
16 unintentional inaccuracy, but at the time of  
17 the 2010 census, there were 411 municipalities,  
18 incorporated municipalities, in the state. It  
19 is likely that they are including data related  
20 to unincorporated communities, but,  
21 nonetheless, the data in the letter is not  
22 accurate.

23 There are a very similar number of  
24 municipal splits in the State House map being  
25 proposed by the House and the map being

1 proposed by the League.

2 In terms of the Congressional map, again,  
3 looking at the screen, the Precourt amendment  
4 that you will be looking at later today brings  
5 the total number of city splits in the House's  
6 proposal down to 27. The League's proposal is  
7 at 36.

8 Moving on in the document, page eight of  
9 the League's letter state that the districts  
10 are very similar to the 2002 districts, and  
11 that the new districts contain almost  
12 60 percent of their old constituencies.

13 We found that 52 of the 120 districts, so  
14 less than half, shared that 60 percent or  
15 greater population of a district from the 2002  
16 map. However, when you factor in that many of  
17 the minority districts by law will result in  
18 sharing similar constituencies, this statistic  
19 turns out to be relatively misleading in terms  
20 of its use and the actual compliance with the  
21 law.

22 On page nine of the letter, the League  
23 references -- just, again, to a very specific  
24 example -- the League references the division  
25 between the districts that would be represented

1 by Representative Adkins and Representative  
2 Renuart, and that line -- according to what the  
3 League has found is that that line is a short  
4 distance from Representative Renuart's  
5 residence.

6 What is failed to be mentioned in the  
7 letter is that that division is the St.  
8 Johns/Duval County line. The line was used in  
9 adherence to following county boundary lines.  
10 What is also failed to be mentioned in the  
11 letter is that the League's submission uses the  
12 same line in their map.

13 By implication, the particular accusation  
14 and others also brings into question -- well,  
15 actually, illustrates that the League's data  
16 includes the residence of the members, at least  
17 some of the members of the Legislature.

18 In addition to that, by using the same  
19 line, the question then does come up, did the  
20 League intend to favor Representative Renuart  
21 in the drawing of their map.

22 At the very end, page 11 of the letter,  
23 the League acknowledges that the proposed State  
24 House map by the House is more compact than  
25 their proposed State House map. The assertion

1           that is made following is that this is the  
2           result of due to the House's proposed map not  
3           being as adherent to political and geographical  
4           boundary lines.

5                         However, as was just mentioned in the  
6           League's own data tables on pages three to four  
7           of the document, they actually show that the  
8           House -- Jeff, if you could go back to that  
9           visual -- they actually show that the House  
10          used county lines slightly more frequently than  
11          the League did, and in addition, nothing the  
12          correction that we noted earlier about city  
13          splits, the House used -- the House split fewer  
14          cities in the Congressional map, the League  
15          split fewer cities in the State House map, but  
16          both numbers are very comparable, and in every  
17          case, all the numbers on the screen are a  
18          significant departure from the existing maps.

19                        Those numbers being relatively equal or  
20          similar in terms of county splits and city  
21          splits, the data then just does come back to  
22          point that the State House proposed map by the  
23          House is significantly more compact than the  
24          proposed amendment.

25                        That is it, Mr. Chair, in examining the

1 letter. The letter did not actually address  
2 your questions about who drew the map, how the  
3 lines were picked. The letter did note that  
4 the lines were picked based on corresponding  
5 with the League's proposed State Senate map,  
6 but in that case, it didn't note how those  
7 lines were picked for that map, nor were there  
8 any questions answered regarding the  
9 methodology of drawing districts in a manner  
10 which does seem to subordinate compactness in  
11 an irregular fashion compared to other  
12 standards.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that is our  
14 analysis.

15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Kelly, for that very thorough analysis in such  
17 a short time frame, I might add. Who knows  
18 when you have a little bit more time to go  
19 through this and dig further?

20 Chair Weatherford, are you finished with  
21 your close?

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Well, I just  
23 -- I wanted to give the opportunity -- we have  
24 members of our legal team here. Just very  
25 briefly, if there's anything that we've missed

1 or that the Committee needs to be aware of  
2 before we take a vote, I would like to give  
3 them that opportunity, Mr. Meros.

4 MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
5 members. I will be brief, but there are some  
6 very important legal matters to consider here.

7 If this map had been proposed on  
8 December 6th or any day after that, I would  
9 have advised this Committee that it violates  
10 the amendments -- it violates Amendment 5, it  
11 violates the Voting Rights Act, and I will be  
12 brief about some portions of it, but I would  
13 like Mr. DeGrande to talk about the Hispanic  
14 districts in south Florida, because that is a  
15 particularly egregious example of the  
16 violations of law here.

17 I would like to talk about the issue of  
18 compactness and just go directly into that, and  
19 Mr. Takacs has some districts that I would like  
20 to compare.

21 Now, compactness has all different sorts  
22 of mathematical measurements, but one of the  
23 key elements of compactness is the visual  
24 element, and as Dr. Bernie Grothman said, whose  
25 opinion about how to assess minority Voting

1 Rights Act was accepted by the U.S. Supreme  
2 Court in the Jingles case.

3 Dr. Grothman says the best way to look at  
4 compactness is the intraocular test, and that  
5 is if it leaps out at you and hits you between  
6 the eyes, you know it isn't compact. And so  
7 let's look at some of these districts.

8 On the left is the House map in the Duval  
9 County area, which, by the way, includes two  
10 majority-minority African-American seats,  
11 which, nonetheless, are amazingly compact,  
12 particularly as against 2002. Look at District  
13 2 on the right. I don't know how you would  
14 describe that.

15 I can tell you that I am sure Chair Legg's  
16 three-year-old could do a better job than that  
17 in drawing that map. That is not a  
18 majority-minority district. That is -- that is  
19 a regular district with no explanation  
20 whatsoever as to how that could be compact.  
21 And if I am correct, and Jeff will correct me  
22 if I am wrong, that crosses the St. Johns River  
23 in an area where there is no bridge. So bring  
24 your boat if you want to be in that district.

25 Going down further south to the next area,

1 and particularly looking at the Districts 54,  
2 55, 84, on the House map, and then compare that  
3 with District 78. One of the things you always  
4 worry about in compactness measures is whether  
5 there is a loop-around or a horseshoe or  
6 something like that surrounding a district.  
7 Again, there are no Section 2 or legal  
8 requirements to do so. Seventy-eight is  
9 unprotected and absolutely uncompact.

10 Going a little further south from there to  
11 the Pasco County area, right, and look at --  
12 look at what the House did on the left, compact  
13 districts within the county, and look at the  
14 jagged edges and the knife stabs along the  
15 county for no other legal reason, no legal  
16 compulsion.

17 Going further south to District -- to the  
18 areas of District 78 and District 76 on the  
19 House map, and one might not believe that that  
20 -- that District 68 includes something north of  
21 the number and south, but, again, that is a  
22 district. I don't know what you would call it,  
23 it is not a majority-minority district. It has  
24 appendages, it has jagged edges.

25 It has all of the things that if this

1 House had done in maps, you would have been  
2 excoriated for doing. You cannot explain this  
3 by any common sense measurement without someone  
4 accusing you of having a political reason to do  
5 so.

6 The only other thing I will say, again,  
7 because I do need to be brief, the notion of  
8 nesting is not in and of itself a nefarious  
9 concept, but the first thing to notice, it is  
10 not in Amendment 5.

11 If the House, again, had interposed a  
12 concept that was not in Amendment 5, you would  
13 have been lambasted from the beginning about  
14 doing so.

15 Another thing about nesting, beware, there  
16 are studies, including the University of  
17 California study, that says that nesting makes  
18 it much more difficult to preserve minority  
19 voting rights, it makes it much more difficult  
20 to preserve county and other geographical  
21 boundaries.

22 And when I think about nesting in a common  
23 sense way, if you have a Senate district and  
24 three House districts, ask yourself, can a  
25 citizen who wants to become a Legislator, who

1 is not a Legislator, win in the House or the  
2 Senate when you have three House members vying  
3 for a Senate seat who are already in the area  
4 and have name ID, can citizen Legislator win  
5 that Senate district? I don't think so.

6 Think about a Senator coming into the  
7 House. Can a Senator who represents that  
8 entire area be beaten by a citizen Legislator  
9 in an area by virtue of nesting? I don't think  
10 so. I cannot imagine that this House would  
11 have been applauded for a concept that might  
12 have the effect of incumbency protection.

13 So with that, I would ask if Mr. DeGrande  
14 can talk briefly about south Florida.

15 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Mr. DeGrande, you  
16 are recognized.

17 MR. DEGRANDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Good morning, members.

19 If I may, we have significant concerns  
20 that in south Florida, the districts that were  
21 crafted will not only violate the Federal  
22 Voting Rights Act, but would also violate the  
23 provisions of Tier 1 of Amendment 5.

24 In fact, this plan would take you probably  
25 to a place prior to pre-1992 redistricting.

1           In the late 1980s, when I was elected to  
2           the House of Representatives and was privileged  
3           to sit at that table, we had seven  
4           majority-minority Hispanic seats. After the  
5           1992 redistricting, as of the 1994 election, I  
6           believe, there were ten performing  
7           majority-minority Hispanic seats. The 2002  
8           plan created 11, and this plan, in my analysis,  
9           would take it to, at best, nine.

10           Now, you see some of the districts that  
11           look in their face to be more than 50 percent  
12           VAP. Let me walk you through some of the  
13           issues that exist there.

14           For Hispanic districts, you normally want  
15           to have anywhere from minimum, bare minimum,  
16           55, but better, 60 percent Hispanic VAP,  
17           because you have to factor in for the low  
18           citizenship rate, registration rate, et cetera,  
19           and make sure that those districts perform.

20           This plan has elements of both cracking  
21           and packing to defeat the rights of minorities  
22           to elect candidates of choice. You see three  
23           districts in Miami-Dade County that are  
24           Hispanic districts that are over 90 percent  
25           Hispanic, and then you see some 50 some percent

1 districts, and some of them are adjacent to  
2 each other and it makes you wonder why they  
3 weren't balanced.

4 If you look, for example, at District 107,  
5 that is 55 percent Hispanic VAP. It is  
6 adjacent to District 117, which is at 90.6  
7 percent VAP. It is adjacent to District 118,  
8 which is 87.9 percent VAP. It is adjacent to  
9 108, which is 81 percent VAP. Now, that  
10 district, which is 107, only 55 percent  
11 Hispanic VAP, is actually only 46 percent  
12 Hispanic registered voters.

13 Now, we have looked at one particular race  
14 that was recent to see how these districts may  
15 have performed. We looked at the  
16 Rubio/Meek/Crist Senate race. In this  
17 district, Senator Rubio would have gotten  
18 elected, and Senator Rubio was overwhelmingly  
19 the Hispanic candidate of choice, but only  
20 because he was also in that district the white,  
21 non-Hispanic candidate of choice.

22 So what it tells you is that's more of a,  
23 at best, coalition district, but not a true  
24 majority-minority Hispanic district.

25 We look now at District 106, which is

1           53 percent Hispanic VAP. It is adjacent to  
2           District 108, which is 81 percent. In the  
3           proposed League of Women Voters district map,  
4           106 has an actual percentage of Hispanic  
5           registered voters of only 37 percent.

6           Now, District 120, which is 50.67 Hispanic  
7           VAP, neighbors District 118 at 87.9, District  
8           119 at 91 percent. The actual percentage of  
9           Hispanic registered voters in that district is  
10          only 40 percent.

11          Now, again, we looked at the  
12          Rubio/Meek/Crist race. That district would  
13          also have elected Senator Rubio, who was  
14          clearly the Hispanic candidate of choice, but  
15          also because the non-Hispanic white candidate  
16          -- he was the non-Hispanic white candidate of  
17          choice in that election. Again, indicates  
18          that, at best, it would be a coalition  
19          district, not truly a majority-minority  
20          District.

21          District 115, which is 51.37 percent  
22          Hispanic VAP, is in proximity of District 114  
23          at 82.8, to District 117 at 90.6. Now, this  
24          district has an actual percentage of Hispanic  
25          registered voters of only 33 percent.

1           Now, again looking at that Rubio race,  
2           this district would not have favored Senator  
3           Rubio, because although he was clearly the  
4           Hispanic candidate of choice, in that  
5           particular district, he was not the white,  
6           non-Hispanic candidate of choice. And that  
7           illustrates the problems with that district  
8           where Hispanics do not have an equal  
9           opportunity to elect a candidate of choice.

10           I could go very briefly, if you want, into  
11           some of the African-American districts. In my  
12           opinion, the League of Women Voters' map  
13           contains only one majority black district  
14           predominantly within Miami-Dade County. That  
15           is District 98, and that District is a bare  
16           minimum 51 percent in black voter registration.

17           The League of Women Voters proposed  
18           Districts 99, 101 and 102 are retrogressed back  
19           to 49 percent black registration, 45 percent  
20           black registration and 46 percent black  
21           registration, respectively.

22           In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, the map  
23           suffers from both cracking and packing. There  
24           is clearly evidence in Miami-Dade County that  
25           the three prongs of Jingles are met. Most

1 recently, there was also a study regarding  
2 polarized voting in Miami-Dade County to craft  
3 their redistricting plan, which certainly  
4 indicates, based on that analysis and data,  
5 that the three prongs of Jingles are met in  
6 Miami-Dade County.

7 And, therefore, a conscious effort to  
8 dilute minority strength in some districts, and  
9 at the same time, pack minorities in another  
10 district to diminish the opportunity to create  
11 effective adjoining districts I believe would  
12 violate the Voting Rights Act and certainly  
13 violates Tier 1 of Amendment 5. Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
16 Mr. DeGrande.

17 Chairman Weatherford, back to you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 I want to apologize to the Committee and  
21 to the members who are here for the longest  
22 close in history, but I think it was necessary,  
23 and I am not going to drag this out much  
24 longer, but I will just say that the integrity  
25 of this process and the manner in which this

1 process has gone forward for the last eight  
2 months is very important to this Committee, and  
3 not just important to me, but the fact that we  
4 are protecting the integrity of this process.

5 This is the first time that the  
6 Legislature, and particularly the House, has  
7 had a chance to pass maps with new  
8 constitutional standards. So we are setting  
9 a -- we are setting a course for how future  
10 Legislators and how future members of this  
11 Chamber will handle the redistricting process,  
12 and that is an important thing, it is bigger  
13 than this map, it is bigger than today.

14 And so I believe it is incumbent on me and  
15 on us to protect the integrity of that process.  
16 A lot of people predicted there would be a  
17 January or February surprise from the House.  
18 When we first put out our maps and people  
19 recognized the amount of incumbents that would  
20 be running against each other, many members  
21 within this room did not believe these were  
22 going to be the real maps.

23 They thought surely members would not draw  
24 maps that would take themselves out of their  
25 districts. Who would do that? They thought

1           surely there will be some January surprise or  
2           February surprise that will come into the  
3           process and will save everyone.

4                     Little did we know that not only were we  
5           going to stay the course and do what we said we  
6           were going to do since March, but that the  
7           January surprise would come from the very  
8           organization that told us that they didn't  
9           think that we would be transparent or open or  
10          that we would follow the law.

11                    And so the January surprises come from  
12          them, and to -- for anyone to say -- and this  
13          is what I took most issue with in that  
14          letter -- for anyone to say that any type of  
15          political and/or incumbent protection was  
16          considered in this map is just wrong.

17                    There is over -- according to accounts  
18          from the media, not me, one out of every three  
19          members who sits on that floor with us does not  
20          live in their district or is paired with  
21          someone else, one out of every three.

22                    I would challenge any member of this  
23          Committee to go find any state in the United  
24          States of America that was not issued a court  
25          order that has ever drawn out a third of their

1 membership, a third.

2 So, with that, I am going to read you a  
3 quote that I heard from the League by their  
4 Chair just a few months ago that said, "We  
5 remain concerned that the citizens will have  
6 minimal time to give substantive comment on the  
7 real maps being concerned by the Legislature --  
8 being proposed by the Legislature." We have  
9 given citizens plenty of time to consider our  
10 maps. They have given the citizens none.

11 And for that, members, for the integrity  
12 of this process, I would ask that you vote down  
13 this amendment. I never thought I would ask  
14 members to vote against my amendment, but in  
15 this case, I will, and help us protect the  
16 integrity of this process.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
19 Chairman Weatherford. Members, Chairman  
20 Weatherford having closed on the amendment --  
21 procedurally, remember, we are voting on the  
22 League of Women Voters Weatherford amendment  
23 right now.

24 We will get back to voting on the  
25 underlying Bill in a minute, but with that

1 closed, Katie, will you please call the roll on  
2 this amendment?

3 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No.

5 THE CLERK: Representative Adkins?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: No.

7 THE CLERK: Representative Bernard?

8 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

9 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

10 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

11 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

12 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: No.

13 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

14 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: No.

15 THE CLERK: Fresen?

16 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: No.

17 THE CLERK: Frishe?

18 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: No.

19 THE CLERK: Holder?

20 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: No.

21 THE CLERK: Horner?

22 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: No.

23 THE CLERK: Hukill?

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: No.

25 THE CLERK: Jenne?

1 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
2 THE CLERK: Jones?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
4 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
6 THE CLERK: Legg?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: No.  
8 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: No.  
10 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: No.  
12 THE CLERK: Rogers?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.  
14 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: No.  
16 THE CLERK: Schenck?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: No.  
18 THE CLERK: Workman?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: No.  
20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And, members, by  
21 your vote, show that amendment fails. And I  
22 will turn the gavel back over to Chairman  
23 Weatherford.  
24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
25 very much, Mr. Vice-Chair.

1           Members, we are back on the Bill. Is  
2           there any public testimony on the Bill? Any  
3           public testimony on the Bill?

4           Seeing none, is there any debate on the  
5           Bill as amended? Any debate on the Bill? You  
6           have public testimony? Yes, sir, please come  
7           forward. We are going to need you to fill out  
8           a card -- oh, I'm sorry, you did that.

9           MR. TERRELL: Yes.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Our fault.  
11          Mr. Ryan Terrell, you are recognized, sir.

12          MR. TERRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
13          members of the Committee. I am going to try  
14          and be brief.

15          I have been a member who has been  
16          participating in the process, who has been  
17          going on the Senate side particularly and  
18          working on Senate maps, but I did want to bring  
19          to the attention one potential issue that I did  
20          have with the House map that we are voting on,  
21          particularly in the Tallahassee area.

22          One of -- I think it was the November  
23          Senate Reapportionment Committee meeting, we  
24          had members from the Nature Coast who came and  
25          testified about what exactly the Nature Coast

1 is, and what counties and cities identify as  
2 being part of the Nature Coast.

3 Unfortunatly, it looks like the Nature  
4 Coast is split under this map. Residents from  
5 the counties of Taylor County and Lafayette  
6 County, particularly cities of Mayo and Perry,  
7 identified as being a part of the Nature Coast,  
8 along with Dixie, Levy and Gilchrist and Citrus  
9 Counties. Those were the counties that they  
10 identified as the Nature Coast.

11 The problem that we have here is that if  
12 you look at District 7 under this map, compared  
13 to other maps that this Committee has reviewed  
14 last week, the travel time from one end of the  
15 district to the other has expanded  
16 exponentially.

17 To go from Port St. Joe, which is on the  
18 western end of the district in Gulf County, to  
19 Mayo, which is in Lafayette, which is all the  
20 way on the eastern side, is a two hour and 53  
21 minute drive from one end to the other.

22 One of the other proposals that this  
23 Committee considered last week would have gone  
24 from Port St. Joe just to Leon County. Leon  
25 County and Wakulla County would have been the

1           dividing line. That would have cut down the  
2           travel time by an hour from one end of the  
3           district to the other.

4           So my concern with this Committee is that  
5           maybe with particular -- in that area of the  
6           map, it doesn't look like any other areas are  
7           majorly affected by changing the Capitol  
8           region. So maybe it might be better to just  
9           try and reduce the travel time to increase  
10          better representation for the Tallahassee area,  
11          and that is really my request for this  
12          Committee.

13           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
14           very much for your comments. We have a  
15           question from Representative Kiar?

16           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: It is not a  
17           question, it is more of a quick comment.

18           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. You  
19           are recognized.

20           REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: I just wanted to --  
21           and this has absolutely nothing to do with the  
22           substantive portion of these maps. I just want  
23           to let the Committee know how proud I am of  
24           this young man.

25           I've actually known him for a number of

1 years. His family lives in my district. Ryan  
2 has recently moved to Tallahassee, and I always  
3 tell him if I lose by one vote, I am going to  
4 blame him, but I just want to --

5 A VOICE: What makes you think he's voting  
6 for you?

7 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: That is true, that  
8 is a good point. But I do want to let  
9 everybody know Ryan has been working very hard  
10 on these issues from the beginning, and unlike  
11 many other people, Ryan is a college student  
12 who just is interested in the process, and I  
13 think that is a real testament to just  
14 Floridians. I am very proud of him, I just  
15 wanted to mention that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
17 Representative Kiar, and Ryan, thank you, and I  
18 think that it speaks to the process, you know,  
19 the fact that technology and the openness that  
20 this process has created has allowed people  
21 just like Ryan to come and give substantive  
22 thoughts and ideas, and we really appreciate  
23 you coming in today and we will certainly take  
24 your ideas and your suggestions into thought.

25 So we have one more stop, and that is the

1 floor, so we will look into it. Thank you very  
2 much.

3 MR. TERRELL: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Any other  
5 members of the public who wish to speak? Yes,  
6 ma'am, please come forward. If you can  
7 identify yourself, and we will get you to fill  
8 out a speaker card, if you could, after you  
9 speak. You are recognized, ma'am.

10 MS. OFNER: I would be glad to fill out a  
11 speaker card. I am Eleanor Ofner, I am a  
12 resident and a voter in Wakulla County, and I  
13 have been to Mayo, and it seems to me that Mayo  
14 is much more akin to the Alachua area,  
15 Gainesville, as a metropolitan area, which  
16 people in south Florida don't understand we  
17 don't really have them up here.

18 But in -- we very much relate to Leon  
19 County, and in a number of ways, because many  
20 people from Wakulla County work in Leon County.

21 In addition, the Leon County, Wakulla  
22 County, Gadsden County, Jefferson County, these  
23 counties work together on transportation issues  
24 and other issues, social issues. So I think it  
25 is important that you take a look again at

1 this.

2 I was hoping that one of the amendments  
3 was coming up might have addressed this in  
4 terms of our -- what we consider our  
5 metropolitan area, our city area. So I hope  
6 you can still consider that. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
9 very much. We appreciate you taking the time  
10 to speak, and if you could fill out that card.

11 MS. OFNER: This is what you want me to  
12 fill out?

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, ma'am.  
14 Thank you so much.

15 Any other members of the public wishing to  
16 speak?

17 Okay. Any debate on the Bill as amended?  
18 Debate on the Bill?

19 Seeing no debate, Representative  
20 Schenck -- we're back to Representative  
21 Schenck. Representative Schenck, you are  
22 recognized to close on the Bill.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Chair. Just some closing comments to sort  
25 of summarize up the map.

1           In HJR 6011, our subcommittee placed a  
2 focus on keeping counties whole and adhering to  
3 county lines in those cases where a county was  
4 larger than the size of a district, and I think  
5 we have accomplished that.

6           In this Committee, we took the next step  
7 of further reducing city splits, reducing the  
8 -- that number by 95 splits from the current  
9 House map that was adopted ten years ago.

10           Both of these are, of course, consistent  
11 with the law and much of the public input we  
12 received throughout the state. Regarding that  
13 public input, members, when you read the  
14 district-by-district explanation in the Bill  
15 analyses, it makes it clear how much public  
16 input impacted the designs of each district.

17           In fact, I think we have adopted  
18 amendments in the subcommittee and now in this  
19 Committee based specifically on public input.  
20 We have a process, members, that has worked.  
21 Where we can bring together our legal  
22 obligations and the input of the public, that  
23 is the right thing to do, and I believe that is  
24 the thing we have now done.

25           Thinking about compactness, when you look

1 at the districts in Brevard County, Pasco  
2 County, Lee County, and really throughout the  
3 map, it is remarkable how much more compact  
4 they are. We even made most of the minority  
5 districts very compact as well.

6 Speaking of which, we did maintain those  
7 existing minority districts, and we even  
8 created additional opportunities in Orange  
9 County, Osceola County and possibly other  
10 places.

11 All in all, I really do ask for everyone's  
12 vote, and before I close, Mr. Chair, I would  
13 like to give one more final thanks not only to  
14 our committee staff, as many of you have  
15 experienced the machine, Jeff Takacs, and the  
16 amount of expertise and Alex and the rest of  
17 our subcommittee.

18 I would also like to give a thanks to my  
19 excellent co-Chair, Chairman Dorworth, and a  
20 lot of members of the Committee, you know. We  
21 had members like Representative Bernard and  
22 Julien, which today I learned were two  
23 different people, Representatives Clarke-Reed  
24 and Rogers, who went to almost every public  
25 hearing we had over the summer, Representative

1 Baxley and Frishe and others, and the amount of  
2 work, time and effort that they have put into  
3 this map I think makes it legally compliant.

4 With that, I am proud to close on the  
5 House maps, Mr. Chair.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
7 very much, Representative Schenck, always  
8 levity in your close, my friend, and with  
9 having closed on the Bill, would the  
10 administrative assistant please call the roll?

11 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Representative Adkins?

14 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Bernard?

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

17 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

18 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

19 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

20 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

22 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Fresen?

24 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Frishe?

1 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Holder?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Horner?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
10 THE CLERK: Jones?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
12 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
14 THE CLERK: Legg?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.  
18 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.  
20 THE CLERK: Rogers?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.  
22 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
23 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: No.  
24 THE CLERK: Schenck?  
25 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Workman?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. With  
4 that, show that the Bill passes, or the HJR  
5 passes.

6 Members, we are going to move forward. At  
7 this time, we are going to take up House Bill  
8 6005, which is also Congressional Map 9043.  
9 Members, that is the third tab in your packets.

10 Representative Legg, Chair Legg, you are  
11 recognized to explain the Bill.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. Chairman, last week our Committee made  
15 the recommendation of HB 6005 to you, which is  
16 also map 9043, as the base map to build on. I  
17 want to briefly describe that map in kind of a  
18 large view.

19 First, HB 6005 is a complete redistricting  
20 map of Florida's new 27 congressional  
21 districts. Unlike the House and the Senate  
22 maps, the Congressional map has a population  
23 deviation of zero percent.

24 The Bill reduces the number of county  
25 splits from 30 on the current map to just 22.

1 It reduces the city splits from the current 110  
2 at the current map to just 39 as compared to  
3 the current Congressional map.

4 The Bill significantly improves the  
5 compactness of Florida's Congressional map in  
6 terms of perimeter, width/height measurements  
7 and in terms of drive time measurements.

8 The Bill also maintains Florida's  
9 commitment to the Florida Voter Rights Act and  
10 Florida's new constitutional standards  
11 regarding racial and language minority.

12 With that, Mr. Chair, that is the overview  
13 of the Bill.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
15 very much, Chair Legg.

16 Members, moving forward, I believe we have  
17 an amendment by Representative Precourt.  
18 Vice-Chair Precourt, you are recognized to  
19 explain your amendment.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
21 Weatherford.

22 This amendment, members, is also map 9047,  
23 you also have it in your package, and it,  
24 again, makes a number of changes to the  
25 underlying map that's already been adopted.

1           Staff will make more detailed  
2 presentation, just like we did previously, but  
3 briefly, the overall amendment reduces the  
4 number of cities split from 39 down to 27, a  
5 substantial reduction, and reduces the number  
6 of counties split from 22 down to 21.

7           Additionally, the amendment improves the  
8 likelihood of minority representation, and  
9 Alex, I believe, will be getting into the  
10 details on that as well.

11           So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like  
12 to have Mr. Kelly give a more detailed  
13 presentation of the changes that are proposed  
14 in this amendment.

15           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Thank  
16 you very much, Representative Precourt.

17           Alex, if you could maybe give us a little  
18 more further explanation on the amendment.

19           MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
20 members, and I will walk through initially the  
21 municipal issues in the amendment.

22           Just moving first to the Pinellas County  
23 area of the map -- and we will turn on the city  
24 boundary lines so that you can see those.

25           What the amendment does is the amendment

1 places the entirety of the municipalities of  
2 Tarpon Springs and Oldsmar into Congressional  
3 District 12. In addition to that, Gulfport is  
4 placed entirely into Congressional District 13.

5 While we are in the Pinellas/Hillsborough  
6 area, at the advice of counsel, District 14 has  
7 shifted to -- proportionally greater to the  
8 Hillsborough County side. If you look sort of  
9 to the region where I am moving the mouse at  
10 this point, that portion was previously in the  
11 earlier design of District 14. It's now been  
12 moved to the Hillsborough County side.

13 The point raised by counsel is that  
14 District 14 is a district that has a  
15 significant coalition of African-American,  
16 Hispanic and other minority voters. That  
17 district, as a result of being in Hillsborough  
18 County, is a Section 5-covered jurisdiction,  
19 and that district needed to have a slight  
20 increase due to the minority population.

21 Effectively what the increase does is the  
22 total minority population of the district is  
23 approximately 53 percent of the district, so it  
24 is just a small shift ensuring that the  
25 minority population is essentially a majority

1 of the district as compared to the non-minority  
2 population in the district.

3 So, again, it is a small shift, and  
4 incidentally, that request also corresponded --  
5 for different reasons, but that request  
6 corresponded with a significant amount of  
7 public input that you had and that you reviewed  
8 during your prior meeting.

9 We will move to Broward County now, and,  
10 again, along the lines of issues relating to  
11 municipal splits, the City of Coconut Creek is  
12 now entirely included in Congressional District  
13 21, the municipality of Wilton Manors is now  
14 entirely included in Congressional District 22.

15 Moving down a little further into Broward  
16 County, the municipality of Hallendale Beach is  
17 now entirely included in Congressional District  
18 23; likewise, the City of Hollywood is now  
19 entirely included within Congressional District  
20 23.

21 Moving down further, looking at  
22 Congressional District 24, again, we have the  
23 city lines featured, a view with them not  
24 featured, now a view with them on. North Miami  
25 and North Miami Beach now are both also

1 included entirely in Congressional District 24.

2 Moving to the other side of Congressional  
3 District 24, the municipality of Opa-Locka is  
4 also entirely included in Congressional  
5 District 24. And just as a side note, a piece  
6 of public input that was actually received in  
7 the Florida Senate regarding the Opa-Locka  
8 airport, the request was if the city was to be  
9 entirely included, have the airport, and just  
10 to match up with the public input, which we do  
11 share back and forth with the other Chamber,  
12 the airport is also entirely included within  
13 District 24 as well.

14 Moving to Palm Beach County, there are two  
15 additional municipalities that are kept whole,  
16 both Loxahatchee Groves and the municipality of  
17 Lake Park are kept whole in this region, both  
18 in the proposed Congressional District 20.

19 And we will move briefly to Polk County.  
20 The municipalities of -- I will turn the county  
21 off here -- Auburndale, which is what is  
22 highlighted here, Auburndale and Dundee are now  
23 wholly located within districts.

24 In addition to that, taking a step back to  
25 the county level, at the county level, the

1 county of Osceola County is now wholly included  
2 in Congressional District 9. Okeechobee County  
3 is now wholly included in Congressional  
4 District 17. So that was two more counties --  
5 county splits that were reduced.

6 Now, the City of Bartow had been kept  
7 whole previously in the prior versions of the  
8 map, but in this particular case, the City of  
9 Bartow has been moved entirely into the 15th  
10 Congressional District as opposed to previously  
11 it was in the 17th Congressional District.

12 In addition to that, changes were made to  
13 the 5th Congressional District, the proposed  
14 5th Congressional District, which today is just  
15 slightly under a 50 percent -- has just  
16 slightly under a 50 percent black voting age  
17 population.

18 House maps proposed previously had  
19 proposed a 48 percent district; however, the  
20 opportunity was identified to increase the  
21 black voting age population above 50 percent.  
22 I will turn on the county boundaries to give  
23 you an idea of the effect.

24 So the district -- the principal change,  
25 the district now would come into Seminole

1 County, increasing the black voting age  
2 population to just slightly above 50 percent.  
3 I believe it is exactly 50.06 percent.

4 In addition to that, in terms of the  
5 9th -- the proposed 9th Congressional District,  
6 which has been sometimes referred to as a sort  
7 of Hispanic opportunity district, or at the  
8 very least, a potentially future opportunity,  
9 the district would now have approximately a  
10 41.3 percent Hispanic voting age population.

11 The district previously in this particular  
12 iteration, this particular map, did not come  
13 into Polk County, although some of the other  
14 House suggestions had brought the district into  
15 Polk County.

16 So this is more tracking what this  
17 district did in some of the other maps that the  
18 Committee has looked at. It would now come  
19 into Polk County. The net effect did not add  
20 to any -- in terms of this district, did not  
21 add to any city splits, and, in fact, as we  
22 just covered, it actually kept Osceola County  
23 whole.

24 And, Mr. Chairman, with that, that is the  
25 amendment.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
2 very much, Mr. Kelly, for the detailed  
3 explanation.

4           Members, are there any questions to Mr.  
5 Kelly or Mr. Precourt on the amendment? Any  
6 questions?

7           Seeing no questions, is there any public  
8 testimony to the amendment?

9           Seeing no public testimony, is there any  
10 debate on the amendment? Any debate?

11          Seeing no debate, Representative Precourt,  
12 you are recognized to close on the amendment.

13          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chair. Once again, I just appreciate all  
15 the help from staff. With the level of detail  
16 that is required on these things, it is a lot  
17 of work.

18          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
19 very much. Having closed, would the  
20 administrative assistant please call the roll.

21          THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

22          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

23          THE CLERK: Representative Adkins?

24          REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.

25          THE CLERK: Bernard?

1 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.  
2 THE CLERK: Chestnut?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.  
4 THE CLERK: Dorworth?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Fresen?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: Frishe?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.  
12 THE CLERK: Holder?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.  
14 THE CLERK: Horner?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
18 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
20 THE CLERK: Jones?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
22 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
23 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
24 THE CLERK: Legg?  
25 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Nehr?

2 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Precourt?

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Rogers?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.

7 THE CLERK: Rouson?

8 Schenck?

9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

10 THE CLERK: Workman?

11 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Show the Bill

13 -- show the amendment is adopted.

14 Okay. I think I am going to have to turn  
15 the gavel back over to the Vice-Chair again.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
17 Chairman. Chair Weatherford, you are  
18 recognized to explain this amendment.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
20 very much, Mr. Chairman.

21 Members, I am not going to go into the  
22 near detailed explanation. I think we have  
23 touched on the process under which these maps  
24 were brought forth to us, but what I would like  
25 to do is to turn over to our legal team to talk

1 about some of the specifics, and ask them to  
2 walk us through maybe some of the details or  
3 potential challenges that this map may have.

4 And so, with that, as part of the  
5 explanation, if Mr. Meros and potentially  
6 Mr. DeGrande could come up and walk us through  
7 that very briefly, we would appreciate it. You  
8 are recognized, sir.

9 MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
10 members, and I will be very brief, and I will  
11 limit my testimony to just a very few  
12 instances.

13 Once again, with regard to the League of  
14 Women Voters' Congressional map, I find serious  
15 constitutional and -- or serious Florida  
16 constitutional problems with regard to the  
17 notion of the obligation not to diminish the  
18 opportunity to elect representatives of choice,  
19 as well as potential Federal Section 5  
20 violations.

21 Regarding Congressional Amendment 5, what  
22 the League of Women Voters has done has taken a  
23 district that has been historically in the 48  
24 to 50 percent African-American population,  
25 which has elected an African-American for the

1 past 20 years, which was created by a Federal  
2 District Court in 1990 as a result of  
3 litigation brought by then Representative  
4 Miguel DeGrande to try to create protections  
5 for minorities, and has cut that district from  
6 48 percent or 50 percent to 35 percent.

7 To some extent, that is a matter -- that  
8 is a personal matter for Mr. DeGrande and a  
9 personal matter for me, because I represented  
10 some of the parties in 1990, and at that time,  
11 there had not been an African-American  
12 congressional -- congressperson elected in  
13 Florida since reconstruction.

14 After that and after the Federal District  
15 Court came in and recognized minority Voting  
16 Rights Act, thereafter there were three  
17 African-Americans elected. Thereafter, that  
18 has stood the test of time and has consistently  
19 elected an African-American as the population's  
20 candidate of choice.

21 What has happened -- we have a standard,  
22 which all of you heard from the testimony from  
23 the proponents of Amendment 5 and 6, that is a  
24 Tier 1 standard that says that we shall not,  
25 must not diminish the opportunity of citizens

1 to elect a candidate of their choice.

2 That diminishment standard, by the words  
3 of the promoters of Amendment 6, is a Section 5  
4 type analysis as to whether there's any -- any  
5 movement backwards, whether the population is  
6 less able to elect a candidate by virtue of a  
7 change.

8 I suggest to you that it doesn't take a  
9 lawyer, it doesn't take careful analysis to  
10 know that when you go from 48 or 50 percent  
11 African-American population to 35 percent, you  
12 have made that district less able to elect a  
13 candidate of choice. That is absolutely a  
14 diminishment by any means and by any stretch of  
15 the imagination.

16 Worse still, in the central Florida area,  
17 the public testimony will reflect that there  
18 were 10 to 15 members of the African-American  
19 community, including ministers of churches in  
20 that area, that urged that that district  
21 remain, and that they remain in congressional  
22 -- proposed Congressional District 5.

23 What has happened by virtue of what the  
24 League of Women Voters has done here is to  
25 displace over 80,000 African-Americans in

1 central Florida and put them in a white  
2 district which will not elect an  
3 African-American or their candidate of choice.

4 That cannot be justified by me as a matter  
5 of law and as a matter of common sense. It  
6 ignores the public testimony, it ignores the  
7 Tier 1 standard, it ignores what the proponents  
8 said would never be a diminishment.

9 Now, very briefly, the -- I say Alcee  
10 Hastings' seat, I apologize, I don't remember  
11 the proposed district number, but there is a  
12 District 23 in this proposed map is a map -- is  
13 a district that touches a Section 5 county  
14 under the federal voting rights, and -- Voting  
15 Rights Act, and so care, much care must be  
16 taken with any potential that the Department of  
17 Justice would not pre-clear this district by  
18 virtue of any diminishment of the electoral  
19 opportunities of African-Americans or  
20 minorities in that district.

21 This district has less black voting age  
22 population, two or three points, than the  
23 proposed map. It, to me, is tempting fate and  
24 asking for a delay, asking for a refusal for  
25 pre-clearance to do that. Why would we do

1           that? Why would we provoke the Department of  
2           Justice and possibly risk a Section 5  
3           pre-clearance when the result would be voters  
4           would be confused, there would be delays in  
5           drawing the map, and ultimately potentially a  
6           federal court drawing an interim map simply by  
7           virtue of that decision?

8                     That same issue is -- the same thing is at  
9           risk in the Hillsborough and Pinellas County  
10          area where there is a district that, again, is  
11          in Hillsborough County, which is a Section 5  
12          district that does reduce the minority  
13          population to some extent, and, again, temps a  
14          Section 5 challenge or a Section 5 refusal to  
15          pre-clear that need not occur.

16                    A cynical mind would say messing with  
17          those two districts is an intent to have  
18          justice pre- -- refuse to pre-clear and delay  
19          the process. Whatever the result is, it makes  
20          no sense, it is not a rational thing to do, and  
21          I think would violate the law. Thank you.

22                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
23          Mr. Meros. Chair Weatherford?

24                    REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you. I  
25          was just saying, I wanted to give Mr. DeGrande

1 an opportunity as well to speak and give some  
2 legal analysis on this map. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. DeGrande,  
4 you are recognized.

5 MR. DEGRANDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Members, I think Mr. Meros has covered  
7 most everything I would say, except I will take  
8 you back to 1990 and that litigation.

9 At that time, as Mr. Meros mentioned,  
10 there had not been an African-American elected  
11 to Congress since reconstruction. There was  
12 one majority Hispanic-American seat, and as a  
13 matter of fact, until Claude Pepper passed away  
14 in 1989, Claude Pepper was the Hispanic  
15 candidate of choice in that district, and when  
16 he passed away, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen became the  
17 Hispanic candidate of choice in that district.

18 When we got to the remedy phase in that  
19 litigation, there was an impasse in the  
20 congressional, and the Court had to draw a map,  
21 and both members of the Legislature and  
22 Plaintiffs had an opportunity, and Intervenors  
23 had an opportunity to propose maps to the  
24 Special Master, which ultimately would go to  
25 the three-judge panel, and in those maps, we,

1 the Plaintiffs, actually drew four  
2 African-American congressional seats, and the  
3 Court did not accept it.

4 The Court -- there was one seat that  
5 became colloquially known as the barbell  
6 district because it joined areas of Orlando and  
7 Tampa through the I-4 corridor, and the Court  
8 said no, that is too much. But this plan with  
9 three African-American seats is a good plan.

10 And when you look at District 3, that  
11 district is basically the template of what a  
12 three-judge federal panel drew, improved in  
13 2000 and greatly improved now in this amendment  
14 that you just passed by keeping more cities  
15 intact and respecting and adhering to the  
16 standards of Amendment 5.

17 So that district, as it has been proposed  
18 by the Legislature, to me, is nothing more than  
19 following the dictates of a federal court that  
20 knew what the limits were in terms of a  
21 district that would stretch the boundaries of  
22 constitutionality.

23 It found that template to be  
24 constitutional. That template has been  
25 significantly improved upon in the amendment

1           that you just passed, and, therefore, I think  
2           that it is wholly compliant with constitutional  
3           provisions.

4                    I agree fully with Mr. Meros that this  
5           amendment would not be, because of the reasons  
6           he stated. Thank you very much.

7                    REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
8           Mr. DeGrande.

9                    Chair Weatherford, further explanation of  
10          the amendment?

11                   REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No.

12                   REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Okay. Chair  
13          Weatherford having explained the amendment,  
14          members, are there any questions on the  
15          amendment? Representative Jenne, question on  
16          the amendment.

17                   REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Thank you, and I am  
18          not sure if this would be appropriate now or  
19          later. It is more on the mechanism. When the  
20          two gentlemen were just speaking, I had some  
21          questions about how we figure out minority  
22          representation.

23                    So I am not sure if it would be better to  
24          ask that question now on this, or to wait later  
25          on when we are back on the --

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  If -- yes, if  
2           it's -- Chair Weatherford.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  I was going  
4           to say, if I could answer that, Mr. Chairman,  
5           if it pertains to this specific amendment, we  
6           can do it.  If it is not, we can do it later at  
7           the end of the meeting.

8           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE:  Chairman, I will  
9           wait then, thank you.

10          REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT:  Representative  
11          Rogers, you are recognized for a question.  
12          Thank you.  Any further questions on the  
13          amendment, members?

14          Okay.  Seeing no further questions, we are  
15          on to public testimony.  I don't believe we  
16          have any testimony cards filled out.  I don't  
17          see anyone approaching the podium.

18          So seeing no further public testimony,  
19          members, we are into debate.  Any debate on the  
20          amendments?

21          Okay.  Seeing no debate on the amendment,  
22          Chair Weatherford, you are recognized to close.

23          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Thank you  
24          very much, Mr. Chairman.  I think I would echo  
25          the comments I made earlier in my close on the

1 House map in regard to the process and why I  
2 think that this amendment should be voted down  
3 strictly on those purposes.

4 But I also think that our counsel, who has  
5 done this for a very long time and is very  
6 well-schooled in the legal matters that involve  
7 redistricting, I think have laid out some  
8 significant problems with this map.

9 And so for those reasons, and for the  
10 reasons in regards to the process, I would urge  
11 members of this Committee to vote no.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
13 Weatherford. Having closed on the amendment,  
14 members, please recall we are voting on the  
15 amendment, not the underlying Bill.

16 Katie, will you please call the roll?

17 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: No.

19 THE CLERK: Rep Adkins?

20 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: No.

21 THE CLERK: Bernard?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

23 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

24 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

25 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

1 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: No.  
2 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: No.  
4 THE CLERK: Fresen?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: No.  
6 THE CLERK: Frishe?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: No.  
8 THE CLERK: Holder?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: No.  
10 THE CLERK: Horner?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: No.  
12 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: No.  
14 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
16 THE CLERK: Jones?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
18 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
20 THE CLERK: Legg?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: No.  
22 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
23 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: No.  
24 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: No.

1 THE CLERK: Rogers?

2 Rouson?

3 Schenck?

4 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: No.

5 THE CLERK: Workman?

6 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: No.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Members, by your  
8 vote, the amendment fails, and I will turn the  
9 chair back to Chair Weatherford.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
11 very much, Mr. Vice-Chair.

12 Members, we are back on the Bill. Is  
13 there any public testimony in regard to the  
14 actual Bill as am- -- no appearance cards,  
15 okay, so we are good.

16 Any debate on the Bill, members?

17 Seeing no debate -- I'm sorry, do you have  
18 a question? Sure, we will do a question.  
19 Representative, you are recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Chairman. After listening to the comments  
22 around the League of Cities -- League of Women,  
23 corrected, League of Women's maps, I just  
24 wanted to be reminded of the definition the  
25 Committee used to determine if districts were

1 racially fair, and was it not -- what was it?  
2 What did we use? I know we -- I like our maps,  
3 I like our comments, I attended --

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Does that  
5 mean you are voting for them?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Just keep --  
7 answer my question. I like it, you know, not  
8 that much, but I am telling you --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think I  
10 know the question you have.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: -- I attended 25  
12 of the 26 meetings around the state and I heard  
13 the comments, and just remind me again, because  
14 I know we are comparing those maps, and I  
15 wanted to know our definition.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Let me  
17 restate your question, and you tell me if I am  
18 asking the right question for you so I can --  
19 and get our attorneys.

20 I think what you are asking is, you want  
21 to know what standard are we using when we are  
22 looking at what is diminishment of a minority  
23 district, how are we determining diminishment?  
24 Okay.

25 Because that is more complicated than I

1 can probably answer, so I would probably ask  
2 our general counsel to walk us through that and  
3 give us that explanation. You are recognized.

4 MR. MEROS: Representative, the standard  
5 we are using is the standard in Amendment 6,  
6 because it is a Congressional map. It is the  
7 same as in Amendment 5. It is the Tier 1  
8 standard that says you shall not diminish the  
9 opportunity of citizens to elect candidate of  
10 choice.

11 What everyone has agreed that standard  
12 means is a -- is a -- the standard for Section  
13 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, which now  
14 applies to all districts in the state, as  
15 opposed to the five districts that it applies  
16 to under the Federal Voting Rights Act.

17 And the notion there is that there shall  
18 be no backsliding, not going backwards in the  
19 opportunity of citizens to elect a candidate of  
20 choice. That is different than standards under  
21 Section 2, and what -- and particularly in the  
22 reenactment of the Federal Voting Rights Act  
23 and Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

24 Congress made it clear in their analysis  
25 that the language of Section 5 had changed

1 somewhat in response to the Georgia v. Ashcroft  
2 decision, which suggested somewhat of a  
3 weakening of what that standard was, and  
4 Congress said it intended to make it clear that  
5 in every district, the issue is whether  
6 minority citizens are less able to elect a  
7 candidate of choice in the new district than  
8 they were in the old district.

9 Now, I know some would argue that, well,  
10 what that means is you can take a district from  
11 50 percent down to 35 percent, because once you  
12 crunch a bunch of numbers, the minority  
13 candidate has a pretty good chance or an equal  
14 chance of winning. But that is not what  
15 Amendment 6 says. That is not what Congress  
16 said even about the Federal Voting Rights Act.

17 What Congress said and what the Floridians  
18 said is if you backslide, if you make it less  
19 able to elect a minority candidate, then that  
20 is a violation. Now, if you go from 50 percent  
21 to 35 percent, maybe someone, maybe an  
22 African-American candidate will win, maybe an  
23 incumbent. But it is not about the incumbent,  
24 it is about the population that originally  
25 elected an African-American candidate.

1           And so the notion that there is no going  
2 backwards from 50 percent to 35 percent, to me,  
3 defies common sense. It defies the law and it  
4 defies every analysis of voting rights that I  
5 am aware of.

6           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Meros.

8           Ms. Rogers, did you have a follow-up?

9           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No, Mr. Chair.  
10 Thank you very much. Can I just make a  
11 comment?

12           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, you may.

13           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: I really enjoyed  
14 the process, really enjoyed working with you,  
15 so -- and looking forward to the next vote.

16           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Well, thank  
17 you very much. I appreciate that.

18           Representative Jenne, you are recognized,  
19 sir.

20           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Thank you, Chairman  
21 Weatherford, I appreciate it. And I think the  
22 question is really best given to you, and thank  
23 you so much, as always, for being here with  
24 your answers, and I know we have a lot of  
25 detailed questions.

1 Piggy-backing a little bit off of  
2 Representative Rogers' question, is there any  
3 mathematical formula that we can use to try to  
4 determine -- and this is really a blanket  
5 question for any of the maps --

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sure.

7 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: -- to be completely  
8 honest. But is there a formula, numeric or  
9 otherwise, that we can use to determine if we  
10 are harming minority representation, or is that  
11 just a straight numbers game?

12 MR. MEROS: If one is harming minority  
13 representation in what way, I'm sorry?

14 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: I'm sorry,  
15 weakening it in some way, I apologize.

16 MR. MEROS: Meaning the diminishment  
17 standard?

18 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: The diminishment  
19 standard, yes, sir.

20 MR. MEROS: Sure.

21 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Is there a numeric  
22 formula, or some other type?

23 MR. MEROS: There is no set formula to  
24 assess that. It is a -- it is an assessment  
25 that is in part based on electoral results in

1 the past, it is based on registration of  
2 minority voters, it is based on turn-out.

3 It is based on the minority population in  
4 that area and their wishes, any number of  
5 things that in combination come up with the  
6 notion as to whether people in that district  
7 have gone backwards in their -- in their  
8 ability to elect a candidate of choice.

9 The one thing that is clear is that after  
10 enactment of the congressional -- or after  
11 Congress reenacted Section 5, the language was  
12 intended to make it clear that one cannot say,  
13 well, you can backslide a little bit in one  
14 district, but strengthen another and you are  
15 okay, or that you can think more about a  
16 coalition district and backslide traditionally  
17 and maybe that's okay. Congress said no. The  
18 question is less able.

19 Now, less able, again, would have to look  
20 at all sorts of factors: Registration,  
21 turnout, the -- you know, the polarization in  
22 that area, any number -- the wishes of the  
23 minority community, such as the Orlando  
24 community. And so my analysis of that is I  
25 cannot imagine a case where going from

1           50 percent to 35 percent means that you are not  
2           less able to elect a candidate of choice.

3           Maybe there are, but I don't -- I can't  
4           imagine it. But it is a -- it is a complex and  
5           comprehensive analysis that you have to  
6           undertake.

7           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: A brief follow-up,  
8           Mr. Chair, if that's all right?

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
10          recognized.

11          REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: You mentioned  
12          turnout, and it kind of led to another  
13          question --

14          MR. MEROS: Sure.

15          REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: -- that I had had,  
16          and that is basically election performance data  
17          and how or if it was even used to determine if  
18          the districts diminished the ability of  
19          minorities to elect candidates of their choice.

20          MR. MEROS: Well, I can tell you what the  
21          House did was to focus on districts that had  
22          historically performed for African-Americans or  
23          for Hispanics, because now non-diminishment was  
24          statewide, and tried very carefully not to  
25          diminish the population percentages more than

1 one or two or three points, or sometimes more,  
2 and in doing so there, to comply with other  
3 standards, such as compactness and complying  
4 with city and county boundaries.

5 And the reason for that was obvious.  
6 Diminishment means diminishment. If you reduce  
7 it more than a few percentage points, you at  
8 least facially have to address the possibility  
9 that there is a diminishment. And so that is  
10 very much how the House went about doing it.

11 And, again, one of the things here we have  
12 to realize is if we delay the process or permit  
13 there to be challenges to the map that have  
14 some possibility of succeeding, then this is  
15 taken away from the Legislature and the  
16 legislative prerogative and put into the court  
17 simply by virtue of the delay involved in  
18 having this sort of thing litigated.

19 As a matter of just policy and as a matter  
20 of legal prudence, one would never want to do  
21 that.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Meros.

24 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: One last follow-up?  
25 Mr. Chair, thank you.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sure. You  
2 are recognized for a follow-up.

3           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: And this is the  
4 last one, sir. Thank you so much for being up  
5 there to answer these questions in a kind of --  
6 one bridges off the other.

7           The next and my final question here is,  
8 are we improperly overpacking a district with  
9 minority voters if we place more of that group  
10 in a district than is necessary to allow  
11 minority voters their personal choice and --  
12 but simultaneously violate other criteria? Do  
13 you see the gist of the question?

14          MR. MEROS: Sure, sure. That essentially  
15 is an issue of are you packing minorities in a  
16 given dis- -- that is a Section 2 sort of  
17 claim. Are you packing minority voters in a  
18 district and thereby diluting their strength  
19 which could be in two districts rather than one  
20 district?

21          With regard to Congressional 5, you are  
22 clearly not doing that, because, remember,  
23 there are two standards that -- the Tier 1  
24 standards that the voters wanted and that the  
25 proponents of these districts have set from

1 start to finish, and that is there is a Section  
2 2 protection for minority and there is a  
3 Section 5 protection statewide, so don't worry,  
4 all of the concerns that this Legislature  
5 raised about the possibility of weakening  
6 minority voting rights, they said don't worry.  
7 When you talk about diminishment, the issue is  
8 are you backsliding, are you making it less  
9 able for a minority to be elected. That is a  
10 different standard, that is a very strong  
11 standard. And so that is not packing. If that  
12 district is at 48 or 50 percent, and when you  
13 take it to 35 percent, someone is less able to  
14 elect a candidate of choice, that is not  
15 packing, that is complying with that standard.  
16 That is -- the Legislature didn't do that. I  
17 didn't do that. The voters of Florida did  
18 that.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Sir, thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Follow-up,  
21 Representative Jenne?

22 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Mr. Chairman, no,  
23 thank you, and I appreciate it.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Representative  
25 Chestnut, you are recognized for a question.

1           REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Chair. In terms of the -- we were talking  
3 about performance data, I think the question  
4 came up. Does staff have access to performance  
5 data at all?

6           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Mr. Meros, you  
7 are recognized.

8           MR. MEROS: The public has access to it,  
9 the staff has access to it, you can -- you can  
10 go to places where there's all sorts of  
11 election data, so, sure. And in drawing  
12 districts that have significant minority  
13 populations, it is incumbent upon us to look at  
14 those matters. And if you will recall in the  
15 debates before when this House was asking about  
16 how can we do these, the framers of the  
17 amendment said of course you look at election  
18 data and performance data when it comes to  
19 minority districts. That is part of the  
20 calculation you have to do to comply with the  
21 law.

22           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And since that  
23 is a technical question on the system itself, I  
24 would like to have Mr. Kelly address that as  
25 well. Alex?

1 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Representative Chestnut, yes, data is in  
3 the application right here that you are looking  
4 at on the screen.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And that you  
7 have access to, as well as everyone else.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Representative  
10 Bernard, you are recognized for a question.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chair.

13 Mr. Meros, going to District 5, I guess,  
14 was it -- I guess the 2002 map, was that  
15 district short in terms of population?

16 MR. MEROS: I will defer to staff on the  
17 specifics of that. I -- Alex, if you want to  
18 answer that.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Kelly,  
20 you are recognized -- I will tell you what.  
21 He's going to probably have to pull that out.  
22 I don't think he has it off the top -- do you  
23 have it?

24 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 Jeff, if you could pull up the current

1 congressional map.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: This is so  
3 much better than 1980. We would have run out  
4 of crayons by now.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Go ahead, Alex.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I don't think  
7 Mr. Kelly can see it from here. We need to get  
8 him some bifocals like you've got there.

9 MR. KELLY: Okay. So the population  
10 deviation was 37,289 under in District 3.

11 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Follow-up,  
12 Mr. Chair?

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
14 recognized for a follow-up.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you.

16 What I -- I guess what I want to find out  
17 is since the district was created in nineteen  
18 -- if that -- the concept of the district was  
19 created in 1992, and the population changed  
20 from 1992 to 2002 and then two thousand and --  
21 in 2012, if the population is declining, do we  
22 still -- if we had to get the numbers from  
23 somewhere else, would we have -- would we have  
24 to kind of like -- if the numbers were in Key  
25 West, would that district have to be created

1 from Jacksonville to Key West to make up that  
2 number, if that is how it would -- for  
3 minorities to elect a representative of their  
4 choice?

5 MR. MEROS: Entirely appropriate question,  
6 and the answer is certainly no. When  
7 population shifts occur, one has to go back and  
8 figure out what can be done. A Section 5  
9 analysis does not mean -- and I say Section 5,  
10 an Amendment 5 diminishment standard -- does  
11 not mean if that population vanishes, you have  
12 to create something you cannot. What you do  
13 have to do is look at it and say can you make a  
14 good faith effort to avoid backsliding with a  
15 population as it exists now. And so certainly  
16 that is a factor.

17 Clearly there is sufficient population in  
18 that district to avoid non-diminishment,  
19 because -- to avoid diminishment. If we were  
20 to take it to 35 percent, then one of the  
21 factors would be, well, wait a minute, there  
22 are alternative maps that better comply than  
23 earlier that don't -- that don't diminish so  
24 much, and those alternatives is the very proof  
25 that there is backsliding.

1           But you are absolutely correct, the  
2           population shifts are a factor that you have to  
3           take into consideration.

4           REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Thank you.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

6           Members, any other questions? Mr. DeGrande,  
7           did you want to add to that explanation?

8           MR. MEROS: He is going to correct my  
9           mistakes.

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay.

11          MR. DEGRANDE: Absolutely not. Just one  
12          additional comment, at least how I interpret  
13          the constitutional amendments.

14          When the voters voted to say no  
15          diminishment, in the same way that it could be  
16          assumed that they knew what all the intricacies  
17          were of the amendment, it could also be assumed  
18          that they needed a configuration of the  
19          districts that they didn't want diminished.  
20          And so an argument to say that the, you know,  
21          current District 3 shouldn't be redrawn the  
22          same way, if it can be redrawn with the same  
23          template in a manner that does not diminish, it  
24          would seem to me that that is exactly what the  
25          voters that voted for Amendment 5 and 6 were

1 asking this Legislature to do, because they  
2 would have known that, okay, that is what it  
3 looks like now, we don't want it diminished.  
4 So I don't see -- again, not only do I see that  
5 as simply following a template that was  
6 approved by a three-judge court, but also very  
7 consistent with the intent of the voters in  
8 Amendment 5 and 6.

9 And to your point, Mr. Chairman, in 1990  
10 when I was a member of the House, we had a  
11 computer that was I think \$5 million in a  
12 cooled environment that had less computing  
13 capacity than your laptop today to do  
14 redistricting. That's how much we've advanced.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are aging  
16 yourself, be careful, Miguel.

17 Representative Jones, I think you had a  
18 question.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman. We talked earlier about the  
21 number of counties that had been split into  
22 multiple districts. Do we have that  
23 information for the congressional in comparison  
24 to 2002?

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We do, I

1 think we do. If I could restate that, I think  
2 what you would like to see is the data on the  
3 amount of county splits we had in the 2002  
4 congressional map versus the 2012 suggested  
5 congressional map?

6 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
7 2002 congressional maps split 30 counties. The  
8 proposal, as amended, would only split 21  
9 counties. So it would keep nine additional  
10 counties whole.

11 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: One final question.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are  
13 recognized for a question.

14 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: How are we  
15 measuring compactness for the congressional  
16 seats?

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Very good  
18 question, and I will let staff answer that as  
19 well.

20 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 Representative Jones, there's a number of  
22 different ways to measure compactness. There  
23 are some -- there are some traditional scores  
24 that are utilized based on perimeter or area of  
25 the districts, width plus height test, and

1 sometimes you take a ratio of those different  
2 numbers. Those are actually all included in  
3 the planned data report that is in your packet  
4 for each bill.

5 In addition to that, we have implemented a  
6 number of functional measures that measure  
7 items such as drive time, mileage, the average  
8 mileage to cross a district, mileage based on  
9 physically what you actually can drive. So  
10 there is functional compactness measured as  
11 well.

12 In addition to that, a comment that was  
13 utilized in a number of the maps, not just the  
14 congressional, was during a course of the  
15 summer meetings, a number of individuals from  
16 the public oftentimes made a case that  
17 compactness and county boundary lines tended to  
18 be relative equals in their eyes. And so that  
19 comment was factored in in terms of the drawing  
20 and in terms of the debate and discussion in  
21 your various subcommittees.

22 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You're  
25 welcome. Members, any other questions?

1           Okay. We are back on debate. Is there  
2 any debate on the bill? Debate on the bill as  
3 amended?

4           Seeing no debate, we are now going to  
5 recognize Representative Legg to close.

6           REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chair. I just want to briefly go over some  
8 numbers that Representative Jones was just  
9 asking. Forty-six of the 67 counties are kept  
10 whole. Only 27 of the 411 cities in the state  
11 have been split, versus the current  
12 congressional map, which has over 110 splits  
13 right now.

14           The -- this congressional map has been  
15 held true to Amendment 6 by keeping county and  
16 city boundaries. It's also held true to all  
17 the public testimony that we have heard  
18 throughout the state about keeping the  
19 communities and cities and counties together.  
20 This -- the districts are significantly more  
21 compact than Florida's current congressional  
22 map, and the district also maintains a  
23 likelihood that minority communities can elect  
24 a candidate of their choice.

25           And with that, Mr. Chair, I just want to

1 echo the words of Chair Schenck and just say  
2 thank you to our co-Chairs, Chair Holder and  
3 Vice-Chair Horner, and all our committee staff  
4 who worked on this, and look forward to  
5 presenting it on the floor if this Committee  
6 passes.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
8 very much, Representative Legg. And with that  
9 closed, would the administrative assistant  
10 please call the roll.

11 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Rep Adkins?

14 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Bernard?

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

17 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

18 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

19 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

20 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

22 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.

23 THE CLERK: Fresen?

24 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Frishe?

1 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Holder?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Horner?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
10 THE CLERK: Jones?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
12 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
14 THE CLERK: Legg?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.  
18 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.  
20 THE CLERK: Rogers?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.  
22 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
23 Schenck?  
24 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.  
25 THE CLERK: Workman?

1           REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.

2           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.

3           And with that, show HJR 601 passes -- I'm  
4           sorry, 605 -- 6005 passes.

5           We are now moving on to HJR 6001, which is  
6           also the State Senate Map 9004. Members, this  
7           is in the first tab in your packets. This is  
8           the last HJR we will go through.

9           Representative Nehr, you are recognized to  
10          explain the House joint resolution.

11          REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
12          Mr. Chairman. I want to share with you some  
13          details regarding House Joint Resolution 6001  
14          as a whole, and how it compares to the current  
15          State Senate district map.

16          For the 40 districts in this particular  
17          map, there is only a 1.84 percent total  
18          population deviation. And compared to our  
19          current map, the bill reduces the number of  
20          county splits from 45 all the way down to 31,  
21          and the number of city splits from 126 down to  
22          a very low number of 78.

23          Looking at some of the more mathematical  
24          compactness scores relating to perimeters and  
25          height and width of districts, this proposed

1 committee bill consistently improves the  
2 compactness of Florida's 40 State Senate  
3 districts. And looking some at the more  
4 functional compactive measures, such as drive  
5 times, the bill again consistently improves  
6 these measures of compactness compared to the  
7 existing State Senate map. The bill maintains  
8 Florida's commitments to compliance with the  
9 Federal Voting Rights Act, both Section 2 and 5  
10 of Florida's constitutional standards regarding  
11 racial and language minorities. Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
14 very much. Are there any questions on the  
15 bill? Yes, you are recognized for a question.

16 A VOICE: Mr. Chairman, thank you, as  
17 always. The first question is this,  
18 Representative Nehr: Is this -- basically this  
19 is the same map that the Senate passed off  
20 their floor?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Actually, if  
22 I could interject just really quickly, we're  
23 going to get to an amendment by Representative  
24 Precourt.

25 A VOICE: That will get us to that

1 posture.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: That will get  
3 us to that posture?

4 A VOICE: Thank you, yes.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Would you  
6 like to wait to get there?

7 A VOICE: Yes, absolutely, sir. Thank  
8 you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Well,  
10 then, any other questions before we move to the  
11 amendatory process?

12 Seeing none, we are going to move to  
13 amendment number one by Representative  
14 Precourt. You are recognized to explain the  
15 amendment.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,  
17 Chairman Weatherford.

18 Members, again, you have the amendment in  
19 front of you. This amendment is a little bit  
20 different than the others. It is also map  
21 9008, and it conforms to this bill that we have  
22 in front of us, the one that passed through the  
23 Senate subcommittee and that we workshopped in  
24 our last meeting. It conforms that bill to the  
25 Senate map included in SJR 1176, 1176, which is

1 the bill that the Senate passed last week.

2 I will let staff again outline the  
3 detailed changes that were made, but in  
4 summary, the amendment reduces the number of  
5 cities that were split by 24 cities, reduces it  
6 by 24, decreasing that down to only 54 cities  
7 that are split, and it also lowers the total  
8 population deviation to two percent. So with  
9 that, Mr. Chair, we ought to have Mr. Poreda --

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, why  
11 don't we do that, if we could, staying in the  
12 same light here, why don't -- Mr. Poreda, if  
13 you could enlighten us on some of the  
14 differences between the former map and what the  
15 amendment would do, thank you.

16 MR. POREDA: Absolutely. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 The amendment makes several changes all  
19 around the map. It actually decreases the  
20 amount of cities split by 24 cities, going from  
21 78 to 54 cities all around the map. In many  
22 cases, some of those changes are just one or  
23 two census blocks where no people live in them  
24 that were changed to keep the city whole, and  
25 rather than take the Committee through every

1 single one of those little, tiny changes, I  
2 will highlight some of the three or four  
3 examples to kind of show some of the larger  
4 examples and then go from there.

5 First we will go to the Lake County area  
6 once it comes back up. This you can see, this  
7 is probably the largest change that is most  
8 visible on the map. Previously the three  
9 cities considered the Golden Triangle of  
10 Eustis, Tavares and Mt. Dora were split. On  
11 this map, those three cities are kept whole.  
12 And I think the city lines are -- yes, there  
13 you go. So you can see those three cities that  
14 are in the green District 11 right there, those  
15 are the Golden Triangle cities that are kept  
16 whole. And by keeping those three cities  
17 whole, the district was actually -- District  
18 10, the pink district directly underneath it,  
19 was actually able to keep the City of Leesburg  
20 whole and the City of Fruitland Park whole,  
21 which were both cities that were previously  
22 split in the previous map.

23 Next we will kind of go to the Orange  
24 County area to see the City of Oakland, that  
25 little city right there. This is an example of

1 a city that Senate reapportionment staff saw  
2 that they could keep whole, and made that  
3 change to the map. So that is one of the  
4 changes that you can see there.

5 The next example is an example of a city  
6 where the Polk County Supervisor of Elections,  
7 as well as public input, suggested they keep  
8 whole. That is the city of Davenport in Polk  
9 County. Previously, the City of Davenport was  
10 split. That is Haines City right there.  
11 Davenport is right above that. You can see it  
12 is kept whole in the District 16 just above  
13 Haines City. Right there, yeah, that is the  
14 City of Davenport. Previously, this was a city  
15 that was split. The Polk County Supervisor of  
16 Elections suggested to try to keep that city  
17 whole, and there was a lot of public input  
18 speaking to that effect as well, and they were  
19 able to make that change.

20 Another example of the many changes  
21 throughout the map are small, little changes  
22 that Supervisors of Election throughout the  
23 state asked. If we go to the Pensacola area  
24 real quick, you can see that -- if we zoom in  
25 on the City of Pensacola, the borders between

1           Districts 1 and 3 were altered very, very  
2           slightly, in some cases, just a couple of dozen  
3           people were affected. Those changes were  
4           recommended by the Escambia County Supervisor  
5           of Elections to try to keep -- try to prevent  
6           some of the voter islands, the concept that we  
7           talked about last week where there might be a  
8           school board district that overlaps just ever  
9           so slightly with one of the Senate districts,  
10          so then that would -- only a couple dozen  
11          people would get a unique ballot and you would  
12          be able to figure out how they voted. So  
13          that's very, very minor changes to that, and  
14          the rest of the changes throughout the map are  
15          kind of in the same light, recommended by the  
16          Supervisors of Elections around the state.

17                 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Great. Thank  
18                 you very much, Jason.

19                 Members, are there any questions in regard  
20                 to the amendment? Questions on the amendment?

21                 Is there any public testimony on the  
22                 amendment? I don't think we have any cards.

23                 Any debate on the amendment? Seeing no  
24                 debate on the amendment, you are recognized to  
25                 close the amendment, Representative Precourt.

1           REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair  
2           Weatherford. Again, thank you to staff for all  
3           the detailed hard work they did on this, and I  
4           waive close.

5           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Having waived  
6           close, would the administrative assistant  
7           please call the roll.

8           THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

9           REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

10          THE CLERK: Representatives Adkins?

11          REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.

12          THE CLERK: Bernard?

13          REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

14          THE CLERK: Chestnut?

15          REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

16          THE CLERK: Dorworth?

17          REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.

18          THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?

19          REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.

20          THE CLERK: Fresen?

21          REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.

22          THE CLERK: Frishe?

23          REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.

24          THE CLERK: Holder?

25          REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Horner?  
2 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
3 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
4 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
5 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
6 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
7 THE CLERK: Jones?  
8 Kiar?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
10 THE CLERK: Legg?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.  
12 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.  
14 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.  
16 THE CLERK: Rogers?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: No.  
18 THE CLERK: Rouson?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: No.  
20 THE CLERK: Schenck?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.  
22 THE CLERK: Workman?  
23 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.  
24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. So the  
25 amendment passes.

1           We are back on the bill. Is there any  
2           debate on the bill as amended? Any debate on  
3           the bill? Any questions on the bill? Do you  
4           have a question? Representative Jenne, we are  
5           back to you, questions on the bill.

6           REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Thank you, thank  
7           you, Chairman, and, again, I always appreciate  
8           it.

9           And I guess what my question is, I have  
10          seen public comment that -- and I guess beauty  
11          is in the eye of the beholder, but I've heard a  
12          lot of public comment after the Senate map had  
13          come out that our map -- our map meaning the  
14          map governing the House seats -- was better.  
15          I've read public commentary from members and  
16          other folks who had said that.

17          So my question is this: Outside of  
18          legislative tradition, why do we want to vote  
19          this map out? Is this the best product we  
20          have, or is there something we can do moving  
21          forward, because I know there are some concerns  
22          with this map?

23          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: What I would  
24          say is if your curiosity peaks you to such an  
25          extent, you can certainly file an amendment to

1 change the map. We have had the maps out since  
2 December the 6th. We have been following the  
3 Senate map very closely. We send e-mails  
4 regularly out to every member of this Committee  
5 and of the chamber to let them know what the  
6 amendment deadlines are. If any member of this  
7 Committee or of the chamber would like to file  
8 an amendment, we have another crack at it on  
9 the floor, and if you feel like you can improve  
10 the map, we would encourage you, Representative  
11 Jenne, to file that amendment and explain it on  
12 the floor.

13 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: I always appreciate  
14 your encouragement, Chairman, thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You're  
16 welcome. Any other questions?

17 Seeing no questions, any debate on the  
18 bill?

19 Seeing no debate on the bill, you are  
20 recognized to close on the bill, Representative  
21 Legg -- or, I'm sorry, Representative Nehr.

22 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 I don't have much to add, members. I just  
25 want to reiterate that the bill, when you

1 reflect on those issues that are pertinent in  
2 the law, makes improvements in every single way  
3 in terms of compactness, use of city, county  
4 and other boundaries, and in terms of  
5 representation for racial and language  
6 minorities. And at this time, Mr. Chair, I  
7 just want to thank my co-Chair, Representative  
8 Hukill, for all her hard work that she's put  
9 into this particular bill. Also I want to  
10 thank the redistricting staff as a whole,  
11 especially Alex Kelly, for their hard work, and  
12 with that, Mr. Chairman, I close.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you  
14 very much. Having closed on the bill, would  
15 the administrative assistant please call the  
16 roll.

17 THE CLERK: Chair Weatherford?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Representatives Adkins?

20 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Yes.

21 THE CLERK: Bernard?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: No.

23 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

24 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: No.

25 THE CLERK: Dorworth?

1 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Yes.  
2 THE CLERK: Eisnaugle?  
3 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Yes.  
4 THE CLERK: Fresen?  
5 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Yes.  
6 THE CLERK: Frishe?  
7 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Yes.  
8 THE CLERK: Holder?  
9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes.  
10 THE CLERK: Horner?  
11 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Yes.  
12 THE CLERK: Hukill?  
13 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.  
14 THE CLERK: Jenne?  
15 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: No.  
16 THE CLERK: Jones?  
17 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No.  
18 THE CLERK: Kiar?  
19 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: No.  
20 THE CLERK: Legg?  
21 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Yes.  
22 THE CLERK: Nehr?  
23 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Yes.  
24 THE CLERK: Precourt?  
25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: Rogers?

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: Rouson?

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: No.

5 THE CLERK: Schenck?

6 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Workman?

8 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Let's  
10 show that it passes favorably.

11 Okay, members, we are almost there. A  
12 couple of announcements that we want to get out  
13 of the way here. I appreciate everyone hanging  
14 in there with us, but before I make some  
15 parting comments, I want to walk through the  
16 process of where we go from here.

17 The plan right now is that next week we  
18 should have second reading of these bills on  
19 Thursday. Amendments would be due to the  
20 Committee by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday. That's  
21 that -- the two-day rule that we've got to give  
22 everyone opportunity to see amendments. At a  
23 minimum, I will have two amendments.

24 First, we are in possession of a single  
25 joint resolution from the Senate for both state

1 legislative -- for both state legislative maps.  
2 That joint resolution contains the State Senate  
3 map that they passed, and it essentially  
4 contains language, without any details, as a  
5 parking spot for the State House map to be put  
6 into it. We will be taking up the joint  
7 resolution passed by the Florida Senate, and  
8 amending it to the State House map.

9 Second, we are in possession of a single  
10 general bill from the Senate for the  
11 congressional map. I will be offering an  
12 amendment to strike the congressional map as  
13 passed by the Florida Senate and replacing it  
14 with the congressional map that we passed here  
15 today. In addition to that, in the maps passed  
16 by the Florida Senate, they include a  
17 plain-language description of the geography of  
18 each of the districts as whereas clauses in the  
19 beginning of the bills. My amendments will  
20 also include a plain-language description of  
21 the State House and the congressional maps.  
22 Essentially, if you look at the bill analysis  
23 of the bills that were passed today, the  
24 whereas clauses will be almost exactly the  
25 same, very similar to those.

1           Are there any questions on what I just  
2 walked through or on the process between now  
3 and Friday? Representative Bernard, you are  
4 recognized for a question.

5           REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair. Regarding the House maps that we  
7 passed out, do we expect any amendments filed  
8 by staff or anything like that from now until  
9 next week, or is this it?

10          REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: As far as  
11 changes to the map we just pass -- at this  
12 stage of the game, I would say we don't have  
13 any plans to file any additional amendments.  
14 Certainly we have had people who showed up just  
15 today offering suggestions, and I think that is  
16 part of the fluid process of this, so if new  
17 amendments come forth, they certainly would be  
18 filed by Tuesday and we'd give everyone ample  
19 opportunity to look at them, and we encourage  
20 anyone, if you feel like you can make an  
21 improvement to this map and make it in  
22 compliance with the law better than what we  
23 have done, we certainly would ask you to do so.  
24 Good question.

25          Any other questions before we move

1 forward?

2           If I could just -- really quickly, I just  
3 think that -- I want to thank the indulgence of  
4 this Committee, of all the subcommittees and  
5 really everyone who participated in this  
6 process. We have been doing this for quite  
7 some time. We've gotten to know each other  
8 very well. We've sat through a lot of public  
9 hearings. We had thousands of people come  
10 before us and tell us what they thought, and I  
11 think it is really historic. And what I said  
12 earlier about us charting a course for the  
13 process in the future, I really meant that. I  
14 feel like it is our obligation to do this in  
15 the right way so that when people come behind  
16 us in 2022 and 2032 and '42 and so forth, that  
17 we have laid a foundation that is honorable and  
18 holds up the integrity of this process. I feel  
19 like we have done that. I am very proud of you  
20 and your contributions to this.

21           We are not done, but I certainly want to  
22 thank all of our co-Chairs who worked extremely  
23 hard to get the product to this Committee, and  
24 I want to thank all the members of this  
25 Committee for your support.

1           We had -- in the essence of thanks,  
2           there's a couple of folks I want to thank.  
3           First of all, we want to thank our  
4           redistricting staff. Alex Kelly and -- I have  
5           never witnessed a staff that has worked harder.  
6           I mean, these guys have been -- you know, we  
7           know our staff and this process work hard the  
8           last three or four weeks of session. They have  
9           been working that hard for three or four months  
10          straight. And you guys all deserve a good  
11          vacation, so -- and a bonus. I will try to  
12          talk to the Speaker. I am not sure I can pull  
13          that trigger for you. But Alex Kelly and Jeff  
14          Takacs and Jason Poreda and Katie Crofoot and  
15          Ben Fairbrother and Jeff Silver, these folks  
16          have really sacrificed a lot of time, time with  
17          their families, to try to make this process go  
18          smooth, and we just cannot thank you all  
19          enough. We are very proud of the product you  
20          have put forth.

21                 I also want to thank the House -- the  
22                 Office of Public Information. They have done a  
23                 wonderful job of making sure all the things  
24                 that we are doing have been available to the  
25                 public, and we are very grateful for that.

1           I want to thank Speaker Cannon. Speaker  
2 Cannon came to me early on -- I think I have  
3 told you all this story, but when he told me I  
4 was going to Chair this Committee, he had a big  
5 smile on his face, and I wasn't sure why he was  
6 smiling, but I've figured it out now, and that  
7 he knew this was going to be a challenge, but  
8 he entrusted me with this opportunity to guide  
9 this process, and I thank the Speaker for  
10 making sure that this process was a fair and  
11 open one.

12           And, frankly, lastly, and I will close  
13 with this, I want to thank all the citizens who  
14 have worked so hard to make this product what  
15 it is. This truly is a product of thousands of  
16 people. It truly is a product that  
17 incorporated more thoughts, more public  
18 testimony, more input, than I think anybody at  
19 the beginning of this process would have  
20 imagined, and we should be proud of that as a  
21 committee, I look forward to presenting it on  
22 the floor, and I thank you all for working with  
23 me.

24           And, Representative Rouson, you've got  
25 that look on your face, I know you want to say

1 something, so I will recognize you, too, sir.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. Chair. I do want to say that I think  
4 people have had an opportunity to be heard.  
5 You certainly have been a good Chair, allowing  
6 folks to speak. And I attended a lot of the  
7 hearings, like everybody else here, but I have  
8 to say to you that it wasn't until today that I  
9 really heard invectives, pejoratives, reference  
10 to organization as being like a three-year-old,  
11 you know. Maybe it is because we couldn't  
12 speak at some of the public hearings that we  
13 didn't hear it before. Like I've said to you,  
14 I think some of us have prided ourselves on  
15 being able to attack policy, procedure, as  
16 opposed to character of men or character of  
17 organizations or refer to each other in terms  
18 that are less than endearing. I hope that when  
19 this does get to the floor and as we continue  
20 this process, that as a statesman and not so  
21 much as politicians we remember in our comments  
22 that, you know, extremism and attacking  
23 people's motives and character, we need to look  
24 out for that and be concerned. I certainly  
25 would never tell an organization that they

1           acted like a three-year-old, or use some of the  
2           other words that I heard today, I would never  
3           say that to a fellow State Representative.  If  
4           I have done it, I apologize, and -- but  
5           certainly this has been a tense process, but as  
6           we move towards the floor, I hope we are guided  
7           by our real purpose here.

8                         REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD:  Mr. Rouson, I  
9           appreciate those comments, and the ones at  
10          least that you stated never came out of my  
11          mouth, but I will say this:  If someone is  
12          going to attack the integrity of this Committee  
13          and attack the integrity of the process under  
14          which we've spent the last eight months working  
15          for, then we have every single right to push  
16          back, we have every single right to defend  
17          ourselves and to defend, frankly, this process.  
18          It is not defending people.  We are not talking  
19          about people.  This is not about organizations  
20          or people.  This is about a process, this is  
21          about a constitutional obligation that we  
22          signed up for.  And when we follow that  
23          constitutional mandate and people challenge  
24          that integrity and the integrity of the people  
25          who sit on that Committee, then as Chairman and

1 as a member of this Committee, we have every  
2 right to challenge that, and we will continue  
3 to do that, and if people challenge it on the  
4 floor, we will challenge it there as well.

5 But I welcome your comments, I take your  
6 words to be genuine, and we should be careful  
7 as to the types of words that we utilize when  
8 we are expressing our thoughts. But I view it  
9 as Chairman of this Committee who has worked to  
10 guide this process through in a legal manner,  
11 that if someone tries to attack the manner in  
12 which we led this Committee, that we will push  
13 back, and we will answer those questions with  
14 honesty and with integrity, and we will make  
15 sure that when this map passes the floor,  
16 everything we have done up until this point  
17 will be for the right reasons and we will  
18 follow through on the things that we said when  
19 we started out.

20 So thank you, and with that, if there's no  
21 other comments, Representative Nehr moves we  
22 rise.

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
24 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 137 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-recording;

And I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014



# The Journal OF THE House of Representatives

Number 12

Friday, February 3, 2012

The House was called to order by the Speaker at 1:00 p.m.

## Prayer

The following prayer was offered by the Reverend A. D. Lenoir, Sr. of Westview Baptist Church of Miami, upon invitation of Rep. Campbell:

Dear gracious Creator of the Universe, we come to You now in the most humblest way that we know how—asking for Your forgiveness of our sins of commission. Those we had in our minds and hearts, set on doing and did, and then the sins of omission—those we were clueless of committing.

Then, Creator, we thank You for Your allowing us to be able to make a difference in our communities, one person a time, that makes a difference in our world, one family at a time. We also thank You for the joy we share in doing this great work You have commissioned us to do.

We also thank You for all Your great blessings, even those that come through the trials, tests, and troubles we face. Thank You, for always thinking of us when we so often forget about You.

Loving and Caring Creator, we pray for Your grace and mercy this session and all sessions to come—that Your presence will overshadow our indifferences and variations of ideas and viewpoints on matters.

We praise You, thank You, and need You now and forever more. In the most excellent, most encouraging name that is above all names we pray, and the House said Amen.

The following members were recorded present:

Session Vote Sequence: 663

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Abruzzo	Campbell	Gaetz	Julien
Adkins	Cannon	Garcia	Kiar
Ahern	Chestnut	Gibbons	Kriseman
Albritton	Clarke-Reed	Glorioso	Legg
Artiles	Clemens	Gonzalez	Logan
Aubuchon	Coley	Goodson	Lopez-Cantera
Baxley	Corcoran	Grant	Mayfield
Bembry	Costello	Grimsley	McBurney
Berman	Crisafulli	Hager	McKeel
Bernard	Cruz	Harrison	Metz
Bileca	Davis	Holder	Moraitis
Boyd	Diaz	Hooper	Nehr
Brandes	Dorworth	Horner	Nelson
Brodeur	Drake	Hudson	Nuñez
Broxson	Eisnaugle	Hukill	O'Toole
Bullard	Ford	Ingram	Oliva
Burgin	Fresen	Jenne	Pafford
Caldwell	Frishe	Jones	Passidomo

Patronis	Reed	Snyder	Van Zant
Perman	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Soto	Waldman
Perry	Renuart	Stafford	Watson
Pilon	Roberson, K.	Stargel	Weatherford
Plakon	Rogers	Steinberg	Weinstein
Porter	Rooney	Steube	Williams, A.
Porth	Rouson	Taylor	Williams, T.
Precourt	Saunders	Thompson, G.	Wood
Proctor	Schenck	Thurston	Workman
Randolph	Slosberg	Tobia	Young
Ray	Smith	Trujillo	

(A list of excused members appears at the end of the *Journal*.)

A quorum was present.

## Pledge

The members, led by the following, pledged allegiance to the Flag: Andrew Meyer of Tallahassee at the invitation of Rep. Gaetz; Skylar Miles of Ocala at the invitation of Rep. Lopez-Cantera; Jaynie Mitchell of Tallahassee at the invitation of Rep. A. Williams; Pavlina Osta of Port Orange at the invitation of Rep. Taylor; Cailynn Saulsberry of Fairfield at the invitation of the Speaker; Brian Sciba of Tallahassee at the invitation of Rep. Coley; Anita Seiter of Ocoee at the invitation of Rep. Nelson; Imani Thomas of Tallahassee at the invitation of Rep. G. Thompson; and Darrion Williams of Tampa at the invitation of the Speaker.

## Correction of the *Journal*

The *Journal* of February 2 was corrected and approved as corrected.

## Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading

**CS/HB 483**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code; revising and providing provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code relating to secured transactions to conform to the revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code as prepared by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; amending s. 679.1021, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 679.1051, F.S.; revising provisions relating to control of electronic chattel paper; amending s. 679.3071, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the location of debtors; amending s. 679.3111, F.S.; making editorial changes; amending s. 679.3161, F.S.; providing rules that apply to certain collateral to which a security interest attaches; providing rules relating to certain financing statements; amending s. 679.3171, F.S.; revising provisions relating to interests that take priority over or take free of a security interest or agricultural lien; amending s. 679.326, F.S.; revising priority of security interests created by a new debtor; amending ss. 679.4061 and 679.4081, F.S.; revising application; amending s. 679.5021, F.S.; revising when a record of a mortgage satisfying the requirements of chapter 697 is effective as a filing

statement; amending s. 679.5031, F.S.; revising when a financing statement sufficiently provides the name of the debtor; amending s. 679.5071, F.S.; revising the effect of certain events on the effectiveness of a financing statement; amending s. 679.515, F.S.; revising the duration and effectiveness of a financing statement; amending s. 679.516, F.S.; revising instances when filing does not occur with respect to a record that a filing office refuses to accept; amending s. 679.518, F.S.; revising requirements for claims concerning an inaccurate or wrongfully filed record; amending s. 679.607, F.S.; revising recording requirements for the enforcement of mortgages nonjudicially outside this state; creating part VIII of chapter 679, F.S., relating to transition from prior law under the chapter to law under the chapter as amended by this act; creating s. 679.801, F.S.; providing scope of application and limitations; creating s. 679.802, F.S.; providing that security interests perfected under prior law that also satisfy the requirements for perfection under this act remain effective; creating s. 679.803, F.S.; providing that security interests unperfected under prior law but that satisfy the requirements for perfection under this act will become effective July 1, 2013; creating s. 679.804, F.S.; providing when financing statements effective under prior law in a different jurisdiction remain effective; creating s. 679.805, F.S.; requiring the recording of a financing statement in lieu of a continuation statement under certain conditions; providing for the continuation of the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before the effective date of this act under certain conditions; creating s. 679.806, F.S.; providing requirements for the amendment of financing statements filed before the effective date of this act; providing requirements for financing statements prior to amendment; creating s. 679.807, F.S.; providing person entitled to file initial financing statement or continuation statement; creating s. 679.808, F.S.; providing priority of conflicting claims to collateral; amending s. 680.1031, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing a directive to the Division of Statutory Revision; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 664

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—116

Abruzzo	Diaz	Legg	Roberson, K.
Adkins	Dorworth	Logan	Rogers
Ahern	Drake	Lopez-Cantera	Rooney
Albritton	Eisnaugle	Mayfield	Rouson
Artiles	Ford	McBurney	Saunders
Aubuchon	Fresen	McKeel	Schenck
Baxley	Frishe	Metz	Slosberg
Bembry	Gaetz	Moraitis	Smith
Berman	Garcia	Nehr	Snyder
Bernard	Gibbons	Nelson	Soto
Bileca	Glorioso	Nuñez	Stafford
Boyd	Gonzalez	O'Toole	Stargel
Brandes	Goodson	Oliva	Steinberg
Brodeur	Grant	Pafford	Steube
Broxson	Grimsley	Passidomo	Taylor
Bullard	Hager	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Burgin	Harrell	Perman	Thurston
Caldwell	Harrison	Perry	Tobia
Campbell	Holder	Pilon	Trujillo
Cannon	Hooper	Plakon	Van Zant
Chestnut	Horner	Porter	Waldman
Clarke-Reed	Hudson	Porth	Watson
Clemens	Hukill	Precourt	Weatherford
Coley	Ingram	Proctor	Weinstein
Corcoran	Jenne	Randolph	Williams, A.
Costello	Jones	Ray	Williams, T.
Crisafulli	Julien	Reed	Wood
Cruz	Kiar	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Davis	Kriseman	Renuart	Young

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel, Schwartz

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 103**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the transfer of tax liability; amending s. 213.758, F.S.; providing definitions; revising provisions relating to tax liability when a person transfers or quits a business; providing that the transfer of the assets of a business or stock of goods of a business under certain circumstances is considered a transfer of the business; requiring the Department of Revenue to provide certain notification to a business before a circuit court shall temporarily enjoin business activity by that business; providing that transferees of the business are liable for certain taxes unless specified conditions are met; requiring the department to conduct certain audits relating to the tax liability of transferors and transferees of a business within a specified time period; requiring certain notification by the Department of Revenue to a transferee before a circuit court shall enjoin business activity in an action brought by the Department of Legal Affairs seeking an injunction; specifying a transferor and transferee of the assets of a business are jointly and severally liable for certain tax payments up to a specified maximum amount; specifying the maximum liability of a transferee; providing methods for calculating the fair market value or total purchase price of specified business transfers to determine maximum tax liability of transferees; excluding certain transferees from tax liability when the transfer consists only of specified assets; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to provide certain tax information to a transferee against whom tax liability is being asserted pursuant to s. 213.758, F.S.; repealing s. 202.31, F.S., relating to the tax liability and criminal liability of dealers of communications services who make certain transfers related to a communications services business; repealing s. 212.10, F.S., relating to a dealer's tax liability and criminal liability for sales tax when certain transfers of a business occur; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 665

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—115

Abruzzo	Diaz	Logan	Rogers
Adkins	Dorworth	Lopez-Cantera	Rooney
Ahern	Drake	Mayfield	Rouson
Albritton	Eisnaugle	McBurney	Saunders
Artiles	Ford	McKeel	Schenck
Aubuchon	Fresen	Metz	Slosberg
Baxley	Frishe	Moraitis	Smith
Bembry	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Berman	Garcia	Nelson	Soto
Bernard	Gibbons	Nuñez	Stafford
Bileca	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stargel
Boyd	Gonzalez	Oliva	Steinberg
Brandes	Grant	Pafford	Steube
Brodeur	Grimsley	Passidomo	Taylor
Broxson	Hager	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Bullard	Harrell	Perman	Thurston
Burgin	Harrison	Perry	Tobia
Caldwell	Holder	Pilon	Trujillo
Campbell	Hooper	Plakon	Van Zant
Cannon	Horner	Porter	Waldman
Chestnut	Hudson	Porth	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Hukill	Precourt	Weatherford
Clemens	Ingram	Proctor	Weinstein
Coley	Jenne	Randolph	Williams, A.
Corcoran	Jones	Ray	Williams, T.
Costello	Julien	Reed	Wood
Crisafulli	Kiar	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Cruz	Kriseman	Renuart	Young
Davis	Legg	Roberson, K.	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Goodson, Kreegel, Schwartz

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/HB 517** —A bill to be entitled An act relating to reducing and streamlining regulations; amending ss. 455.271, 468.4338, 468.525, 468.8317, 468.8417, 475.615, 475.617, 475.6175, 477.0212, 481.209, 481.211, 481.213, 481.217, 481.315, 489.116, and 489.519, F.S.; revising certain licensure requirements and continuing education requirements for reactivating a license, certificate, or registration to practice certain professions and occupations regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation or a board or council within the department, including community association management, employee leasing, home inspection, mold-related services, real estate appraisal, cosmetology, architecture and interior design, landscape architecture, construction contracting, and electrical and alarm system contracting; amending s. 469.002, F.S.; providing an exemption from licensure as an asbestos consultant or contractor for activities involving pipe or conduit used for gas service; amending s. 475.6235, F.S.; revising registration requirements for appraisal management companies; amending ss. 468.391, 475.25, 475.42, 475.624, 475.6245, 475.626, 476.194, and 477.0265, F.S., relating to auctioneering, real estate brokering and appraisal, barbering, and cosmetology; revising language with respect to certain penalties; revising grounds for discipline to which penalties apply; amending s. 475.628, F.S.; requiring the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board to adopt rules establishing professional practice standards; amending s. 373.461, F.S.; requiring certain appraisers to follow specific standards of professional practice in appraisals involving the restoration of the Lake Apopka Basin; amending s. 468.841, F.S.; exempting landscape architects from complying with provisions related to mold assessment; amending s. 474.202, F.S.; revising the definition of the terms "limited-service veterinary medical practice" and "veterinary medicine"; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

Representative Grant offered the following:

(Amendment Bar Code: 769789)

**Amendment 5 (with title amendment)**—Between lines 532 and 533, insert:

Section 31. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 475.611, Florida Statutes, are amended, paragraphs (t) through (x) are redesignated as paragraphs (u) through (y), respectively, and a new paragraph (t) is added to that subsection, to read:

475.611 Definitions.—

(1) As used in this part, the term:

(c) "Appraisal management company" means a person who performs appraisal management services regardless of the use of the term "appraisal management company," "appraiser cooperative," "appraiser portal," "mortgage technology company," or other term.

(d) "Appraisal management services" means the coordination or management of appraisal services for compensation by:

1. Employing, contracting with, or otherwise retaining one or more licensed or certified appraisers to perform appraisal services for a client; or

2. Acting as a broker or intermediary between a client and one or more licensed or certified appraisers to facilitate the client's employing, contracting with, or otherwise retaining the appraisers.

(t) "Subsidiary" means an organization that is owned and controlled by a financial institution that is regulated by a federal financial institution regulatory agency.

Section 32. Subsection (4) of section 475.6171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

475.6171 Issuance of registration or certification.—The registration or certification of an applicant may be issued upon receipt by the board of the following:

(4) If required, proof of passing a written examination as specified in s. 475.616. ~~No certification shall be issued based upon any examination results obtained more than 24 months after the date of examination.~~

Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 475.6235, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

475.6235 Registration of appraisal management companies required; exemptions.—

(1) A person may not engage, or offer to engage, in appraisal management services for compensation in this state, advertise or represent herself or himself as an appraisal management company, ~~or use the titles "appraisal management company," "appraiser cooperative," "appraiser portal," or "mortgage technology company," or any abbreviation or words to that effect,~~ unless the person is registered with the department as an appraisal management company under this section. However, an employee of an appraisal management company is not required to obtain a separate registration.

(9) This section does not apply to:

(a) Any financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, that owns and operates an internal appraisal office, business unit, or department; or

(b) An appraisal management company that is a subsidiary owned and controlled by a financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, regulated by a federal financial institution regulatory agency.

#### TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 36 and insert:

medical practice" and "veterinary medicine"; amending s. 475.611, F.S.; revising the definition of the terms "appraisal management company" and "appraisal management services"; amending s. 475.6171, F.S.; revising requirements for the issuance of registration or certification upon receipt of proper documentation; amending s. 475.6235, F.S.; revising provisions relating to titles an appraisal management company must be registered to use; providing exemptions from registration requirements; providing an

Rep. Grant moved the adoption of the amendment, which was adopted by the required two-thirds vote.

Representative Grant offered the following:

(Amendment Bar Code: 791331)

**Amendment 6 (with title amendment)**—Between lines 532 and 533, insert:

Section 31. Subsection (12) is added to section 455.213, Florida Statutes, to read:

455.213 General licensing provisions.—

(12) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity fee for a military veteran who applies to the department for a license, in a format prescribed by the department, within 24 months after discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for this waiver, the veteran must have been honorably discharged.

#### TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 36 and insert:

medical practice" and "veterinary medicine"; amending s. 455.213, F.S.; waiving initial licensing, application, and unlicensed activity fees for certain military veterans; providing an

Rep. Grant moved the adoption of the amendment, which was adopted by the required two-thirds vote.

Representative Grant offered the following:

(Amendment Bar Code: 769059)

**Amendment 7 (with title amendment)**—Between lines 532 and 533, insert:

Section 31. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 475.451, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (4) through (8) are renumbered as subsections (5) through (9), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

475.451 Schools teaching real estate practice.—

(2) An applicant for a permit to operate a proprietary real estate school, to be a chief administrator of a proprietary real estate school or a state institution, or to be an instructor for a proprietary real estate school or a state institution must meet the qualifications for practice set forth in s. 475.17(1) and the following minimal requirements:

(c) "School instructor" means an individual who instructs persons in the classroom in noncredit college courses in a college, university, or community college or courses in a career center or proprietary real estate school.

1. Before commencing to provide such instruction, the applicant must certify the applicant's competency and obtain an instructor permit by meeting one of the following requirements:

a. Hold a bachelor's degree in a business-related subject, such as real estate, finance, accounting, business administration, or its equivalent and hold a valid broker's license in this state.

b. Hold a bachelor's degree, have extensive real estate experience, as defined by rule, and hold a valid broker's license in this state.

c. Pass an instructor's examination approved by the commission.

2. Any requirement by the commission for a teaching demonstration or practical examination must apply to all school instructor applicants.

3. The department shall renew an instructor permit upon receipt of a renewal application and fee. The renewal application shall include proof that the permitholder has, since the issuance or renewal of the current permit, successfully completed a minimum of 7 classroom or distance learning hours of instruction in real estate subjects or instructional techniques, as prescribed by the commission. The commission shall adopt rules providing for the renewal of instructor permits at least every 2 years. Any permit that which is not renewed at the end of the permit period established by the department ~~shall~~ automatically reverts ~~revert~~ to involuntarily inactive status.

The department may require an applicant to submit names of persons having knowledge concerning the applicant and the enterprise; may propound interrogatories to such persons and to the applicant concerning the character of the applicant, including the taking of fingerprints for processing through the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and shall make such investigation of the applicant or the school or institution as it may deem necessary to the granting of the permit. If an objection is filed, it shall be considered in the same manner as objections or administrative complaints against other applicants for licensure by the department.

(4) A real estate school may offer any course through distance learning if the course complies with s. 475.17(2).

**TITLE AMENDMENT**

Remove line 36 and insert: medical practice" and "veterinary medicine"; amending s. 475.451, F.S.; authorizing distance learning courses as an acceptable alternative to classroom instruction for renewal of a real estate instructor permit; providing that distance learning courses are under the discretion of the school offering the real estate course; requiring distance learning courses to adhere to certain requirements; providing an

Rep. Grant moved the adoption of the amendment, which was adopted by the required two-thirds vote.

The question recurred on the passage of CS/HB 517. The vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 666

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—90

- |            |           |               |                     |
|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Adkins     | Dorworth  | Legg          | Ray                 |
| Ahern      | Drake     | Logan         | Reed                |
| Albritton  | Eisnaugle | Lopez-Cantera | Rehwinkel Vasilinda |
| Artiles    | Ford      | Mayfield      | Renuart             |
| Aubuchon   | Fresen    | McBurney      | Roberson, K.        |
| Baxley     | Frishe    | McKeel        | Rooney              |
| Bembry     | Gaetz     | Metz          | Rouson              |
| Bernard    | Gibbons   | Moraitis      | Schenck             |
| Bileca     | Glorioso  | Nehr          | Smith               |
| Boyd       | Gonzalez  | Nelson        | Snyder              |
| Brandes    | Goodson   | Nuñez         | Stargel             |
| Brodeur    | Grant     | O'Toole       | Steube              |
| Broxson    | Grimsley  | Oliva         | Tobia               |
| Burgin     | Hager     | Passidomo     | Trujillo            |
| Caldwell   | Harrell   | Patronis      | Weatherford         |
| Cannon     | Harrison  | Perman        | Weinstein           |
| Coley      | Holder    | Perry         | Williams, A.        |
| Corcoran   | Hooper    | Pilon         | Williams, T.        |
| Costello   | Horner    | Plakon        | Wood                |
| Crisafulli | Hudson    | Porter        | Workman             |
| Cruz       | Hukill    | Porth         | Young               |
| Davis      | Ingram    | Procourt      |                     |
| Diaz       | Julien    | Proctor       |                     |

Nays—26

- |             |          |           |              |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Abruzzo     | Garcia   | Rogers    | Thompson, G. |
| Berman      | Jenne    | Saunders  | Thurston     |
| Bullard     | Jones    | Slosberg  | Van Zant     |
| Campbell    | Kiar     | Soto      | Waldman      |
| Chestnut    | Kriseman | Stafford  | Watson       |
| Clarke-Reed | Pafford  | Steinberg |              |
| Clemens     | Randolph | Taylor    |              |

Votes after roll call:

- Yeas—Kreegel
- Nays—Fullwood, Schwartz
- Yeas to Nays—Rouson

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate after engrossment.

**HB 693**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to business and professional regulation; amending s. 455.271, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring business and nonmedical professional licensees of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to complete a licensure cycle on active status before returning to inactive status; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 667

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—116

- |           |             |          |               |
|-----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Abruzzo   | Cannon      | Gibbons  | Kriseman      |
| Adkins    | Chestnut    | Glorioso | Legg          |
| Ahern     | Clarke-Reed | Gonzalez | Logan         |
| Albritton | Clemens     | Goodson  | Lopez-Cantera |
| Artiles   | Coley       | Grant    | Mayfield      |
| Aubuchon  | Corcoran    | Grimsley | McBurney      |
| Baxley    | Costello    | Hager    | McKeel        |
| Bembry    | Crisafulli  | Harrell  | Metz          |
| Berman    | Cruz        | Harrison | Moraitis      |
| Bernard   | Davis       | Holder   | Nehr          |
| Bileca    | Diaz        | Hooper   | Nelson        |
| Boyd      | Dorworth    | Horner   | Nuñez         |
| Brandes   | Drake       | Hudson   | O'Toole       |
| Brodeur   | Eisnaugle   | Hukill   | Oliva         |
| Broxson   | Ford        | Ingram   | Pafford       |
| Bullard   | Fresen      | Jenne    | Passidomo     |
| Burgin    | Frishe      | Jones    | Patronis      |
| Caldwell  | Gaetz       | Julien   | Perman        |
| Campbell  | Garcia      | Kiar     | Perry         |

Pilon	Renuart	Soto	Van Zant
Plakon	Roberson, K.	Stafford	Waldman
Porter	Rogers	Stargel	Watson
Porth	Rooney	Steinberg	Weatherford
Precourt	Rouson	Steube	Weinstein
Proctor	Saunders	Taylor	Williams, A.
Randolph	Schenck	Thompson, G.	Williams, T.
Ray	Slosberg	Thurston	Wood
Reed	Smith	Tobia	Workman
Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Snyder	Trujillo	Young

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel, Schwartz

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/HB 387**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to electronic filing of construction plans; amending s. 468.604, F.S.; providing a legislative finding; providing for certain documents to be electronically signed and sealed by the licensee and electronically transmitted to a building code administrator or building official for approval; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 668

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—115

Abruzzo	Diaz	Logan	Rogers
Adkins	Dorworth	Lopez-Cantera	Rooney
Ahern	Drake	Mayfield	Rouson
Albritton	Eisnaugle	McBurney	Saunders
Artiles	Ford	McKeel	Schenck
Aubuchon	Fresen	Metz	Slosberg
Baxley	Frishe	Moraitis	Smith
Bembry	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Berman	Gibbons	Nelson	Soto
Bernard	Glorioso	Nuñez	Stafford
Bileca	Gonzalez	O'Toole	Stargel
Boyd	Goodson	Oliva	Steinberg
Brandes	Grant	Pafford	Steube
Brodeur	Grimsley	Passidomo	Taylor
Broxson	Hager	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Bullard	Harrell	Perman	Thurston
Burgin	Harrison	Perry	Tobia
Caldwell	Holder	Pilon	Trujillo
Campbell	Hooper	Plakon	Van Zant
Cannon	Horner	Porter	Waldman
Chestnut	Hudson	Porth	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Hukill	Precourt	Weatherford
Clemens	Ingram	Proctor	Weinstein
Coley	Jenne	Randolph	Williams, A.
Corcoran	Jones	Ray	Williams, T.
Costello	Julien	Reed	Wood
Crisafulli	Kiar	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Cruz	Kriseman	Renuart	Young
Davis	Legg	Roberson, K.	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Garcia, Kreegel, Schwartz

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/SJR 1176**—A joint resolution of apportionment; providing for the apportionment of the House of Representatives and the Senate (plans \_\_\_\_\_ and S000S9008); adopting the United States Decennial Census of 2010 for use in such apportionment; providing for the inclusion of omitted areas; providing contiguity for areas specified for inclusion in one district which are noncontiguous; specifying that the apportioned districts constitute

the legislative districts of the state; providing for severability of invalid portions; providing for application beginning in 2012.

—was read the third time by title.

The absence of a quorum was suggested. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence: 669].

The question recurred on the passage of **CS for SJR 1176**. The vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 670

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—80

Adkins	Dorworth	Ingram	Precourt
Ahern	Drake	Legg	Proctor
Albritton	Eisnaugle	Logan	Ray
Artiles	Ford	Lopez-Cantera	Renuart
Aubuchon	Fresen	Mayfield	Roberson, K.
Baxley	Frishe	McBurney	Rooney
Bileca	Gaetz	McKeel	Schenck
Boyd	Glorioso	Metz	Smith
Brandes	Gonzalez	Moraitis	Snyder
Brodeur	Goodson	Nehr	Stargel
Broxson	Grant	Nelson	Steube
Burgin	Grimsley	Nuñez	Tobia
Caldwell	Hager	O'Toole	Trujillo
Cannon	Harrell	Oliva	Van Zant
Coley	Harrison	Passidomo	Weatherford
Corcoran	Holder	Patronis	Weinstein
Costello	Hooper	Perry	Williams, T.
Crisafulli	Horner	Pilon	Wood
Davis	Hudson	Plakon	Workman
Diaz	Hukill	Porter	Young

Nays—37

Abruzzo	Garcia	Randolph	Steinberg
Bembry	Gibbons	Reed	Taylor
Berman	Jenne	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Thompson, G.
Bernard	Jones	Rogers	Thurston
Bullard	Julien	Rouson	Waldman
Campbell	Kiar	Saunders	Watson
Chestnut	Kriseman	Schwartz	Williams, A.
Clarke-Reed	Pafford	Slosberg	
Clemens	Perman	Soto	
Cruz	Porth	Stafford	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel

Nays—Fullwood

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate.

**CS for SB 1174**—A bill to be entitled An act establishing the congressional districts of the state; amending s. 8.0001, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 8.0002, F.S.; redistricting the state's congressional districts in accordance with the United States Decennial Census of 2010 (plan S004C9014); amending s. 8.0111, F.S., relating to the inclusion of unlisted territory in contiguous districts; updating a reference; reenacting s. 8.031, F.S., which provides for the election of representatives to the United States House of Representatives; amending s. 8.0611, F.S.; providing for severability; amending s. 8.07, F.S.; providing for applicability; providing effective dates.

—was read the third time by title.

The absence of a quorum was suggested. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence: 671].

The question recurred on the passage of **CS for SB 1174**. The vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 672

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—80

Adkins	Dorworth	Ingram	Precourt
Ahern	Drake	Legg	Proctor
Albritton	Eisnaugle	Logan	Ray
Artiles	Ford	Lopez-Cantera	Renuart
Aubuchon	Fresen	Mayfield	Roberson, K.
Baxley	Frishe	McBurney	Rooney
Bileca	Gaetz	McKeel	Schenck
Boyd	Glorioso	Metz	Smith
Brandes	Gonzalez	Moraitis	Snyder
Brodeur	Goodson	Nehr	Stargel
Broxson	Grant	Nelson	Steube
Burgin	Grimsley	Nuñez	Tobia
Caldwell	Hager	O'Toole	Trujillo
Cannon	Harrell	Oliva	Van Zant
Coley	Harrison	Passidomo	Weatherford
Corcoran	Holder	Patronis	Weinstein
Costello	Hooper	Perry	Williams, T.
Crisafulli	Horner	Pilon	Wood
Davis	Hudson	Plakon	Workman
Diaz	Hukill	Porter	Young

Nays—37

Abruzzo	Garcia	Randolph	Steinberg
Bembry	Gibbons	Reed	Taylor
Berman	Jenne	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Thompson, G.
Bernard	Jones	Rogers	Thurston
Bullard	Julien	Rouson	Waldman
Campbell	Kiar	Saunders	Watson
Chestnut	Kriseman	Schwartz	Williams, A.
Clarke-Reed	Pafford	Slosberg	
Clemens	Perman	Soto	
Cruz	Porth	Stafford	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel  
Nays—Fullwood

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 7013**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to a review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; repealing s. 119.071(1)(g), F.S., which provides an exemption from public records requirements for United States Census Bureau address information; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 673

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—117

Abruzzo	Caldwell	Fresen	Hukill
Adkins	Campbell	Frishe	Ingram
Ahern	Cannon	Gaetz	Jenne
Albritton	Chestnut	Garcia	Jones
Artiles	Clarke-Reed	Gibbons	Julien
Aubuchon	Clemens	Glorioso	Kiar
Baxley	Coley	Gonzalez	Kriseman
Bembry	Corcoran	Goodson	Legg
Berman	Costello	Grant	Logan
Bernard	Crisafulli	Grimsley	Lopez-Cantera
Bileca	Cruz	Hager	Mayfield
Boyd	Davis	Harrell	McBurney
Brandes	Diaz	Harrison	McKeel
Brodeur	Dorworth	Holder	Metz
Broxson	Drake	Hooper	Moraitis
Bullard	Eisnaugle	Horner	Nehr
Burgin	Ford	Hudson	Nelson

Nuñez	Proctor	Slosberg	Van Zant
O'Toole	Randolph	Smith	Waldman
Oliva	Ray	Snyder	Watson
Pafford	Reed	Soto	Weatherford
Passidomo	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Stafford	Weinstein
Patronis	Renuart	Stargel	Williams, A.
Perman	Roberson, K.	Steinberg	Williams, T.
Perry	Rogers	Steube	Wood
Pilon	Rooney	Taylor	Workman
Plakon	Rouson	Thompson, G.	Young
Porter	Saunders	Thurston	
Porth	Schenck	Tobia	
Precourt	Schwartz	Trujillo	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4079**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to alcoholic beverages; repealing s. 562.34, F.S., relating to seizure and forfeiture of certain alcoholic beverage containers; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 674

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—117

Abruzzo	Dorworth	Lopez-Cantera	Rouson
Adkins	Drake	Mayfield	Saunders
Ahern	Eisnaugle	McBurney	Schenck
Albritton	Ford	McKeel	Schwartz
Artiles	Fresen	Metz	Slosberg
Aubuchon	Frishe	Moraitis	Smith
Baxley	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Bembry	Garcia	Nelson	Soto
Berman	Gibbons	Nuñez	Stafford
Bernard	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stargel
Bileca	Gonzalez	Oliva	Steinberg
Boyd	Goodson	Pafford	Steube
Brandes	Grant	Passidomo	Taylor
Brodeur	Grimsley	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Broxson	Hager	Perman	Thurston
Bullard	Harrell	Perry	Tobia
Burgin	Harrison	Pilon	Trujillo
Caldwell	Holder	Plakon	Van Zant
Campbell	Hooper	Porter	Waldman
Cannon	Horner	Porth	Watson
Chestnut	Hudson	Precourt	Weatherford
Clarke-Reed	Hukill	Proctor	Weinstein
Clemens	Ingram	Randolph	Williams, A.
Coley	Jenne	Ray	Williams, T.
Corcoran	Jones	Reed	Wood
Costello	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Crisafulli	Kiar	Renuart	Young
Cruz	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	
Davis	Legg	Rogers	
Diaz	Logan	Rooney	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4101**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Department of Transportation; repealing s. 479.28, F.S., relating to the rest area information panel or device program; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 675

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—117

Abruzzo	Dorworth	Lopez-Canera	Rouson
Adkins	Drake	Mayfield	Saunders
Ahern	Eisnaugle	McBurney	Schenck
Albritton	Ford	McKeel	Schwartz
Artiles	Fresen	Metz	Slosberg
Aubuchon	Frishe	Moraitis	Smith
Baxley	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Bembry	Garcia	Nelson	Soto
Berman	Gibbons	Nuñez	Stafford
Bernard	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stargel
Bileca	Gonzalez	Oliva	Steinberg
Boyd	Goodson	Pafford	Steube
Brandes	Grant	Passidomo	Taylor
Brodeur	Grimsley	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Broxson	Hager	Perman	Thurston
Bullard	Harrell	Perry	Tobia
Burgin	Harrison	Pilon	Trujillo
Caldwell	Holder	Plakon	Van Zant
Campbell	Hooper	Porter	Waldman
Cannon	Homer	Porth	Watson
Chestnut	Hudson	Precourt	Weatherford
Clarke-Reed	Hukill	Proctor	Weinstein
Clemens	Ingram	Randolph	Williams, A.
Coley	Jenne	Ray	Williams, T.
Corcoran	Jones	Reed	Wood
Costello	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Crisafulli	Kiar	Renuart	Young
Cruz	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	
Davis	Legg	Rogers	
Diaz	Logan	Rooney	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4141**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Strategic Intermodal System; amending s. 339.64, F.S.; removing provisions creating and providing duties of the Statewide Intermodal Transportation Advisory Council; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 676

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—111

Abruzzo	Clemens	Hager	Moraitis
Adkins	Coley	Harrell	Nehr
Ahern	Corcoran	Harrison	Nelson
Albritton	Costello	Holder	Nuñez
Artiles	Crisafulli	Hooper	O'Toole
Aubuchon	Cruz	Homer	Oliva
Baxley	Davis	Hudson	Passidomo
Bembry	Dorworth	Hukill	Patronis
Berman	Drake	Ingram	Perman
Bernard	Eisnaugle	Jenne	Perry
Bileca	Ford	Jones	Pilon
Boyd	Fresen	Julien	Plakon
Brandes	Frishe	Kiar	Porter
Brodeur	Gaetz	Kriseman	Porth
Broxson	Garcia	Legg	Precourt
Burgin	Gibbons	Logan	Proctor
Caldwell	Glorioso	Lopez-Canera	Ray
Campbell	Gonzalez	Mayfield	Reed
Cannon	Goodson	McBurney	Rehwinkel Vasilinda
Chestnut	Grant	McKeel	Renuart
Clarke-Reed	Grimsley	Metz	Roberson, K.

Rogers	Snyder	Thurston	Weinstein
Rooney	Stafford	Tobia	Williams, A.
Rouson	Stargel	Trujillo	Williams, T.
Saunders	Steinberg	Van Zant	Wood
Schenck	Steube	Waldman	Workman
Slosberg	Taylor	Watson	Young
Smith	Thompson, G.	Weatherford	

Nays—5

Bullard	Randolph	Soto
Pafford	Schwartz	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Diaz, Fullwood, Kreegel

Yeas to Nays—Rehwinkel Vasilinda

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4143**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to transportation corridors; repealing s. 341.0532, F.S., relating to statewide transportation corridors; removing the definition of "statewide transportation corridors"; removing provisions that specify certain transportation facilities as statewide transportation corridors; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 677

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—107

Abruzzo	Davis	Julien	Reed
Adkins	Diaz	Kiar	Renuart
Ahern	Dorworth	Kriseman	Roberson, K.
Albritton	Drake	Legg	Rooney
Artiles	Eisnaugle	Logan	Rouson
Aubuchon	Ford	Lopez-Canera	Saunders
Baxley	Fresen	Mayfield	Schenck
Bembry	Frishe	McBurney	Slosberg
Berman	Gaetz	McKeel	Smith
Bernard	Garcia	Metz	Snyder
Bileca	Gibbons	Moraitis	Stargel
Boyd	Glorioso	Nehr	Steinberg
Brandes	Gonzalez	Nelson	Steube
Brodeur	Goodson	Nuñez	Taylor
Broxson	Grant	O'Toole	Thurston
Burgin	Grimsley	Oliva	Tobia
Caldwell	Hager	Passidomo	Trujillo
Campbell	Harrell	Patronis	Van Zant
Cannon	Harrison	Perman	Waldman
Chestnut	Holder	Perry	Weatherford
Clarke-Reed	Hooper	Pilon	Weinstein
Clemens	Homer	Plakon	Williams, A.
Coley	Hudson	Porter	Williams, T.
Corcoran	Hukill	Porth	Wood
Costello	Ingram	Precourt	Workman
Crisafulli	Jenne	Proctor	Young
Cruz	Jones	Ray	

Nays—10

Bullard	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Soto	Watson
Pafford	Rogers	Stafford	
Randolph	Schwartz	Thompson, G.	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/HB 7027**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to unemployment compensation; amending s. 443.011, F.S.; revising a short title to rename "unemployment compensation" as "reemployment assistance"; amending s. 443.012, F.S.; renaming the Unemployment Appeals Commission as the

Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission; amending s. 443.036, F.S.; providing a definition for the term "reemployment assistance"; revising references to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 443.071, F.S.; revising the requirements for establishing prima facie evidence of transaction history and payment; revising references to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 443.091, F.S.; providing scoring requirements relating to initial skills reviews; providing for workforce training for certain eligible claimants; providing reporting requirements; providing work search requirements for certain claimants; providing for the applicability of certain exceptions relating to benefits based on employment with a private employer under contract with an educational institution effective July 1, 2013; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; amending s. 443.101, F.S.; clarifying how a disqualification for benefits for fraud is imposed; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; reviving, readopting, and amending s. 443.1117, F.S., relating to temporary extended benefits; providing for retroactive application; establishing temporary state extended benefits for weeks of unemployment; revising definitions; providing for state extended benefits for certain weeks and for periods of high unemployment; providing for application of specified provisions of the act; amending s. 443.131, F.S.; prohibiting benefits from being charged to the employment record of an employer that is forced to lay off workers as a result of a manmade disaster of national significance; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; amending s. 443.1216, F.S.; providing that employee leasing companies may make a one-time election to report leased employees under the respective unemployment account of each leasing company client; providing procedures and application for such election; revising references to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 443.151, F.S.; revising the statute of limitations related to the collection of unemployment compensation benefits overpayments; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; amending s. 443.171, F.S.; deleting an exemption from public records requirements for unemployment compensation records and reports; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; amending s. 443.1715, F.S.; revising an exemption from public records requirements for unemployment compensation records and reports; revising references to conform to changes made by this act; amending ss. 20.60, 27.52, 40.24, 45.031, 55.204, 57.082, 61.046, 61.1824, 61.30, 69.041, 77.041, 110.205, 110.502, 120.80, 125.9502, 212.096, 213.053, 216.292, 220.03, 220.181, 220.191, 220.194, 222.15, 222.16, 255.20, 288.075, 288.1045, 288.106, 288.1081, 288.1089, 334.30, 408.809, 409.2563, 409.2576, 414.295, 435.06, 440.12, 440.15, 440.381, 440.42, 443.051, 443.111, 443.1113, 443.1116, 443.1215, 443.1312, 443.1313, 443.1315, 443.1316, 443.1317, 443.141, 443.163, 443.17161, 443.181, 443.191, 443.221, 445.009, 445.016, 446.50, 448.110, 450.31, 450.33, 468.529, 553.791, 624.509, 679.4061, 679.4081, 895.02, 896.101, 921.0022, 946.513, 946.523, 985.618, 1003.496, 1008.39, and 1008.41, F.S.; revising references to conform to changes made by the act; providing for severability; providing a declaration of important state interest; providing effective dates.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 678

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—116

Abruzzo	Brodeur	Crisafulli	Glorioso
Adkins	Broxson	Cruz	Gonzalez
Ahern	Bullard	Davis	Goodson
Albritton	Burgin	Diaz	Grant
Artiles	Caldwell	Dorworth	Grimsley
Aubuchon	Campbell	Drake	Hager
Baxley	Cannon	Eisnaugle	Harrell
Bembry	Chestnut	Ford	Harrison
Berman	Clarke-Reed	Fresen	Holder
Bernard	Clemens	Frishe	Hooper
Bileca	Coley	Gaetz	Horner
Boyd	Corcoran	Garcia	Hudson
Brandes	Costello	Gibbons	Hukill

Ingram	O'Toole	Rehwinkel	Vasilinda	Steube
Jenne	Oliva	Renuart		Taylor
Jones	Pafford	Roberson, K.		Thompson, G.
Julien	Passidomo	Rogers		Thurston
Kiar	Patronis	Rooney		Tobia
Kriseman	Perman	Rouson		Trujillo
Legg	Perry	Saunders		Van Zant
Lopez-Cantera	Pilon	Schenck		Waldman
Mayfield	Plakon	Schwartz		Watson
McBurney	Porter	Slosberg		Weatherford
McKeel	Porth	Smith		Weinstein
Metz	Precourt	Snyder		Williams, A.
Moraitis	Proctor	Soto		Williams, T.
Nehr	Randolph	Stafford		Wood
Nelson	Ray	Stargel		Workman
Nuñez	Reed	Steinberg		Young

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/HB 7023**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to regional workforce boards; amending s. 445.003, F.S.; requiring certain funds to be expended on Individual Training Accounts; revising items that qualify as account expenditures; amending s. 445.007, F.S., and reenacting subsections (10) and (11), relating to restrictions on the use of state and federal funds provided to regional workforce boards and contracts between regional workforce boards and members of regional workforce boards; providing for maximum board membership; providing additional membership requirements; requiring certain board members to file a statement of financial interests; authorizing the Governor to remove board members for cause; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to assign staff for performance and compliance review; prohibiting regional workforce boards from restricting the choice of training providers based on certain factors; authorizing a board to restrict the amount of training resources available to any one client under certain conditions; providing requirements for the procurement and expenditure of certain funds; providing grounds for removal for cause; deleting an obsolete expiration date for provisions relating to restrictions on the use of state and federal funds provided to regional workforce boards; revising procedures relating to the approval of contracts between regional workforce boards and members of regional workforce boards; deleting an obsolete expiration date for provisions relating to such contracts; requiring each board to develop a budget for certain purposes, subject to the approval of the chief elected official, and submit the budget to Workforce Florida, Inc.; requiring Workforce Florida, Inc., to evaluate the means to establish a single, statewide workforce-system brand for the state; providing reporting requirements; amending s. 445.009, F.S.; deleting the expiration of a provision providing that participants in adult or youth work experience activities are employees of the state for purposes of workers' compensation coverage; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 679

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—95

Abruzzo	Boyd	Coley	Ford
Adkins	Brandes	Corcoran	Fresen
Ahern	Brodeur	Costello	Frishe
Albritton	Broxson	Crisafulli	Gaetz
Artiles	Burgin	Cruz	Glorioso
Aubuchon	Caldwell	Davis	Gonzalez
Baxley	Cannon	Diaz	Goodson
Berman	Chestnut	Dorworth	Grant
Bernard	Clarke-Reed	Drake	Grimsley
Bileca	Clemens	Eisnaugle	Hager

Harrell	McKeel	Porter	Soto
Harrison	Metz	Precourt	Stargel
Holder	Moraitis	Proctor	Steube
Hooper	Nehr	Randolph	Tobia
Horner	Nelson	Ray	Trujillo
Hudson	Núñez	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Van Zant
Hukill	O'Toole	Renuart	Weatherford
Ingram	Oliva	Roberson, K.	Weinstein
Julien	Passidomo	Rogers	Williams, A.
Kriseman	Patronis	Rooney	Williams, T.
Legg	Perman	Rouson	Wood
Lopez-Cantera	Perry	Schenck	Workman
Mayfield	Pilon	Smith	Young
McBurney	Plakon	Snyder	

Nays—19

Bembry	Jones	Saunders	Taylor
Bullard	Kiar	Schwartz	Thompson, G.
Campbell	Pafford	Slosberg	Thurston
Gibbons	Porth	Stafford	Watson
Jenne	Reed	Steinberg	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel, Waldman  
Nays—Fullwood

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate.

**CS/CS/HB 245**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the depopulation programs of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; providing that eligible surplus lines insurers may participate, in the same manner and on the same terms as an authorized insurer, in depopulation, take-out, or keep-out programs relating to policies removed from Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; providing certain exceptions, conditions, and requirements relating to such participation by a surplus lines insurer in the corporation's depopulation, take-out, or keep-out programs; authorizing information from underwriting files and confidential files to be released by the corporation to specified entities that are considering writing or underwriting risks insured by the corporation under certain circumstances; specifying that only the corporation's transfer of a policy file to an insurer, as opposed to the transfer of any file, changes the file's public record status; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 680

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—66

Adkins	Dorworth	McBurney	Roberson, K.
Ahern	Eisnaugle	McKeel	Rooney
Albritton	Ford	Metz	Smith
Aubuchon	Glorioso	Moraitis	Snyder
Baxley	Grant	Nelson	Stargel
Bembry	Grimsley	O'Toole	Steube
Boyd	Hager	Passidomo	Tobia
Brandes	Harrell	Patronis	Van Zant
Brodeur	Harrison	Pilon	Weatherford
Broxson	Holder	Plakon	Weinstein
Burgin	Hooper	Porter	Williams, A.
Caldwell	Horner	Precourt	Williams, T.
Cannon	Hudson	Proctor	Wood
Coley	Hukill	Ray	Workman
Costello	Ingram	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Young
Crisafulli	Julien	Renuart	
Davis	Mayfield		

Nays—48

Abruzzo	Bernard	Campbell	Clemens
Artiles	Bileca	Chestnut	Corcoran
Berman	Bullard	Clarke-Reed	Cruz

Diaz	Jones	Perman	Slosberg
Drake	Kiar	Porth	Soto
Fresen	Kriseman	Randolph	Stafford
Frishe	Legg	Reed	Steinberg
Gaetz	Lopez-Cantera	Rogers	Taylor
Garcia	Nehr	Rouson	Thompson, G.
Gonzalez	Núñez	Saunders	Thurston
Goodson	Oliva	Schenck	Trujillo
Jenne	Pafford	Schwartz	Watson

Votes after roll call:

Nays—Fullwood

So the bill passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate.

**Remarks**

The Speaker recognized Rep. Garcia, who made brief farewell remarks.

**Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading**

**HB 4149**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the preferred worker program; amending s. 440.49, F.S.; deleting a preferred worker program for permanently impaired workers who are unable to return to work; conforming cross-references; amending ss. 440.50 and 624.4626, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 681

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—116

Abruzzo	Diaz	Legg	Rogers
Adkins	Dorworth	Lopez-Cantera	Rooney
Ahern	Drake	Mayfield	Rouson
Albritton	Eisnaugle	McBurney	Saunders
Artiles	Ford	McKeel	Schenck
Aubuchon	Fresen	Metz	Schwartz
Baxley	Frishe	Moraitis	Slosberg
Bembry	Gaetz	Nehr	Smith
Berman	Garcia	Nelson	Snyder
Bernard	Gibbons	Núñez	Soto
Bileca	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stafford
Boyd	Gonzalez	Oliva	Stargel
Brandes	Goodson	Pafford	Steinberg
Brodeur	Grant	Passidomo	Steube
Broxson	Grimsley	Patronis	Taylor
Bullard	Hager	Perman	Thompson, G.
Burgin	Harrell	Pery	Thurston
Caldwell	Harrison	Pilon	Tobia
Campbell	Holder	Plakon	Trujillo
Cannon	Hooper	Porter	Van Zant
Chestnut	Horner	Porth	Waldman
Clarke-Reed	Hudson	Precourt	Watson
Clemens	Hukill	Proctor	Weatherford
Coley	Ingram	Randolph	Weinstein
Corcoran	Jenne	Ray	Williams, A.
Costello	Jones	Reed	Williams, T.
Crisafulli	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Wood
Cruz	Kiar	Renuart	Workman
Davis	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	Young

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4061**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to a uniform home grading scale; repealing s. 215.55865, F.S., relating to the required adoption by the

Financial Services Commission of a uniform home grading scale to grade the ability of a home to withstand the wind load from certain tropical storms or hurricanes; amending s. 215.5586, F.S., to conform; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE IN THE CHAIR

The question recurred on the passage of **HB 4061**. The vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 682

Representative Legg in the Chair.

Yeas—114

Abruzzo	Dorworth	Mayfield	Rouson
Adkins	Drake	McBurney	Saunders
Ahern	Eisnagle	McKeel	Schenck
Albritton	Ford	Metz	Schwartz
Artiles	Fresen	Moraitis	Slosberg
Aubuchon	Frishe	Nehr	Smith
Baxley	Gaetz	Nelson	Snyder
Bembry	Garcia	Nuñez	Soto
Berman	Gibbons	O'Toole	Stafford
Bernard	Glorioso	Oliva	Stargel
Bileca	Gonzalez	Pafford	Steinberg
Boyd	Goodson	Passidomo	Steube
Brandes	Grant	Patronis	Taylor
Brodeur	Grimsley	Perman	Thompson, G.
Broxson	Hager	Perry	Thurston
Bullard	Harrell	Pilon	Tobia
Burgin	Harrison	Plakon	Trujillo
Caldwell	Holder	Porter	Van Zant
Campbell	Hooper	Porth	Waldman
Chestnut	Horner	Precourt	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Hudson	Proctor	Weatherford
Clemens	Hukill	Randolph	Weinstein
Coley	Ingram	Ray	Williams, A.
Corcoran	Jones	Reed	Williams, T.
Costello	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Wood
Crisafulli	Kiar	Renuart	Workman
Cruz	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	Young
Davis	Legg	Rogers	
Diaz	Lopez-Cantera	Rooney	

Nays—1

Jenne

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4059**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to property and casualty insurance; repealing s. 627.3519, F.S.; deleting a requirement that the Financial Services Commission provide an annual report to the Legislature consisting of specified data and analysis related to the aggregate net probable maximum losses, financing options, and potential assessments of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 683

Representative Legg in the Chair.

Yeas—95

Adkins	Aubuchon	Bernard	Brandes
Ahern	Baxley	Bileca	Brodeur
Artiles	Bembry	Boyd	Broxson

Bullard	Gonzalez	Metz	Roberson, K.
Burgin	Goodson	Moraitis	Rooney
Caldwell	Grant	Nehr	Rouson
Cannon	Grimsley	Nelson	Saunders
Chestnut	Hager	Nuñez	Schenck
Coley	Harrell	O'Toole	Smith
Corcoran	Harrison	Oliva	Snyder
Costello	Holder	Passidomo	Stargel
Crisafulli	Hooper	Patronis	Steube
Cruz	Horner	Perman	Tobia
Davis	Hudson	Perry	Trujillo
Diaz	Hukill	Pilon	Van Zant
Dorworth	Ingram	Plakon	Waldman
Drake	Jones	Porter	Weatherford
Eisnagle	Julien	Porth	Weinstein
Ford	Legg	Precourt	Williams, A.
Fresen	Logan	Proctor	Williams, T.
Frishe	Lopez-Cantera	Ray	Wood
Gaetz	Mayfield	Reed	Workman
Garcia	McBurney	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Young
Glorioso	McKeel	Renuart	

Nays—21

Abruzzo	Jenne	Schwartz	Thompson, G.
Berman	Kiar	Slosberg	Thurston
Campbell	Kriseman	Soto	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Pafford	Stafford	
Clemens	Randolph	Steinberg	
Gibbons	Rogers	Taylor	

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Albritton, Fullwood, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4055**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Supreme Court; repealing s. 25.151, F.S., relating to restricting the practice of law by a retired justice; repealing s. 25.191, F.S., relating to the requirement to appoint a Clerk of the Supreme Court; repealing s. 25.211, F.S., relating to the requirement that the clerk have an office in the Supreme Court Building; repealing s. 25.231, F.S., relating to the requirement that the clerk perform duties as directed by the court; repealing s. 25.371, F.S., relating to provision by which rules of the court supersede statutes; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

THE SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR

The question recurred on the passage of **HB 4055**. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 684

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—81

Adkins	Davis	Horner	Perry
Ahern	Diaz	Hudson	Pilon
Albritton	Dorworth	Hukill	Plakon
Artiles	Drake	Ingram	Porter
Aubuchon	Eisnagle	Julien	Precourt
Baxley	Ford	Legg	Proctor
Bileca	Fresen	Lopez-Cantera	Ray
Boyd	Frishe	Mayfield	Renuart
Brandes	Gaetz	McBurney	Roberson, K.
Brodeur	Garcia	McKeel	Rooney
Broxson	Glorioso	Metz	Schenck
Burgin	Gonzalez	Moraitis	Smith
Caldwell	Goodson	Nehr	Snyder
Cannon	Grant	Nelson	Stargel
Coley	Grimsley	Nuñez	Steube
Corcoran	Hager	O'Toole	Tobia
Costello	Harrell	Oliva	Trujillo
Crisafulli	Holder	Passidomo	Van Zant
Cruz	Hooper	Patronis	Weatherford

Weinstein Williams, T. Wood Workman Young

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Nays—35

Abruzzo Fullwood Randolph Stafford  
Bembry Gibbons Reed Steinberg  
Berman Jenne Rehwinkel Vasilinda Taylor  
Bernard Jones Rogers Thompson, G.  
Bullard Kiar Rouson Thurston  
Campbell Kriseman Saunders Waldman  
Chestnut Pafford Schwartz Watson  
Clarke-Reed Perman Slosberg Williams, A.  
Clemens Porth Soto

Session Vote Sequence: 686

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—118

Abruzzo Dorworth Logan Rooney  
Adkins Drake Lopez-Cantera Rouson  
Ahern Eisnaugle Mayfield Saunders  
Albritton Ford McBurney Schenck  
Artiles Fresen McKeel Schwartz  
Aubuchon Frishe Metz Slosberg  
Baxley Fullwood Moraitis Smith  
Bembry Gaetz Nehr Snyder  
Berman Garcia Nelson Soto  
Bernard Gibbons Nuñez Stafford  
Bileca Glorioso O'Toole Stargel  
Boyd Gonzalez Oliva Steinberg  
Brandes Goodson Pafford Steube  
Brodeur Grant Passidomo Taylor  
Broxson Grimsley Patronis Thompson, G.  
Bullard Hager Perman Thurston  
Burgin Harrell Perry Tobia  
Caldwell Harrison Pilon Trujillo  
Campbell Holder Plakon Van Zant  
Cannon Hooper Porter Waldman  
Chestnut Horner Porth Watson  
Clarke-Reed Hudson Precourt Weatherford  
Clemens Hukill Proctor Weinstein  
Coley Ingram Randolph Williams, A.  
Corcoran Jenne Ray Williams, T.  
Costello Jones Reed Wood  
Crisafulli Julien Rehwinkel Vasilinda Workman  
Cruz Kiar Renuart Young  
Davis Kriseman Roberson, K.  
Diaz Legg Rogers

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Harrison, Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4091**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Governor's private secretary; repealing s. 14.03, F.S., relating to the Governor's authority to appoint and commission a private secretary; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 685

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—118

Abruzzo Dorworth Logan Rooney  
Adkins Drake Lopez-Cantera Rouson  
Ahern Eisnaugle Mayfield Saunders  
Albritton Ford McBurney Schenck  
Artiles Fresen McKeel Schwartz  
Aubuchon Frishe Metz Slosberg  
Baxley Fullwood Moraitis Smith  
Bembry Gaetz Nehr Snyder  
Berman Garcia Nelson Soto  
Bernard Gibbons Nuñez Stafford  
Bileca Glorioso O'Toole Stargel  
Boyd Gonzalez Oliva Steinberg  
Brandes Goodson Pafford Steube  
Brodeur Grant Passidomo Taylor  
Broxson Grimsley Patronis Thompson, G.  
Bullard Hager Perman Thurston  
Burgin Harrell Perry Tobia  
Caldwell Harrison Pilon Trujillo  
Campbell Holder Plakon Van Zant  
Cannon Hooper Porter Waldman  
Chestnut Horner Porth Watson  
Clarke-Reed Hudson Precourt Weatherford  
Clemens Hukill Proctor Weinstein  
Coley Ingram Randolph Williams, A.  
Corcoran Jenne Ray Williams, T.  
Costello Jones Reed Wood  
Crisafulli Julien Rehwinkel Vasilinda Workman  
Cruz Kiar Renuart Young  
Davis Kriseman Roberson, K.  
Diaz Legg Rogers

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 7051**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to rules establishing numeric nutrient criteria; exempting specified rules from legislative ratification under s. 120.541(3), F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to publish certain notice; requiring legislative ratification of certain subsequent rules or amendments; directing the department to submit specified rules to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for review under the federal Clean Water Act; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 687

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—118

Abruzzo Brandes Corcoran Fullwood  
Adkins Brodeur Costello Gaetz  
Ahern Broxson Crisafulli Garcia  
Albritton Bullard Cruz Gibbons  
Artiles Burgin Davis Glorioso  
Aubuchon Caldwell Diaz Gonzalez  
Baxley Campbell Dorworth Goodson  
Bembry Cannon Drake Grant  
Berman Chestnut Eisnaugle Grimsley  
Bernard Clarke-Reed Ford Hager  
Bileca Clemens Fresen Harrell  
Boyd Coley Frishe Harrison

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4145**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the continuing education advisory board; repealing s. 626.2815(6), F.S.; deleting authority for the creation of the continuing education advisory board whose purpose is to advise the Department of Financial Services in determining standards by which courses for certain persons licensed to solicit or sell insurance may be evaluated and categorized; deleting all requirements and procedures with respect to the board; providing an effective date.

Holder	Moraitis	Ray	Steube
Hooper	Nehr	Reed	Taylor
Horner	Nelson	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Thompson, G.
Hudson	Nuñez	Renuart	Thurston
Hukill	O'Toole	Roberson, K.	Tobia
Ingram	Oliva	Rogers	Trujillo
Jenne	Pafford	Rooney	Van Zant
Jones	Passidomo	Rouson	Waldman
Julien	Patronis	Saunders	Watson
Kiar	Perman	Schenck	Weatherford
Kriseman	Perry	Schwartz	Weinstein
Legg	Pilon	Slosberg	Williams, A.
Logan	Plakon	Smith	Williams, T.
Lopez-Cantera	Porter	Snyder	Wood
Mayfield	Porth	Soto	Workman
McBurney	Precourt	Stafford	Young
McKeel	Proctor	Stargel	
Metz	Randolph	Steinberg	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:  
Yeas—Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4087**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to repeal of a workers' compensation independent actuarial peer review requirement; repealing s. 627.285, F.S., relating to the duty of the Financial Services Commission to contract for a periodic report regarding an actuarial peer review and analysis of the ratemaking process of any licensed rating organization that makes rate filings for workers' compensation insurance; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 688

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—118

Abruzzo	Dorworth	Logan	Rooney
Adkins	Drake	Lopez-Cantera	Rouson
Ahern	Eisnaugle	Mayfield	Saunders
Albritton	Ford	McBurney	Schenck
Artiles	Fresen	McKeel	Schwartz
Aubuchon	Frishe	Metz	Slosberg
Baxley	Fullwood	Moraitis	Smith
Bembry	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Berman	Garcia	Nelson	Soto
Bernard	Gibbons	Nuñez	Stafford
Bileca	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stargel
Boyd	Gonzalez	Oliva	Steinberg
Brandes	Goodson	Pafford	Steube
Brodeur	Grant	Passidomo	Taylor
Broxson	Grimsley	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Bullard	Hager	Perman	Thurston
Burgin	Harrell	Perry	Tobia
Caldwell	Harrison	Pilon	Trujillo
Campbell	Holder	Plakon	Van Zant
Cannon	Hooper	Porter	Waldman
Chestnut	Horner	Porth	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Hudson	Precourt	Weatherford
Clemens	Hukill	Proctor	Weinstein
Coley	Ingram	Randolph	Williams, A.
Corcoran	Jenne	Ray	Williams, T.
Costello	Jones	Reed	Wood
Crisafulli	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Cruz	Kiar	Renuart	Young
Davis	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	
Diaz	Legg	Rogers	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:  
Yeas—Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4187**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to cattle; repealing s. 585.155, F.S., relating to the inspection and vaccination of cattle for brucellosis; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 689

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—118

Abruzzo	Dorworth	Logan	Rooney
Adkins	Drake	Lopez-Cantera	Rouson
Ahern	Eisnaugle	Mayfield	Saunders
Albritton	Ford	McBurney	Schenck
Artiles	Fresen	McKeel	Schwartz
Aubuchon	Frishe	Metz	Slosberg
Baxley	Fullwood	Moraitis	Smith
Bembry	Gaetz	Nehr	Snyder
Berman	Garcia	Nelson	Soto
Bernard	Gibbons	Nuñez	Stafford
Bileca	Glorioso	O'Toole	Stargel
Boyd	Gonzalez	Oliva	Steinberg
Brandes	Goodson	Pafford	Steube
Brodeur	Grant	Passidomo	Taylor
Broxson	Grimsley	Patronis	Thompson, G.
Bullard	Hager	Perman	Thurston
Burgin	Harrell	Perry	Tobia
Caldwell	Harrison	Pilon	Trujillo
Campbell	Holder	Plakon	Van Zant
Cannon	Hooper	Porter	Waldman
Chestnut	Horner	Porth	Watson
Clarke-Reed	Hudson	Precourt	Weatherford
Clemens	Hukill	Proctor	Weinstein
Coley	Ingram	Randolph	Williams, A.
Corcoran	Jenne	Ray	Williams, T.
Costello	Jones	Reed	Wood
Crisafulli	Julien	Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Workman
Cruz	Kiar	Renuart	Young
Davis	Kriseman	Roberson, K.	
Diaz	Legg	Rogers	

Nays—None

Votes after roll call:  
Yeas—Kreegel

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

**HB 4189**—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Florida Agricultural Exposition; repealing s. 570.071, F.S., relating to the Florida Agricultural Exposition and the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Corrections to receive donations of funds and expend funds for the exposition; amending ss. 570.53 and 570.54, F.S.; deleting cross-references to conform to the repeal by the act of s. 570.071, F.S.; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title. On passage, the vote was:

Session Vote Sequence: 690

Speaker Cannon in the Chair.

Yeas—117

Abruzzo	Bernard	Campbell	Cruz
Adkins	Bileca	Cannon	Davis
Ahern	Boyd	Chestnut	Diaz
Albritton	Brandes	Clarke-Reed	Dorworth
Artiles	Brodeur	Clemens	Drake
Aubuchon	Broxson	Coley	Eisnaugle
Baxley	Bullard	Corcoran	Ford
Bembry	Burgin	Costello	Fresen
Berman	Caldwell	Crisafulli	Frishe

Fullwood	Kiar	Plakon	Stargel
Gaetz	Kriseman	Porter	Steinberg
Garcia	Legg	Porth	Steube
Gibbons	Logan	Precourt	Taylor
Glorioso	Lopez-Cantera	Proctor	Thompson, G.
Gonzalez	Mayfield	Randolph	Thurston
Goodson	McBurney	Ray	Tobia
Grant	McKeel	Reed	Trujillo
Grimsley	Metz	Renuart	Van Zant
Hager	Moraitis	Roberson, K.	Waldman
Harrell	Nehr	Rogers	Watson
Harrison	Nelson	Rooney	Weatherford
Holder	Nuñez	Rouson	Weinstein
Hooper	O'Toole	Saunders	Williams, A.
Horner	Oliva	Schenck	Williams, T.
Hudson	Pafford	Schwartz	Wood
Hukill	Passidomo	Slosberg	Workman
Ingram	Patronis	Smith	Young
Jenne	Perman	Snyder	
Jones	Perry	Soto	
Julien	Pilon	Stafford	

Nays—1

Rehwinkel Vasilinda

Votes after roll call:

Yeas—Kreegel

Nays to Yeas—Rehwinkel Vasilinda

So the bill passed and was certified to the Senate.

## Motion

Rep. Aubuchon moved that, pursuant to Rule 8.2, the presentation and remarks portion on CS for SJR 1176 and CS for SB 1174, made on Thursday, February 2 and Friday, February 3, 2012, be spread upon the *Journal*. The motion was agreed to.

## Remarks on CS for SJR 1176 and CS for SB 1174

**Speaker Cannon:** Members, we are about to consider the Senate's redistricting bills, but before we do that I wanted to ask Chair Weatherford to share with us the good work that he and his committee and subcommittees have done during the last eight months. Chair Weatherford will then yield to the subcommittee chairs and vice chairs to explain each of our plans, accompanied by a presentation, which has also been emailed to each one of you. Upon completion of the presentations, we will move into consideration of the bills. We will be taking up several amendments and you will have the opportunity to ask questions. In order to streamline and facilitate debate on the amendments, please notify your respective leader if you wish to be recognized to speak in debate.

With that, Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to address the membership on this very important matter. Members, this is going to take a little bit of time to walk through this presentation. I think we sent an email out, but basically—as the Speaker stated, before we actually get to the amendatory process, we're going to walk you through each bill—so, each map. So we'll walk through the House map, the Congressional map, and the Senate map, and we're going to start that process in just a moment. So, it is going to take a little bit of time. We ask you please to keep the noise down so everyone can hear all the details that are being spoken of.

For the sake of your questions, your debate, and the process, we will go through, as I said, the House floor, we're going to have the opportunity to hear individually, all 120 House districts, all 27 Congressional districts, and the 40 proposed state Senate districts. Prior to that, I'm going to walk everyone through the process and the events that led to today. In order that we are all on the same page regarding what went into the redistricting process and, most importantly, how the results have impacted us.

It was in late 2010 that we had the first opportunity to publicly unveil the technology that the House has utilized in developing this redistricting process. That application, as you all know, is known as MyDistrictBuilder™. Early in 2011, our staff began a process of outreach, prior to even receiving the census data, by means of a social media and direct communications with likely stakeholders. For example, we outreached to supervisors of elections, civil rights organizations, and local government officials. In March of 2011, Florida received its census data. By April of 2011, our committee and subcommittees began meeting, learning about the application of the Federal and State redistricting laws and learning about the results of the census and announcing our 26-city tour.

Starting in June and all the way through September of 2011, we began what many of us called a 'listening tour.' We had the opportunity to listen and hear from nearly 5,000 people who attended those 26 public meetings in 25 different cities throughout our state. Those summer meetings generated more than 70 hours of public testimony. They helped encourage 177 submissions of redistricting maps—compare that to four, 10 years ago—and they helped encourage thousands of other emails, letters, phone calls, and faxes that we've received since then.

For last summer's public input meetings, we conducted outreach, including Spanish language outreach, via various newspapers, radio, and television outlets, and other estimates and other means with an estimated reach of greater than 4 million Floridians. On most days, if you Google or Bing to search the phrase 'Florida redistricting,' our website, [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org), is the number one website. In addition, the House's MyDistrictBuilder™ online redistricting application averages over 200 visitors per day who utilize it.

Our goal, as everybody in here knows, was to cast a wide net and to allow different ways for Florida's residents to participate in this process, and that's exactly what has taken place. What could be difficult about a process like this is that people often look first before they tell you how to go forward—they look back first before they tell you how to go forward, and that's also exactly what happened. Because we, as a legislature, had to confront the reality that the districts were to serve, that were served, and today could be redrawn in a more meaningful and a more legal and appropriate manner. We had to confront the reality that the redistricting process should and would be held to a higher set of standards than we've ever held ourselves before.

Then our subcommittees and our redistricting committees went through a process of narrowing down legislative produced options, while at the same time amending those options with additional public feedback—receiving all that along the way. With that, members, we have three maps to present to you today, and I believe they are framed by the standards of the law. They are influenced by the public and the input that we received, and they are supported by the documented record of our subcommittees and our full committee.

Members, as we go through this presentation you will see the district, or districts, being discussed on the screen. We have also emailed this presentation to everyone, so you should have it in front of you. So when we formally take up the bills later, you can use the emailed version of this presentation if you need a reference point for the map or for districts that we're discussing during second reading. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to please recognize Representative Schenck, who is co-chair of the House committee, to start the presentation of the House map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Thank you, Chair Weatherford. Members, please be reminded that we will entertain questions once all the presentations have concluded and we take up the Senate bills. Representative Schenck, you are recognized to begin explanation of the State House map.

**Rep. Schenck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I know you asked to go through them thoroughly, so I thought maybe I'd take 30 minutes on each House district—we'd get through it sometime next week. Let me thank you,

let me thank Chairman Weatherford about giving us the most open process we've had in redistricting. Members, HJR 6011, which redraws all 120 House districts, represents Florida's 18.8 million residents. The map drawers, which I could not say enough good things about, were Mr. Jeff Takacs—who we called 'the machine'—and Mr. Alex Kelly, who spent many, many hours in front of computers drawing these. The total range of population deviation for the districts is just under 4 percent. We use this range because it was particularly helpful in keeping counties whole and also drawing districts wholly within boundaries of counties.

Two points that were very important to our subcommittee were keeping districts whole and within boundaries of our county. The State House map drawn 10 years ago only kept 21 counties whole. This proposed State House map keeps 37 counties whole. By population and geography, it is only possible—it is only possible to keep a maximum of 38 counties whole, and we keep 37. The State House map drawn 10 years ago split 170 of Florida's 411 incorporated municipalities. This proposed State House map only splits 75 of those municipalities. In terms of the various ways that you can measure compactness, this proposed State House map is dramatically more compact than the State House map drawn 10 years ago. As State and Federal law guide us in terms of opportunities for racial and language minorities, this proposed State House map fulfills our legal obligations and even creates what we believe are some new opportunities. And in doing so, most of the minority districts are even compact. With that, members, let's start looking at the districts.

As you can see up on the big board, taking a look at Districts 1 to 4, the population of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties is nearly equal to that of four State House districts. Accordingly, each of these districts is largely anchored to one of the three counties, with Districts 1 and 4 being entirely located within a single county.

Districts 5 to 6 represent the populations of Walton, Bay, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties. Bay County has a district entirely within its borders and the remaining four counties are kept whole.

Districts 7, 8, and 9 keep several counties whole, only splitting Leon County. However, I think we did so in a meaningful way, ensuring that the city of Tallahassee, which is larger than the size of a State House district, is only split into two different districts and that Leon County gets a district entirely within its borders. District 8 is a majority-minority district that includes the entirety of Gadsden County.

Moving on, members, to Districts 11 to 16. They represent the entirety of Duval and Nassau counties, which happen to have populations equal to that of six House districts. Nassau County is kept whole within this configuration. One of the changes we made in the Redistricting Committee was to ensure that St. Johns River was followed as a geographical boundary line. Districts 13 and 14 are majority-minority districts that have been drawn in a much more compact configuration than the districts that were drawn 10 years ago.

Districts 17 and 24 through 27 represent putting exactly five districts within the boundaries of St. Johns, Flagler, and Volusia counties. Three entire districts were included within the boundaries of Volusia County and one entire district was included within the boundaries of St. Johns County. Cities like DeLand, Deltona, and St. Augustine are kept whole. Also of note, during this entire process, we once received public input via a postcard from a Flagler County resident. She wanted a Flagler County-based district that aligns with southern St. Johns County, and District 24 addresses that request.

In the center of North Florida, Districts 10, 18, and 19, and 20 to 23 manage to keep 10 counties whole. District 18 was designed as a very compact district, entirely within the boundaries of Clay County. As requested, we heard multiple times from Clay County residents they want to be kept whole. This configuration also creates both a seat entirely in Marion County and a second seat that is more than two-thirds in Marion County. District 20 will keep seven cities whole and, at that same time, maintain a

district that historically elects the African-American community's candidate of choice.

District 34 and 35 pair Citrus and Hernando County, which, together, have the population of two House districts.

District 33 includes the entirety of Sumter County and the cities of Lady Lake and Fruitland Park, and then portions of southern Marion County that are often associated with The Villages—a compact community that's boundaries extend into Sumter, Lake, and Marion counties.

Districts 36 to 38 divide Pasco County into three very compact districts, as the population of the county is nearly equal to three districts. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my co-chair, Representative Dorworth, to continue the explanation of the proposed House map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Dorworth, you are recognized to explain House Districts 28 through 32 and 39 through 79.

**Representative Dorworth:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and if could just take a quick second to echo the sentiments of Co-Chair Schenck about our staff. And I really don't think you can understand the enormity of dividing this state and having Congressional maps and Senate maps, and State House maps. The job they did was nothing short of stellar and they call the man 'the machine' because he's a machine, so Jeff Takacs and Alex Kelly are best in class as far as I'm concerned. We are very, very blessed to have them here.

Now, if I may, let me just go through the districts in Central Florida to start. Districts 28 to 32 and 44 to 49 represent much of the Central Florida region. District 32 met the goal of including one district entirely in Lake County and Districts 28 and 29 met the goal of including two districts entirely in Seminole County. Our subcommittee looked at multiple configurations of this area and ultimately passed amendments that improved the numbers of cities kept whole here.

Districts 46 and 48 are both majority-minority districts, and District 45, we believe, may be a new opportunity—a second opportunity for the African-American community in Orange County to elect a representative of their choice. The compactness and adherence to county lines of these districts improve greatly as compared to the State House map drawn 10 years ago.

Districts 50 to 53 represent Brevard County moving into east Orange County. Three entire districts are located within Brevard County in a very compact design. Members, as you are probably starting to see, we heard a theme all summer long that people wanted districts entirely located within a single county when possible. This is an example of a legally appropriate decision that also addresses that public input.

Districts 39 to 43 represent the bulk of Polk and Osceola counties. District 43, which is entirely located in Osceola County and keeps the city of Kissimmee whole, is a new majority-minority Hispanic district. Districts 40 and 41 are wholly located in Polk County. This design of Polk County is very much what the Polk County Commission requested for the State House map. Both our subcommittee and the full committee made changes in Polk County that led to several additional cities being kept whole.

District 56 is also in Polk County, encompassing Bartow and all of Hardee and Desoto counties. The district uses US 17 as a transportation artery, which was a specific request from the public. Districts 57 and 64 encompass most of Hillsborough County. The bill creates three east Hillsborough Districts, keeping Plant City and Temple Terrace whole. Districts 61 and 62 are both majority-minority districts in what is a Section 5 Voting Rights Act county. Of the nine districts in Hillsborough County, seven of them are entirely within the boundaries of the county.

District 64 is about two-thirds Hillsborough County and one-third of the population in Pinellas County, including the entirety of Oldsmar and Safety Harbor. Districts 65 to 69 are all entirely within Pinellas County, meaning

that five of the seven districts in Pinellas County are entirely within Pinellas. There are a significant number of municipalities in Pinellas County many of which are kept whole. Pursuant to the request of the public, these proposed districts make a particular effort to keep small cities whole in Pinellas County.

District 70 connects the four counties in this region: Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties. A mathematical note about these four counties: they happen to be the size of 18 districts. District 70 historically elects African-American candidates and is partially located in the Section 5 covered county, Hillsborough County. Therefore, it was important to make an effort to maintain its ability to elect a candidate of choice. In addition to that, the district is used in such a way that the population it covers in Manatee and Sarasota allows the remainder of those two counties to be represented by two districts that are mostly in Manatee County and two districts that are entirely in Sarasota County, both of which were requests from the public.

So, of these 18 districts in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota, 14 of them are located entirely within one county. Districts 75 to 79 encompass all of Charlotte and Lee counties; in fact Charlotte County is District 75. Lee County happens to be nearly equal to the size of four State House districts. Therefore, its borders are not crossed in this map. In our most recent committee meeting, an amendment was done in response to a public input to make the community of Estero whole. Every incorporated city in Lee County is also kept whole.

District 55 encompasses the entirety of Okeechobee, Highlands, and Glades counties, along with a few thousand residents of western St. Lucie County. District 54 is the entirety of Indian River County along with a small portion of St. Lucie County. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Chair Weatherford, would you yield to Representative Frishe? Representative Frishe, you are recognized to explain House Districts 80 to 120.

**Rep. Frishe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And like my co-chairmen on this committee, I'd like to echo their thanks to our staff who have been just outstanding in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, members, District 82 to 84 encompasses the remainder of St. Lucie County, all of Martin County, and approximately 60,000 residents in northern Palm Beach County. Port St. Lucie is larger than the size of the State House district. Otherwise, every other city in these two counties is kept whole.

You look at Districts 81 and 85 to 91. The remainder of Palm Beach County includes eight districts that are entirely within the borders of the county. If you reflect on the districts drawn in the State House map 10 years ago, there is no longer a district that encompasses both sides of the Okeechobee—something that we heard a great deal about in public hearings. Instead, you have a western Palm Beach County district. The turnpike is used as a geographical divider for some of the districts in the county, and the overall compactness of these districts has significantly improved.

District 86 includes the entirety of Wellington, Loxahatchee Groves, and Royal Palm Beach.

District 88 maintains the existing majority-minority African-American district and not one district crosses the Palm Beach/Broward County line.

Moving to Broward County, 10 of the 14 districts in the county are entirely located within the county. They are all major improvements in terms of compactness, even the four districts that historically elect African-American candidates—District 92, 94, 95, and 101 are very compact. And District 95 also maintains a significant Caribbean-American community.

Moving into northern Miami-Dade County, District 107 and 108 have significant concentrations of Haitian Americans maintaining the two districts in the State House that historically allows this language-minority community to choose a candidate of their choice.

When you look further at districts like 103, 110, and 111 you'll see that the proposed State House map looks frequently toward roadways in Miami-Dade County as boundaries. Most of the district lines, or many of the district lines, were straightened, squared off, and neighborhood boundaries were looked to as frequently as possible so as to not divide neighborhoods—not to split them up. There is also some, were some, changes done in both subcommittee and committee to improve the use of municipal lines here, and also to maintain the existing districts that enable Hispanic communities to choose a candidate of their choice.

Looking further into Miami-Dade County at Districts 112, 114 to 119, overall Miami-Dade County represented dynamic improvements in terms of compactness of the districts. Most of the districts in this slide are districts that traditionally perform for Hispanic candidates, although District 117 historically elects an African-American candidate. In all cases, we maintain the ability to elect the minority community's candidate of choice.

Down at the bottom, District 120 is Monroe County. That also encompasses portions of southern Miami-Dade.

District 105, and this one you'll notice is a Section 5 Voting Rights district that is about two-thirds in Miami-Dade County and one-third in Collier County. In the State House map that was created 10 years ago, a similar district was created as the result of a settlement with U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Court that required that the Hispanic community in Collier County maintain the ability to elect a Hispanic candidate. To accommodate that court settlement, a second district that crossed the state was also created 10 years ago. However, in the proposed State House map, only this district crosses the middle of the state—that being the district that was necessary pursuant to the court settlement.

Moving further into Collier County, pursuant to a request of the Greater Naples Chamber, there are only three districts in Collier County. District 106 is entirely within the county and includes the city of Naples. District 80 is the northern Collier County district and also includes all of Hendry County. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield back to Chairman Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker that concludes the presentation of the State House map. Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to please recognize Representative Legg to begin the explanation of the Congressional map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Legg, you are recognized.

**Rep. Legg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is CS/HB 6005, which are the Congressional districts. Members, as you know, we have 27 Congressional districts—plus two this time around, versus 10 years ago. The two new Congressional districts—as an interesting note, states like New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, have all lost congressional representation, and we have gained two. The map drawers for this Congressional district, these Congressional maps, are Alex Kelly, Jason Poreda, Jeff Silver. The standard deviation for each of these districts, members, take a note of this, is zero. There is zero deviation in these maps to adhere to the one-person, one-vote principle. Members, 10 years ago, the former map consisted of 37 whole counties. This current map consists of 46 whole counties. The former map consisted of 110 city splits, this map has only 27, out of the 411, cities that are split.

Members, voters wanted a map that was compact. This Congressional map is more compact in every possible measurement than the map 10 years ago. Voters wanted a map that protected racial and language minorities. This map

fulfills that obligation in every capacity. Members, let's look at the descriptions of each of the districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Members—Representative Legg, excuse me just a moment. Members, please give Representative Legg your attention. Keep the noise down. Representative Legg, you are recognized.

**Rep. Legg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Starting in the panhandle, District 1 includes all of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton counties, and a portion of Holmes County. District 2 includes a portion of Holmes and Madison counties, and all of Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, and Taylor counties. District 3 includes a portion of Madison, Clay, Alachua, Marion counties and all of Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia, Union, and Bradford counties.

In Northeast Florida, District 4 includes all of Baker and Nassau counties and a majority of Duval County. Looking back to the district in this general area drawn 10 years ago, it stretched from Duval County all the way to Tallahassee. We received feedback from Tallahassee residents asking that they no longer be connected to Jacksonville in a district, and District 4 accomplishes this.

District 5 includes a portion of Duval, Clay, Putnam, Alachua, Marion, Lake, Seminole, and Orange counties. In this district, the municipalities of Eatonville, Green Cove Springs, Hawthorne, Palatka, and Reddick are all kept whole. The core of this district is very similar to the core of the existing district, a district that has historically elected an African-American to Congress. The first version of this district was drawn by a Federal court in 1992. Prior to that, the state of Florida had not had an African-American member of Congress since Reconstruction.

District 6 includes a portion of Putnam County, the majority of Volusia County, and all of St. Johns and Flagler counties.

Moving on to central Florida, District 7 includes portions of Volusia, Seminole, and Orange counties, keeping several cities whole throughout the district.

District 8 includes all of Brevard and Indian River counties and a portion of Orange County.

District 9 includes all of Osceola and portions of Orange and Polk counties. Over the past several months, we have received feedback from the people of Osceola County requesting that they be kept whole in a Congressional district, as well as requests for us to link Osceola and Orange counties. Furthermore, we received numerous requests from the public to create a district that acknowledges the growth of the Hispanic community in Central Florida. In that regard, we've married up these two different requests from the public, and done so while keeping an entire county and several cities whole.

District 10 includes a portion of Orange and Polk counties and the majority of Lake County.

District 11 includes all of Citrus, and Hernando, and Sumter counties, and a portion of Lake and Marion counties. In terms of population, Marion County is still the most significant county in this district, even though the county is divided.

In the Tampa Bay region, District 12 includes all of Pasco County and a portion of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, keeping several cities whole.

District 13 is wholly contained in Pinellas County and keeps 21 municipalities in the county whole. In this district, along with District 14, were amended in committee due to both concerns about the Voter's Right Act of compliance with District 14, but also a public request from Pinellas County residents who wished to be in Pinellas County districts. District 14 includes a portion of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Ten years ago, a similar configured district stretched down in Manatee and Sarasota counties. We

received input from the public calling for that district to be removed from those two counties and go more into Hillsborough County, and that is exactly what we did. This district is covered under Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

District 15 includes the eastern portion of Hillsborough County and the western portion of Polk County. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield to our subcommittee co-chair, Representative Holder, to explain Districts 16 through 27.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Holder, you are recognized to explain Districts 16 through 27.

**Rep. Holder:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. District 16 includes the majority of Manatee County and all of Sarasota County. The people of those two counties overwhelmingly asked that they be connected in a Congressional district, and that's exactly what we did.

District 17 includes portions of Polk, Hillsboro, Manatee, and Lee counties, and all of Hardy, Desoto, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, and Charlotte counties.

District 18 includes all of St. Lucie and Martin counties and a portion of Palm Beach County. You may remember that that district is the area the state that, drawn 10 years ago, stretches from Palm Beach County all the way across the state to Charlotte County. We heard from residents from the Treasure Coast, and frankly, throughout the state, calling for the end of cross-state districts, and so we did away with that district.

District 19 includes the majority of Lee County and portions of Collier County including all of Naples.

And moving southeast to southeast Florida, District 20 includes portions of Hendry, Palm Beach, and Broward counties. District 20 is a Section 5 Voting Rights district. We received maps for this area that were submitted by members of the public who did an excellent job of keeping the municipalities whole, and we took that advice. This particular district keeps 14 municipalities whole.

District 21 includes portions of Palm Beach and Broward counties.

District 22 includes portions of Palm Beach and Broward counties, and like District 20, keeps many municipalities in the region whole. In fact, 20 municipalities are kept whole within that district.

District 23 includes portions of Broward and Miami-Dade counties. It keeps 16 municipalities whole, including Davie, Hollywood, and Weston.

District 24 also includes portions of Broward and Miami-Dade counties. This area of the state has traditionally elected an African-American to Congress and this district recreates that opportunity. Additionally, this district keeps several cities whole.

District 25 includes portions of Hendry, Collier, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. This district is also impacted by Section 5 of the Federal Voting Act, Federal Voting Rights Act.

District 26 includes portions of Miami-Dade and all of Monroe County.

District 27 is the second district that is wholly contained within a county and its all in Miami-Dade. The additional one point that I want to mention about Districts 25, 26, and 27 is they're drawn to create a more compact and cohesive meeting point between the districts, nearby and along the Tamiami Trail. In that way, we're able to both maintain these three majority-minority districts, but also design them in a more compact fashion. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, I now would like to recognize Representative Horner to explain the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Congressional map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Horner, you are recognized.

**Rep. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I'd like to discuss the differences between the Congressional map and CS for SJR 1176 that the Senate passed on January 17 and the proposed map just described to you by Chairman Legg and Holder in CS/HB 6005. Some of the overall differences between the two maps are the Senate's version of the Congressional map splits 24 counties and 46 cities; the House's version only splits 21 counties and 27 cities throughout the entire map.

The first area I'd like to talk about is, of course, Osceola County and Congressional District 9 on our map. Both the House and Senate drew the districts in a similar way, including all of Osceola and portions of Orange and Polk counties. The District 9 in our bill is noticeably more compact than its counterpart.

The next area I'll bring up is the Pasco/Hernando area and the Tampa Bay region. In the Senate's version—the Congressional map, Hernando and Pasco counties are linked together, which pushes the district to the north, containing Citrus and Sumter County, further into Lake County. As a result, the Senate's version of the map has a Congressional district that entirely spans northern Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. In the House's version of the Congressional bill, Hernando County is joined with Citrus and Sumter counties, whereas Pasco County is in the district that also has portions of north Pinellas and Hillsborough County. This configuration in the House's proposal also creates a district that is mostly in eastern Hillsborough and western Polk counties, keeping Plant City, Lakeland, and Bartow wholly within the district.

The next difference is also in the Tampa Bay region. In the House map, District 14 does not go into Manatee County, so that the district is wholly and more compactly located in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The Senate's version of the Congressional district dips into Manatee County.

Moving south along the Gulf Coast, the House version of the Congressional map keeps Sarasota County whole along with the majority of Manatee County. The most similar district in the Senate's version of the Congressional map splits Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties with the coastal side being in one district and the rural side being in another district.

Moving to District 17, the Senate's version splits Charlotte and Okeechobee counties. The House version keeps these counties whole.

The final area of significant difference in the two districts in Miami-Dade County and Monroe County. Both maps connect Monroe County with Miami-Dade County. However, the Senate's version of the map connects Monroe County with eastern Miami-Dade County, while the House's version creates what turns out to be a more compact design connecting Monroe County with western Miami-Dade County. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield back to Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to now recognize Representative Hukill to explain Senate Districts 14 through 22, 24 through 26, and 28. Oh, I apologize—I skipped. Representative Nehr, I haven't forgot about you, buddy. I still got your back. I'd now like to recognize Representative Nehr to explain the Congressional map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, you are recognized.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, we will now be discussing CS/HB 6001, which represents the redistricting of all 40 State Senate districts. This is an identical map to CS for SJR 1176 that our colleagues in the Florida

Senate passed on January 17th. The total range of population deviation for the districts is just under 2 percent, approximately plus or minus 1 percent. And the State Senate map drawn 10 years ago only kept 22 counties whole. HB 6001, before you here today, keeps 36 counties whole. The State Senate map drawn 10 years ago split 126 cities out of the 411 cities throughout Florida, and this proposed map only splits 54 cities. With that, members, let's look at the districts.

Taking a look at Districts 1 and 3, the population of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Jackson, Washington, and Bay counties are nearly equal to that of two State Senate districts. The two districts' primary boundary lines between them are Interstate 10 and the Intercostal Waterway, the Yellow River, as well as several municipal lines.

District 5 is made up of entirely 11 whole counties: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla.

Now, looking at Districts 2, 7, and 11, you can see there are 12 whole counties between these three districts. District 7 is made up entirely of Alachua, Clay, and Union counties. And District 2 is made up of eight whole counties along Florida's Nature Coast—as well as a portion of Marion County. District 11 contains the other part of Marion County, only dividing the county into two districts. District 11, also, keeps the areas known as The Villages and The Golden Triangle—the cities of Eustis, Tavares, and Mount Dora—whole.

Districts 4, 6, and 9 consist of much of Northeast Florida District 4 and keeps Nassau County whole, connecting it to Duval County. District 6 is drawn to maintain a district that historically elects the African-American community's candidate of choice in that region. And Districts 6 and 9 also meet the goal, that public input suggested, that St. Johns and Flagler counties be linked.

District 8 encompasses the majority of Volusia County and connects the county to northern Brevard County, and the district follows many municipal lines within the county, again accomplishing the goal of several people who testified at the Daytona Beach public hearing who requested there be fewer districts in the county and that their city lines be respected.

Moving to the Central Florida area, Districts 10, 12, and 13 are made up of Seminole County, as well as eastern Orange County and southern Lake County. And District 12 preserves the district that historically elects the African-American community's candidate of choice in the Orlando area. Districts 10 and 13 also meet the goal of both Lake and Seminole County residents who wanted to see their counties divided as few times as possible. These districts make sure both counties only have two State Senate districts. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please recognize Representative Hukill to explain Senate Districts 14 through 22, 24 through 26, and 28.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Hukill, you are recognized.

**Rep. Hukill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, moving to the Gulf Coast, we see that District 20 keeps Hernando County whole and joins it with portions of Pasco and Sumter counties. This district makes use of county and municipal borders for the majority of its border. Moving back to the Central Florida area, Districts 14 and 16 are made up of southern Orange County, northern Polk County, and keeps Osceola County whole between the two districts. District 14 has an Hispanic voting-age population of over 50 percent. Several publicly submitted maps drew a similar district in the Orlando area.

Districts 15, 17, 19, 21, and 22 make up the Tampa Bay region made up of all of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties as well as parts of Pasco and Manatee

counties. Both Pinellas and Hillsborough counties have a state Senate district entirely within each county in District 17 and 21, respectively. This reflects the public testimony of residents of the two counties requesting that a Senate district be wholly located in their county. District 19 connects areas of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties and historically elects African-American candidates, and it is also partially located in a Section 5-covered county, Hillsborough County. Therefore, it was important to make an effort to maintain its ability to elect a candidate of choice.

Moving from the Gulf Coast, we move back to the east coast of the state looking specifically at Brevard and Indian River counties that are joined by District 18. This district limits the division of Brevard County to only two State Senate districts, which was a request of those who testified at the Melbourne public hearing. This district also does not divide any municipalities in either county.

Moving back to the Gulf Coast, we look at Districts 24 and 28. [District] 24 connects municipalities in eastern Manatee County, such as Myakka Head, Old Myakka, and Myakka City, within areas in eastern Hillsborough County and southwestern Polk County. District 28 keeps Sarasota County whole and connects that county with areas such as Port Charlotte and Grove City in eastern Charlotte County. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to our vice chair, Representative Workman, to continue the explanation of the proposed State Senate map, HB 6001.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Workman, you are recognized.

**Representative Workman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we continue to move around the map, we look next at District 26, which is a geographically large district made up of five whole inland counties in Hardy, DeSoto, Highlands, Glades, and Okeechobee. The district also connects these counties with southern Polk County, western St. Lucie, and Martin counties, and a portion of Charlotte County.

District 25 connects eastern parts of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and eastern Palm Beach County. This area is linked together by the major transportation routes of Interstate 95 and US 1.

Moving back to the southern part of the state to the Gulf coast, District 23 and 30 link Lee County with the coastal portion of Collier County and the southern portion of Charlotte County.

District 30 keeps municipalities such as Cape Coral, Sanibel, Naples, and Marco Island are kept whole in District 30. Both Districts 23 and 30 use major transportation routes in the area, such as Interstate 75 and the Tamiami Trail, to connect these areas together.

Moving back to the East Coast, we'll now look at Districts 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, and 36. These are the six State Senate districts that make up the majority of Palm Beach and Broward counties. District 27 is wholly located within Palm Beach County and Districts 31 and 36 are wholly located within Broward County. District 29 is a majority-minority district in Palm Beach and Broward counties and has historically elected an African-American community's candidate of choice in that region.

Moving south in Miami-Dade County, we'll look at Districts 33, 35, 37, 38, and 39 all together. Districts 33, 37, and 39 traditionally offer Hispanic communities the opportunity to choose a candidate of their choice. District 38 historically elects an African-American candidate.

Moving further south, we will look at District 40, which has two whole counties in Monroe and Hendry County. This district also has parts of Collier and Miami-Dade counties. This district includes three Section 5 counties in Monroe, Collier County, and Hendry counties where the minority community has traditionally been able to elect an African-American candidate. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Chair Weatherford, back to you.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, those are the explanations of the Senate, House, and Congressional maps. And I think we've got it all out there.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, we are now ready to take up the Senate bills. Take up and read CS for SJR 1176.

**CS for SJR 1176** was read the second time by title on Thursday, February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on page 328).

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, you are recognized to explain the bill.

**Representative Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, this is CS for SJR 1176. It's the proposed State Senate map as passed by the Florida Senate. It is identical to the State Senate map that our Redistricting Committee passed in CS/HJR 6001. This is the same Senate map that we just explained during the presentation and that is the bill, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, are there questions to the sponsor? Representative Jenne, for a question.

**Rep. Jenne:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. Chairman Nelson, I have some questions here. I was hoping to start off with some that focus on the issues of racial fairness in the map. Oh, who did I say? I'm sorry, it's just, I'm in insurance and I just think of Bryan Nelson a whole heck of a lot. [laughter] Representative Nehr, I do apologize.

First of all, if you could, please tell us the definition of 'retrogression' as it is applied to this particular plan.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to tell you, I'll have Representative Weatherford take that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question, Representative Jenne, thank you for bringing it forth. It's been talked about a lot, trying to define, in a very finite manner, the definition of 'retrogression.' I don't know if I have a perfect answer for you, but I can tell you this—'retrogression,' to me, and I think to the committee that has worked for these great bills, means not going backwards. It means that if you have a district, for example, that is a minority-majority district in a Section 5 county, it should not go backwards. It means that, for example, in Amendment 6, that speaks very clearly and Amendment 5, it speaks very clearly to not having diminishment within the minority districts. I think that's what 'retrogression' is.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? For a follow up, Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Representative Weatherford, thank you for that. I'll address my questions back to Representative Nehr, my dear friend Peter Nehr. Some districts must be drawn to allow minorities to elect the Representative of their choosing, but having the 2002 districts change and what I'm wondering, really, is—do we have to maintain 2002 minority districts in order to re-elect someone?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, is that a follow up? Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it. It's a very good question. Look, I think that the Federal law is extremely and implicitly clear. There are different things that you have to look at. For example, we have five counties within Florida that are Section 5 counties within the Voting Rights Act. We cannot allow for diminishment to take place within those five counties—certainly for districts that are within those five counties. But also,

we have Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act that also says that you cannot take a district that is a minority-majority district and take it below 50 percent.

On top of that, the voters, in 2010, voted for Amendments 5 and 6 that very clearly stated, as a tier one criteria, that we cannot diminish the opportunity for minorities, communities to elect a candidate of their choice. And so, I think it's pretty clear as to what we have to do and what we've done within these maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** For a follow up, Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may be these line of questions are along the same vein so, I'll probably address them to Representative Nehr, but please feel free. What was the definition the committee used to determine if districts were racially fair—that threshold that you just spoke of, was there anything else and was it that no plan could diminish the percentage of minority voters in any minority district below its current total or are we just working with that 50 percent threshold? If you would, please, sir.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no specific threshold. It is a district-by-district analysis that we have to make. Certainly, when you're going through the Department of Justice, they require certain data that we have to show and prove that we did not diminish a minority community's ability to elect a candidate of their choice.

**Speaker Cannon:** For a follow up, Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. Next question, whoever needs to answer it. Does compliance with the Constitution require the use of minority voting data, majority voting data, performance in various elections, ability of minority voters to elect, and I was wondering if you could tell me why or why not, depending upon your answer, of course?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, a good question. The Voting Rights Act and the Department of Justice, as well, in order for us to make sure we have not diminished according to Amendments 5 and 6, we do have to use data to show that we have not taken away that community's ability to vote for a candidate of their choice.

**Speaker Cannon:** For a follow up, Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had the opportunity and the honor to sit on these committees, there was a lot of talk, seemed to be wherever, at least, that I went and my colleagues reiterated to me that they heard a lot on the different legs of the trip, but there was a lot of talk about making preservations of minority districts a priority—I think we can all agree upon that. Is there any numerical formula, any at all? We know that now, that there isn't. So, how then do we know if the plan diminishes or does not diminish the ability if we're not using any specific type of threshold?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I answered that question before, but it is a district-by-district analysis. There is no specific threshold—it is a district-by-district analysis. And I would also add, that it wasn't just this body that agrees—that is a tier one standard to protect people's ability to elect a candidate of their choice. Sixty-three percent of the voting public in 2010 also agreed.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the plan packs large minorities of Democratic voters into some districts—is that evidence, or can we take that as evidence, as the plan is intended to favor one party or another? If we see packing, really not just the Democrats and I apologize because that's

my point of view, but in either party, if we're packing people in—is that evidence to show that it was intended to favor one group or the other, sir?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the fact that our maps do not have any packing within them, whatsoever. It's not a part of any of our maps. We made sure of that and it's nowhere within any one of these House, Congressional, or Senate maps—there was no packing, whatsoever.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Speaker. Based on the map that we're currently presented with—does it represent the greatest number of minority or coalition districts that could have been drawn? If no, why not? If the answer is yes, could you please tell us how you know that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Certainly, we can give you a lot of data on the districts that were drawn that potentially would give communities the ability to vote for a candidate of their choice, but there is no requirement of law that you maximize anything like that. So, that is not something that we look to do.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it's statistically probable that minority voters will elect a candidate of their choice, with 40 percent minority voting age population—is it constitutional, constitutionally permissible, for that district to contain 55 percent, 65 percent, 75 percent, so on and so forth?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I don't believe there is a numeric standard that you can unilaterally or paint across the entire state of Florida. I think that it is a district-by-district analysis that you have to run through to make sure that you feel confident that that community would be able to vote a candidate of their choice. There is no number that you can put your hat on and say that that is the magic number—does not exist.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as always. Was election performance data used, Representative Weatherford, to determine if districts improved or diminished the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice? If yes, you could define what that data was and I'll save the rest for follow up if necessary, dependent upon your answer.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Justice actually requires that we use performance data to prove that the districts that we've drawn continue to allow a community to elect a candidate of their choice. Our staff, along with our attorneys, look at that data and they analyze it on a district-by-district basis to make sure that that is taking place—the answer is yes.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can we ask what the source of that data, where the source of that data was?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** The source is the Department of State, Division of Elections, and also, I would like to point out on the earlier question as well, if I could, Mr. Speaker, that we only use that data when dealing with those

districts, the minority districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Switching gears, I'm going to go back because these next set of questions deal with incumbency and perhaps it will go back to you, Chairman Weatherford, but I'll formally address them to Chairman Nehr at this point, until I know otherwise. Chairman Nehr, if the 2002 districts were drawn in order to preserve incumbency or to help any particular political party, is that something relevant to determining whether or not we can simply keep the 2012 districts and plans approximately the same as configured in 2002? Because I have to be quite honest, when I look over things it seems to be that they are very, very similar in nature.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr.

**Rep. Nehr:** Mr. Speaker, once again, I'd like to yield to Representative Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could not disagree more. I don't think our districts in 2012 reflect, very much of anything in 2002, but I would also like to point out that I don't think anybody here can specifically talk about what the intent of the legislature was 10 years ago. I didn't serve in this body. We may have a couple of a retreads who are here when we went through that process in 2002, but I was not one of them and so I can't speak to that. There is nothing wrong with being a retread, Representative Frishe. [laughter]

**Speaker Cannon:** The record shall so reflect. Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** I like to refer to them as veterans, Chairman. [laughter] I'm sorry. If the district is composed of 70 percent voters of the same party as the incumbent, some might say that it's evidence of an intent to favor said incumbent. I was wondering if you could explain, why or why not, in your particular view.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that's a factor in whether or not the maps that we drew were compliant with Amendments 5 and 6 and the Federal Voting Rights Act. I mean, we have very clear standards both in statute, Federal statute—we have very clear standards in the State Constitution which we abided by. But one those standards is not whether or not a district looks anything similar to the way it looked 10 years ago when it was drawn. So, I guess I just don't follow that line of questioning.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Fair enough. Next question would be this—were there any iterations, models, of any maps that included any member's actual residence—intentionally placed there?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Very proud to say, absolutely not and I think a lot of the members in this Chamber could speak to that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** At least I can. Were there any discussions with members about whether their residence would be in a district with another residence of any other incumbent? Was the Democratic Party of Florida solicited to give their input or was the Republican Party of Florida solicited to give their input?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our job was to comply with the Amendments 5 and 6, and our Constitution, and to comply with the Federal statutes of the Voting Rights Act. Where people live was

inconsequential. We did not look at that information and I think that's reflected in our maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you. And then to the second part of that question would be—was there anyone reaching out, did anyone reach out, to the Florida Democratic Party or the Republican Party of Florida on behalf of this Chamber?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the final question that I have. Based on publicly available historic election data, as certified by our very own Secretary of State, the Senate plan overwhelmingly, it favors one particular party while creating only fourteen districts that would give the minority party a chance at winning. On a fair plan, based on a 50/50 statewide partisan vote in this state, wouldn't that allow for 20 and 20 and can you tell me why doesn't this plan shake out that way?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I cannot speak for the Senate, but we certainly, and I agree with the Senate, I believe the Senate would say the same thing, that we did not use political data in drawing these maps and so it's kind of hard to answer a question about what we knew in regards to political data when we didn't use it. Nowhere in the standards to talk about trying to draw districts with any type of partisanship or any type of number involved, and very clear standards to talk about tier one standards of making sure there was no political intent, had very clear standards about preserving communities' ability to vote for a candidate of their choice, compactness, cities and counties, all those things. It doesn't talk about the question that you just asked.

**Speaker Cannon:** One more. Representative Jenne, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jenne:** I appreciate your indulgence, Mr. Speaker. Some of my colleagues started getting in my ear for a second; they wanted me to ask a follow up to a previous question. Before, I had asked if any information had been solicited from any political party. The question that I was asked to then reframe would be—was there any communication either between the House of Representatives, anyone working for the House of Representatives, and the Florida Democratic Party or the Republican Party of Florida via telephone, email, fax, Skype, anything at all?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No—that I know of.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz, for a question. You're recognized.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is about incumbency, also. Were members asked about how to improve a district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I—maybe reframe that question. I'm not sure I understood it exactly.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were any members asked about how to improve a district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I can speak for our committee. The conversations that we had, in regards to improvement—we had many conversations about improvement—but they were about improving the compliance with the standards that we have to follow, both with the Federal Voting Rights Act and with Amendments 5 and 6.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz, for a follow up.

**Rep. Cruz:** Actually, Mr. Speaker, it's another question, not a follow up.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right. Another question.

**Rep. Cruz:** Were districts modified based on any member input?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think districts were modified certainly by member input. They were modified based on public input. They were modified by maps that were submitted by members of the public. They were modified by discussions that took place within the committee. So there were many ways that the districts were modified. A lot of ideas were exchanged throughout the committee process. I think it's very well documented in this committee.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz, you're recognized.

**Rep. Cruz:** Questions now on compactness. What definition of compactness was applied to constructing this plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Compactness is not necessarily determined by a single test or a measurement. Compactness—thank you, Representative—compactness can be in different forms. For example, you can look at a district and very clearly see if it's compact. I think there is an eyeball test that we would all recognize, whether or not something is compact. But it can also be something that is following a county boundary, or it can be a political or geographic boundary. Or it can be one which improves a citizen's ability to travel when it comes to the traveling distance of a district. So, there are lots of measurements. In fact, courts have used up to several dozen types of compactness measures. There is no one that is utilized as the standard, so to speak. But I do believe the basic—to break it down to very basic terms, I think you kind of know compactness when you see it. And I think that when you look at our districts, I do think they meet that test.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz, you're recognized.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To that end, can you tell me how does this plan reflect your definition of compactness?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Cruz:** I said to that—

**Speaker Cannon:** Go ahead, Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** I said to that end, can you tell me how this plan reflects your definition of compactness?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By every measurement that we have and that we utilize. In fact, if you go to MyDistrictBuilder™, we have different ways and components to measure compactness by every form. It is more compact than it was 10 years ago, significantly more compact.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you tell me, please, what reasons were there for districts that are not clearly compact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I need you to be a little more specific than that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Well, I'll ask the question again then. What reasons were there for districts that were not clearly, physically compact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I hate to do this to you, Representative Cruz, but I'm going to repeat myself. I think you need to be a little more specific and give me a district you think does not meet the compactness requirements and I'll tell you why we, you know, that we felt that it was the most legally compliant form to draw that district.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Can you tell me then why some districts were not drawn in a compact fashion?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I—Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I'm going to continue to say the same thing. It's not Groundhog Day, but I would need you to be a little bit more specific about what exact districts you're talking about that you feel are not compact.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz, can you rephrase the question?

**Rep. Cruz:** Representative Weatherford, I'll follow up with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz, you have another question?

**Rep. Cruz:** Did staff have access to performance data?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Mr. Speaker, I feel like I've answered that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** I'm recognized? How can we know if a plan favors or disfavors a party without performance data?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** It's a good question. I would like to also point out that the performance data—everyone has access to it. The question is whether or not you utilize it in drawing districts, which we most certainly did not. We did not use performance data to draw the districts around the state of Florida. And so, I think your question, which is asking me how can we draw districts without knowing the performance data, we draw districts based on what the standards in the law say. We draw districts based on what Amendments 5 and Amendment 6 said. We draw districts based on what the Voting Rights Act tells us we have to do. So what we do is we follow the law, we listen to the public, we utilize their public input, and we make sure that it falls in line with what the law says. And that's how we come up with districts—it's actually a pretty simple formula.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Representative Weatherford, I'm going to go back to the reasons that districts are not clearly compact and ask you if you could explain to me a little bit about District 26 which is clearly expansive.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you want to yield that one to—you're recognized, Representative Weatherford?

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're pulling up that district and we may allow Representative Hukill to answer that question. She explained that district earlier and we'll allow her to answer that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** And, members, we are going to take our time on these. Don't worry, Representative Cruz and others. We'll make sure, much like we do on the budgetary process, we want to make sure everybody gets his questions answered and we have ample time for each chair and subcommittee chair to provide whatever data you need or, Representative Cruz, as you indicated, to get together one-on-one as needed.

Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, Representative Hukill—that was actually Representative Workman's. But I'll go ahead and answer the question. You know, in looking at the data of this district, it keeps five counties whole. It keeps DeSoto whole. It keeps Glades County, Hardee County, Highlands County, Okeechobee County whole. So, I think that's something we should be very proud of. And when I look at the cities that are kept whole in this district—Arcadia, Avon Park, Bartow, Bowling, Green, East Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Highland Park, Hillcrest Heights, Lake Placid, Moore Haven, Okeechobee, Sebring, Wauchula, and Zolfo Springs, which is my favorite. And when I look at the district, both visually and when I look at the amount of cities and counties that are kept whole, I clearly think that is a very compact district.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Representative Weatherford, could you speak to the compactness of District 24?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Hukill, you're recognized.

**Rep. Hukill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very good question. Thank you so much, Representative. You know, we didn't draw this map. Obviously, it was the Senate map, but I'm going to give you the explanation that they have provided, which is their intent.

**Speaker Cannon:** Members in the back, if you could take your seats. Keep the aisles clear. Please give Representative Hukill your full attention. Representative Hukill, sorry, you're recognized.

**Rep. Hukill:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically, it says that it was the intent of the legislature to establish Senate District 24, which includes the portion of Manatee County not included in the minority opportunity district, with communities in eastern Hillsborough and western Polk County—includes all of the municipalities of Anna Maria Beach—Anna Maria, I'm sorry—Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, Mulberry, and Plant City is equal in population to other districts, follows political and geographical boundaries, follows the boundaries of Manatee County, follows highways and the outskirts of Plant City in Hillsborough County, and follows highways and passes between Mulberry and Bartow in Polk County.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, could you tell me if there are any districts that are not compact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** The question is whether or not there are any districts that are not compact—is that the question? I think you'd have to define to me

what you believe is not to be compact. As I stated earlier, there is many different forms of compactness, but I believe our district is extremely compact. And, you know, members, sometimes we forget, but when you compare this map, this Senate map, or the House—or the Congressional map for that matter, the best comparison is the 2002 map. And so when you go back and you look at the Senate map in 2002, and you look at the compactness there, and then you compare it to this map, it is clearly far superior when it comes to compactness. But it's also clearly far superior when it comes to county splits and city splits. So I think it's a very legally compliant map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Cruz.

**Rep. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Gaetz, you are recognized for a question.

**Rep. Gaetz:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, one of the premises of the question that Representative Jenne asked was that the maps that were in the Senate Resolution that came over disproportionately favored one political party. My question is this, when the Senate Resolution was voted on in the Senate, how did the majority of the Democrats vote on that map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Gaetz, my memory may be fogged, but I don't think it is. I believe that the majority of them actually voted in favor of the map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Berman, you are recognized for a question.

**Rep. Berman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, I'd like to ask you some questions about compactness. How many cities are split into multiple districts in the 2012 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to have Representative Nehr answer that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, you're recognized.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Don't know exactly how many are split, but the answer is that this is the State Senate map as passed by the Florida Senate. So, I would assume that their staff and members who drew the map know exactly. And we actually split 54 cities on the Senate map. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Berman, you're recognized.

**Rep. Berman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representatives, how many cities are split into multiple districts in the 2002 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going to pull that data if you give us just one second. We will get that answer to you Representative.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, have you got that data? Representative Nehr you're recognized.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's 126.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Berman you're recognized.

**Rep. Berman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many counties are split into multiple districts in the 2012 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, you're recognized.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 31.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Berman, you're recognized.

**Rep. Berman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many counties are split into multiple districts in the 2002 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr, you're recognized.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 45.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Berman.

**Rep. Berman:** Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Eisnaugle, you're recognized for a question.

**Rep. Eisnaugle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman, I know you were asked previously about communications with the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. I just wanted clarification on if whether during this process you heard from partisans on both sides, Democratic and Republican alike, about their wishes?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, for all of us who traveled the state, with the 26 public hearings we certainly heard from both sides. But, of course, at no point did we utilize the political input to prompt an actual drawing of any district in this map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Thompson, you're recognized for a question.

**Rep. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chair Weatherford, there's been a lot of focus on giving minorities an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. When we look at Palm Beach County, which has a 14 percent black population and a 13 percent Hispanic population, there has never been an African-American or a Hispanic elected countywide. And my question is why is there no Senate district included in the maps that you are presenting that's designed to allow Palm Beach County to elect a candidate of their choice?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the answer to that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Thompson.

**Rep. Thompson:** Thank you. Representative Weatherford, does this map represent the greatest number of minority or coalition districts that is possible and if not, why not?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I answered this question earlier, but we are not able to try to maximize minority representation. That is not something that we legally have a responsibility to do, in fact we should not do that. But I cannot speak to whether or not, in the process of the Senate, what their determination was as to how many minority districts they drew. I believe that what they did is the same thing we did in the House, which is to follow the standards that we have in the Florida's Constitution and follow the Voting Rights Act.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Thompson.

**Rep. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and this is my final question. Then how do we know that we have given minorities the greatest opportunity to elect candidates of their choice?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the way we know, we go district by district, obviously. And we know that there are very clear standards that we have to follow, both at the Federal level and State level, and I believe there actually was a new Hispanic seat that was created in this map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Randolph for a question.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering, during the public testimony period—maps submitted during that, maps submitted during the committee process, were there any maps that had fewer counties split and fewer municipalities split than the map before us now?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there may have been some maps that focused solely on one area. For example, there may have been a map that prioritized city splits. But in that same map, which was the League of Women Voters map for example, they had more county splits in their compactness measures and were not nearly as good as the Senate map that you have before you today. And, so, different maps have priorities on certain areas. So, the answer to your question is yes, I do believe that there were some maps that were out there, but in whole as you're balancing out the standards and you're trying to comply with all the standards, I believe that our maps are far superior to anything that we received.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph you're recognized.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new requirements that were put into place by 63 percent of the voters in 2010—one of the new requirements in both standards, both the Congressional and State legislative, included a standard that required the districts to be "equal in population as practicable." Now under Federal litigation and the Federal case law that's "equal in population as practicable," that phrase itself has been used to determine at the Federal level that there be zero deviation in population. I'm curious as to why you believe that since that phrase was specifically used to also, now, be included for state legislative districts, why there, still, is almost a two percent deviation?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Very good question, Representative Randolph, I appreciate you asking it. The truth is that the standard for Congressional deviation is different for State and legislative. We try to keep the deviation as low as we possibly can, but we see an opportunity to keep a city whole, when we see an opportunity to keep a county whole, when we see an opportunity to make sure that we can create the most compact district as we possibly can. Sometimes you have to have a little bit of flexibility in deviation. Our maps, I believe the deviation now is better than it was 2002. So, certainly deviation is something we look at, we try to get it as low as we possibly can, but it can be utilized, you need some flexibility there to keep cities and counties whole.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph you're recognized.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But the Congressional maps got down to a deviation of one. I believe, one person—not even one percent, one person on many of their maps. Which obviously has been the constitutional requirement at the Federal level for some time, because of the case law that says that Article 2, I believe, requires there be zero deviation at the Federal levels, but now we've got that in our State legislative levels and so, I'm curious then, at least with the phraseology of "equal in population as practicable," do you believe then that is a standard that falls below the other standards?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I believe that the standard in the State Constitution is not the same as Federal law for Congressional districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then can you tell me what you think the phrase, "equal in population as practicable," means?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standard in the State Constitution is a second tier standard and so, when practicable, along with county lines, city boundaries, geographical boundaries, compactness; all these other measurements they all have to come into account. We try to do the best job we can to make districts compact, to follow city lines, to follow county lines, and to make the deviation as small as we possibly can. But to make it down to one, which is what it is with Congressional maps, we were not able to do that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Gibbons for a question.

**Rep. Gibbons:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative, what is the definition of 'minority district' used to construct the 2012 maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I've already answered that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Gibbons.

**Rep. Gibbons:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The language of the Constitution now requires that districts shall not be drawn to diminish the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice. Is it possible that packing minorities into one district violates this provision?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no packing of minorities in these maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Gibbons.

**Rep. Gibbons:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative, the language of the Constitution now requires that districts cannot be drawn to diminish the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice. If a district packs 80 percent minorities into one district, when data shows that those voters could elect two representatives, does that violate the Florida Constitution?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the answer to the prior question would be the same for this one and that is that, unequivocally, there was no packing in these districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Gibbons.

**Rep. Gibbons:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final question, is it a violation of the Constitution to over pack a district with minority voters by placing more of them in a district than absolutely necessary to allow minority voters the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice and then violate other criteria of the process?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I've answered this question, but I'll say it one more time to be clear. There has been no packing in any of the maps that will be before you today.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Further questions? Representative Jones, for a question? No further questions? Representative Passidomo for a question.

**Rep. Passidomo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, there have been several questions about 'intent.' I'm trying to understand what everyone means when they use the word 'intent.' Can you share with me what you consider how we determine 'intent'?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that question, Representative Passidomo. I think you can determine intent by looking at the compliance with the other standards enumerated in the Constitution—compactness, respecting city and county boundaries, respecting the rights of minorities to elect a candidate of their choice. I think that's the best way to determine that.

**Speaker:** Further questions? Are there amendments?

Representative Weatherford offered **Amendment 1** (Amendment Bar Code 601757), on February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on pages 328-438).

The absence of a quorum was suggested. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence: 657]. (as previously shown in the *Journal* on page 438).

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, without objection, members, just to be very clear—and, I think, Representative Weatherford was very clear, but nevertheless, that's why I want everyone in their seats, members. Members, in your seats, please.

Without objection, we will revert to the order of business of—not the order of business—we will revert to questions on the amendment which, as Representative Weatherford explained, incorporates the House map as passed by the committee into the joint resolution previously passed by the Senate.

Are there questions on the amendment? Representative Jones, you are recognized for a question.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were any members asked about how they might be able to have their districts improved based on the numbers that they saw in their districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to apologize to the members for jumping the gun on the quorum call. So, for those of you who were enjoying a cold drink in the back, I'm sorry. Not that kind of cold drink, Mr. Speaker, I meant a soda, of course—but, it is redistricting.

But, no, to get to your question, Representative. No data was utilized in drawing these maps—no political data. So, no members came to ask for improvement because we didn't use it. The only improvements we ever made to these maps were how to make it more compliant to the law—how to utilize the public input more. So, all the improvements—the way that we judged if a map was improved was: is it a better reflection of what the public has asked for, and was it a better reflection of what the Federal Voting Rights Act said, and a better reflection of what Amendments 5 and 6 said?

REPRESENTATIVE MCKEEL IN THE CHAIR

**Rep. McKeel [The Chair]:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were districts modified based on any member input?

**The Chair:** Representative Weatherford—repeat the question, Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Repeat the question? OK. Were any of the districts—as we see them today—modified based on any member input?

**The Chair:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member input we had in the committee process was based off how to make the maps more compliant to the law. The member input we had during the committee process, which brings us here today, had everything to do with making sure the public input was put forth in the maps that are reflected here today. And so, the member input—of course we had conversations, many members in this Chamber sat on committees that dealt with these issues and looked at these maps. But, the input that we put the highest priority on for sure—and I think it's reflected in this map that we're talking about now—was the public input.

**The Chair:** Representative Jones, for a question.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just to be clear, I'm specifically speaking to the House maps. Did staff have access to any performance data as they put together these maps?

**The Chair:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I've answered that question, but again, the only time any type of data was utilized was when we were doing what the Department of Justice requires us to do, which is to do that analysis on those minority-majority seats to make sure that there's not retrogression. But, that being said, I want to point out something else I think I said before, but I want to make sure it's abundantly clear. At no time during this process, did we ever utilize what someone's residence was, where they lived, what they wanted, in the making of these maps. That was never a consideration and I think that's the first time in the history of Florida that we've done that.

**The Chair:** Representative Jones, for a question.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You've indicated that no data was used in making these maps. Did any groups or organizations, or associations—political parties—bring to staff or to you any information that would relate to performance data to sway you in drawing a map a certain way?

**The Chair:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only organization that brought forth such a map was the League of Women Voters and it was voted down unanimously by both parties and every person on the committee.

#### SPEAKER CANNON IN THE CHAIR

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, for a follow up.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How can we know if a plan favors or disfavors a particular party without performance data?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I've answered this question. In fact, a lot of the questions I'm hearing on this map are very similar to the ones that we heard on the last map, but we know by based on compliance with the law. Our job is to follow the standards that are very clearly set forth in the law.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of these questions may be very similar to what you heard in the previous questioning—and recognizing the fact that I think it's been stated here on the floor that the Senate map came over to us as the work of the Senate. So, right now, the questions that are

coming to you are specifically of the House and the work that we've done here in the House. So, I hope you will oblige us.

How can we know if a plan—we just did that one, I'm sorry. If in 2002, districts were drawn in order to preserve incumbency—which has been stated many times—or to help a particular party to make sure they maintain their position in dominance, was this particular map drawn based on the 2002 map, and if so, would we expect that we are keeping the 2012 map—I'm sorry, let me go back. Was this—is that something relevant to determining whether we can simply keep the 2012 map and the plans approximately the same as the configuration of the 2002 map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think anything can be further from the truth. In fact, I don't think our map is a reflection of the 2002 map. And, in fact, the way we came about these districts, as I've stated numerous times, was based on the public input that we've received and based on what the standards in the law tell us. At no point in time, Representative, at no point in time were any decisions that were made for these maps based off anything political. And, by the way, that's the first time in the history of Florida that that's happened. And, I think as a Chamber, we should be proud of that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, for a follow-up.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the 2002 maps and the minority districts within the 2002 maps, were the 2012 maps based on the 2002 maps as it relates to the minority districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there is a reference point that it becomes, but at the end of the day you have to look at each individual district. And so, if a district is protected by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, we certainly have to look at that and make sure that we don't have retrogression in that district. But, they are a reference point, they are not a replication of the district that it was in 2002 because, frankly, populations change and districts change.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a district is comprised of 70 percent voters of the same voting population and party as the incumbent, isn't it evident that the intent is there to favor that incumbent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Can I get you to repeat that question again, Representative? I'm sorry.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** If a district is comprised of 70 percent voters of the same party as the incumbent, isn't it that evidence of an intent to favor the incumbent? Why or why not?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's irrelevant. What we have to look at is we have to look at the compactness of the district, we have to look at the geographic boundaries, we have to look at the cities and the counties where they kept whole, we have to look at the tier one standards and Amendments 5 and 6 and we have to look at the Voting Rights Act. And so, where people are and where they live and what their political registration is not something that we factor in to these decisions.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were there planned models that included member residence in the House maps that were drawn?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think very, obviously, the answer to that is no.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Were there any discussions with members about whether their residence would be in the district with the residents of any other incumbents?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Not sure I understand the question. Maybe if you could repeat it or expand on it a little bit.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were two members that ended up in the same district—were there any discussions about the fact that there are two residences of two incumbents that ended up in the same district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think, I think maybe the way you're framing the question—I think, if the question you're asking is were they drawn for that reason, then, I think, the answer is no. They were not drawn for that reason.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Let me rephrase the question for you. Were there any discussions with members about whether their residencies would be in a district with the residence of any other incumbent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think most people in this Chamber found out where they were living in the district that they would be living in after the maps were produced on December 6th. So, I don't believe that those conversations took place before the maps came out. I think after they came out—certainly the media has reported a lot of data in this regard, but it was not utilized in making the maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Was it utilized in making any amendments to the maps that were presented after December 6th?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Based on publicly available historic election data, as certified by the Secretary of State, the House plan overwhelmingly favors Republicans, creating only 47 districts that would give Democrats a chance at winning. A fair plan by my definition, based on a 50-50 statewide, partisan vote, in this state, should allow for 60 Republicans and 60 Democrats. Why doesn't this particular map get us there?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounded a lot like debate as opposed to a question, but I'll answer the question. And the question that I believe that you're asking is—no, is the answer.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, for a question.

**Rep. Jones:** Got it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In District 88—earlier you asked for specifics—in District 88, is District 88 a minority coalition or a minority access district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is a minority-majority district.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Does District 88 violate the Constitutional mandate for compactness?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** The good news here is, no. It is actually much more compact than the configuration that was drawn in 2002. And, in doing so, we also continued to maintain its minority-majority status.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Was there any attempt or effort to draw District 88 in a more compact manner?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I believe the two options that we had in the maps—there was one district that started on the east coast and moved to the west and went into the Glades. That district was far less compact than this configuration. Those were the only two configurations that the committees looked at and we chose this one because we believe that it follows the law more clearly and more carefully and it's a better map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones, you are recognized.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did you take a look at any of the other maps that were submitted, because—or would it surprise you to know that there were many maps that were submitted online by other organizations or members of the public that created a minority access seat without drawing the district through the middle of six cities and dividing neighborhoods?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I am very well aware of those maps that were submitted. The problem was in each and every one of those they violated federal law in the Voting Rights Act and we were not going to do that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jones.

**Rep. Jones:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and this will be my final question. Palm Beach County has apparently 14 percent black population and 13 percent Hispanic population, yet has never elected an African-American or Hispanic countywide. Why is there no House—no, that will be it, that will be it.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Further questions? Representative Clemens, you are recognized for questions on the amendment.

**Rep. Clemens:** I defer to Representative Abruzzo.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Abruzzo, for a question.

**Rep. Abruzzo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to clarify some of the remarks made about Palm Beach County in electing African-Americans and minorities. Palm Beach County did elect Arthur Anderson countywide in the 80s, in a five-way school board race where he got 52 percent and beat four Caucasians. Also, Arthur Anderson was then elected countywide as an African-American Supervisor of Election.

Our very own, Susan Bucher, who is a Hispanic, is also current[ly] elected Supervisor of Elections and also I.C. Smith, a judge from Palm Beach County, won for judge as an African-American. So, Palm Beach County has a rich tradition of electing minorities, including Mimi McAndrews, who used to occupy where Mark Pafford sits, in one of the highest Jewish per capita seats in the entire country. Mimi McAndrews was the first Korean elected to the Florida Legislature. So, I'm very proud of our tradition in Palm Beach County of electing minorities in all different types of districts. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Further questions—Representative Clemens, for a question.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we still on questions, then?

**Speaker Cannon:** We indeed are.

**Rep. Clemens:** OK, fantastic. Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the delay. I'm going to defer to another member.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clarke-Reed? Representative Clarke-Reed, for a question on the amendment.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank, you Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, my questions are directed to the House map. What definition of 'compactness' was used in constructing this plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, very much. First of all, I want to thank Representative Clarke-Reed because she was one of the few people who went to every single public hearing around the state of Florida, so... [applause] You deserve a lot of credit for that, 'cause I honestly didn't go to every single one of those meetings around the state, but to answer your question—compactness is not determined by any single test of measurement. It includes a lot of numerous factors that, I think, I talked about in regard to the Senate map, as well.

**Speaker Cannon:** For a follow up, Representative Clarke-Reed.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, what reasons were there for districts that were clearly not compact—what was the reasoning drawn? And I'm speaking directly to District 70.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for speaking directly to a specific district. It is my understanding that District 70 is a district that is protected by the Voting Rights Act. Hillsborough County is a Section 5 Voting Rights Act county that is protected by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and therefore, we cannot have the diminishment in that district and so, it is a protected seat according to the Voting Rights Act.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clarke-Reed.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank, you Mr. Speaker. How many cities are split into multiple districts in the 2012 plan, and how many were split in the 2002 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Very happy to tell you that we've made great progress on that front. There were a 170 city splits in 2002 and in this map, before you today, we have 75.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clarke-Reed.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Could you please give me that same information as in reference to counties, how many counties are split in this 2012 plan and how many were split in the 2002 plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was 46 counties were split in 2002 and again, we made great progress in only 30 counties were split in this map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clarke-Reed.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the end of my questions.

**Speaker Cannon:** Mine too. Representative McKeel, you're recognized for a question.

**Rep. McKeel:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, I feel like we've had a fair amount of questioning today, particularly in the last hour, and I feel like there's been a lot of beating around the bush about a specific point. And so, I thought I would just ask the question directly. Were the House maps drawn, in whole or part, by the Republican Party of Florida?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative McKeel.

**Rep. McKeel:** To that point—thank you, Mr. Speaker—when the committees drew the state House maps, did you incorporate, include, or otherwise contain any information given to you by consultants or employees of the Republican Party of Florida?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Absolutely not.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Clemens, you're recognized for a question.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate your indulgence with my disorganization. Representative Weatherford, as it relates to the House districts, if it's statistically probable that minority voters will elect a candidate of their choice, with 40 percent minority voting age population, is it then constitutionally permissible that that district contain 55 percent or 65 percent minority voters?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, you know, as we stated earlier, I'm not going to violate the Voting Rights Act. And so, if it's a Section 2 district or a district that's protected by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, any diminishment there would be a violation. And so, certainly, we're going to protect from that. But also, you look at the State Constitution. Amendment 5 and Amendment 6 are extremely clear—that we do not need to have diminishment. And so, in my opinion, you actually—in fact, not in my opinion—I believe this to be fact, I think it is fact—that what Amendment 5 and 6 did was give Section 5 protections throughout the entire state of Florida in all 67 counties. And so, to try to give you a number, as of what number you could go down to and still elect the community to allow to elect a candidate of their choice, we're not going to play that game with a number because the Constitution is clear that we should have no diminishment. And we've defended that in these maps that are before you here today.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clemens.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, in your view, diminishment could mean a reduction from 70 percent to 69 percent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll read from the Constitution what it says. It says that "districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice." You know, that's what the Constitution says. I believe that we followed that extremely clearly—it does not have a number in there. There is no court case that has a specific number in there. There is no threshold, as we stated earlier. We are making sure that there is no diminishment in our minority districts and I think that's a very important thing that we should continue to do.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clemens.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate it. So just to be clear, it's your—since there's no definition in any of these other places, it's your definition that going down from 70 to 69 percent would be diminishment?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I do not think that I said that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clemens.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll move on. Was election performance data, in as it relates to the House districts, used to determine if districts improved or diminished the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** By State and Federal law, it was. Yes.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clemens.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you. What data was used?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A whole plethora of data is utilized. It's a very complex analysis that you have to do on a district-by-district basis. But, certainly, you have to look at performance data. You have to look at turnout—there's a lot of different things that you have to look at to determine whether or not you're taking away a community's ability to vote for a candidate of their choice. It's a very complex process that is set forth by the Department of Justice that we follow to make sure that, as we turn these maps in to them for compliance, that we make sure there's been no diminishment.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clemens.

**Rep. Clemens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, last question. So as it relates to drawing those districts and using that data, if you had a district that, say, had a 52 percent Hispanic population but the actual regular voting data showed you that it was only maybe about 20 percent or 25 percent that actually voted, would that be considered a majority-minority district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** If it's over 50 percent minority, then it would be considered a minority-majority district.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Rogers, for a question.

**Rep. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman. Just two questions—what is the definition of 'minority districts' used to construct the 2012 maps? Please remind me.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no definition.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rogers.

**Rep. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the definition of 'retrogression' as applied to the plans?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no particular definition.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Questions? Representative Rouson—no—Representative Waldman, for a question.

**Representative Waldman:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Representative, at any time—either before, during, or after, were any members' homes plotted on any of the maps by staff?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Are there amendments to the amendment? Sorry. Representative Rouson, for a question.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, you have weathered these questions, very greatly. What do you call the diminished psycho-cosmic retrogression manufactured drawing of lines which reveals such heavenly apportionment?

**Speaker Cannon:** OK, members, we're in questions, serious questions, not debate. Want to rephrase Representative Rouson?

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It took me all night to come up with that. Based on publicly available, historic election data, as certified by the Secretary of State, the plan appears to overwhelmingly favor Republican districts by 47. A fair plan, it appears, would be a 50/50 statewide partisan vote. Can you explain why this did not start out with 60 Republican and 60 Democratic seats?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Rouson. If you're saying that we should engineer a political result to come from these maps that is blatantly against the law. And that is a great reason why we did not do that. What we did do was we looked at the Constitution and we said, what does the Constitution say? And we have standards that are set forth in there that are very clear and we have Federal law that tells us how we have to draw minority-based districts that are very clear in the Voting Rights Act. And so we are not going to engineer any political result pro Republican, pro-Democrat, or-pro neutral—that is not a responsibility of this Chamber. The responsibility of us is to make sure we comply with the standards that are in the Constitution and are in the law.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The language of the Constitution now requires that districts cannot be drawn to diminish the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice. Is it possible that packing minorities into one district violates that provision?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** The good news, Representative Rouson, is that there is no packing whatsoever in this map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Mr. Speaker. The language of the Constitution also requires that districts cannot be drawn to diminish the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choice. So, if a district packs 80 percent minorities into one district, when the data shows that these voters could elect two representatives, does that violate the Constitution?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not a lawyer, but what I can tell you is that there is no packing whatsoever in this district. And in fact, I'm going to give you an example of something that we did do. There was a district in central Florida and there were two maps that we could choose from in central Florida, in Orange County, one map would have had an African-American district that would have been somewhere close to 70 percent, or above 70 percent, voting age population African-American. There was also another map that had two African-American districts, one that was a minority-majority district at just over 50 percent, and one that was over 40 percent African-American. What the subcommittee chose to pass and send to us in the full committee was the map that created two districts. So, that was just one example of what we did throughout this process, and Representative Rouson, I think, that even you would agree that there is no packing in this map whatsoever.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** And to follow up on that, Representative Weatherford, was that decision based on performance data?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** That decision was not based on performance data. What the decision was made, based off of, was that we had the ability to create an opportunity seat. We had minority-majority seat that was close to 70 percent. You had another district that you could draw and allowing to have two districts that would have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice, we felt like that was better than one. And I think we should be proud of that decision that we made as a committee.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson, you are recognized.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on that, does compliance with the Constitution require the use of minority voting data, majority voting data, performance in various elections, and the ability of minority voters to elect?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. State and Federal law require that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, there was talk in committee about making preservation of minority districts a priority. Is there some numerical formula to determine if we are, in fact, diminishing minorities' ability to elect the representatives of their choice?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I've answered this question about five times in five different ways, but I'll say it again, Representative Rouson, in deference to you. I believe that what we did was we followed the Constitution very clearly. We did not diminish, in any form, and in some instances we were able create new minority-majority districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson, you're recognized.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it a violation of the Constitution to over-pack a district with minority voters by placing more of them in a district than absolutely necessary to allow them, the voters, an opportunity to elect the representative of their choice? In other words, do you ascribe to any theory that you have to have 80 percent or 70 percent in order for voters to elect the representative of their choice?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I've answered that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does this map represent the greatest number of minority or coalition districts that could have been drawn?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank You, Mr. Speaker. I believe I've answered that question, too, but I'll say it again. There is no requirement by law to do that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Last question, Mr. Speaker, thank you. What is the definition of 'minority district' as used to construct the 2012 maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** There is no definition.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Rouson.

**Representative Rouson:** Thank you for your courtesy, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders, for a question.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Despite the fact that during the committee meetings we heard the word 'retrogression' quite a bit, I believe earlier, in response to a question, you stated there is no definition, in your mind, of 'retrogression.' Is that what your statement was?

**Speaker:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just believe there is no statistical threshold that you could utilize unilaterally to create that definition.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Let me ask if you would agree. Last year, you were kind enough to send me this NCSL Redistricting Law and there is a definition. I want to see if you agree or disagree that this would be a good definition of the word retrogression. That retrogression, a plan would be likely to cause fewer minority representatives to be elected than before. Would you agree that is a good definition of retrogression?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Again, I said I didn't think there could be a statistical definition, but certainly if there's a diminishment of a community's ability to elect a candidate of their choice—a minority community's ability to elect a candidate of their choice—that would be a diminishment. That would be retrogression and nowhere in our map does it do that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders, you are recognized.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But, I know that you looked at retrogression as respecting a particular district. I am saying, from a statewide

perspective, would it be retrogressive that the ability of minorities being elected, overall, would be diminished? In other words, not any particular district but, statewide.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Speaker, I'm not sure I understand the question entirely, but what I will say is that this map actually increases minority representation across the state of Florida.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Steinberg, for a question.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman, were members of the House notified prior to the maps becoming public by you, or staff, or anyone, that they might find themselves in the same district as another incumbent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I believe that the night before the maps were released, there were some members that knew that they would not be living in their district.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker. Before, you said that there was nothing with pins on the map or anything to indicate where incumbents live. How could those calls be made if there was nothing that created a correlation between the maps that were coming out and where members resided?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Because they looked at the map and they knew where they live.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I mean, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before, though, you said, or I asked a question, before the maps were made public. If the maps weren't public, how would the members have seen those maps to know that—the question that I asked originally was whether members were contacted to alert them of that fact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll answer your question by this—you live in Miami-Dade County, is that correct? Do you have any idea where Representative Luis Garcia lives? No idea? Do you know where any members of Miami-Dade County live? You know where you live, that's good. [laughter]

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to understand how that answers my question. If I don't see the map, because it's not public yet and I don't have access to it, how would I have any way to know that the map that's coming out has me outside my district, in a district with someone else? The original question was: were members told before the maps were made public that they might find themselves living in another district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think a lot of members looked at the map and the maps being proposed because, as you know, there were multiple maps being proposed, and they figured out very quickly whether or not they were living inside one district or the other.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask it kind of directly, because I'm getting answers that don't seem to be consistent. Did you, staff, or anyone reach out to members to indicate to them, prior to the maps becoming public, that they would find themselves either in a district with another member, or outside, or without a district at all?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'll give you an example. Obviously, in developing the map and working with staff to make sure that we'd made maps that were the most legally compliant as we possibly could—we have members like Representative Precourt, who is the vice chair of our committee. He saw the map, was familiar with what was going to be put forth. You have Representative Eisnaugle, who sits on the full committee as well. And would you know that Representative Eisnaugle and Representative Precourt actually live in the same district? They knew it, but they still live in the same district—no changes were made. And so, whether or not someone knows or has some type of knowledge that they potentially could be in a district with another member or not—the good news is that information never impacted the decisions that were made by this committee, by the chairman, by the sub-chairman, or by this body today. It was never utilized—knowledge is not intent. Some people may have knowledge, but there was never intent.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try the question one more time. Did you, or anyone of your staff, call up members or otherwise notify members prior to the maps becoming public to indicate to them whether they would find themselves in the same district as another member?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I've answered that question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a follow up on those questions. The original House map came out of committee, or was proposed in committee, and there were subsequent amendment—there was an amendment. What was the basis for that amendment? Was it because certain members were placed in districts or was there another rationale—what was the rationale for the amendment? I know that it was said because Supervisor of Elections, etc., may have had input, but was any of the input based upon where your members or our members may be presiding?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a couple amendments along the way, I was just talking with staff, I think two amendments in total, but usually when we made amendments—not usually, when we made amendments, what they were was improvements to make sure that cities were whole. In fact, the last amendment we had, I don't know the full number, but over a dozen or maybe two dozen cities were made whole in that process to try to maximize the amount of cities we could keep together. We tried to reduce the amount of counties that were split. We tried to make sure that the districts were more compact. And so, all the amendments that we put forth, it was an evolving product, so to speak—this map. Because we continued to seek public input, we continued to look at better ways to comply with the standards that we have to comply with, and because of that the map improved over time.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because we are going into some intent here, it's your position that there is no intention to correct any type of placement of members in the same district. You're saying that the sole reason for any amendments to the House map was to address those concerns? That

there was no intention to remedy a situation where, maybe unintentionally, two members were drawn into the same seat?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no, but I'd like to recognize Representative Dorworth, if he could, to add on to that answer.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Dorworth, you are recognized.

**Rep. Dorworth:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the privilege of serving as a co-chair of that committee and as such I was also the person who filed the amendment to this and just to give you the absolute clarity of the fact that there was no intention to do that—in the amendment that I filed, I bunched myself into the same district as Representative Legg. So, be very clear, be very certain that there was absolutely no desire or intent to do that. It was a decision that was based on making the districts more compact and legally compliant.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make sure I clarified my answer when I said no, but basically what I was saying to make sure I understood the question—I want to make sure I understood the question right—what I was saying is that at no time was any decision that we made, during this process, have anything to do with where anyone lived, any political reasoning whatsoever. It was all based on how we could make the map more legally compliant and how we could bring in more public testimony into the map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed that there are several minority districts that will now have a higher percentage of voting age minorities in them over the 2002 maps. Is that in order to offset the likely effects that HB 1355 will have on their ability to vote in 2012?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not talking about HB 1355 and so, I'd ask you to keep it tailored to the map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a point there. The point being that...

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph, points are for debate. Questions should pertain to the amendment.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then why did you feel the necessity to keep the voting age minority percentage in these districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you point to a specific district so we'll have a reference point of what you're talking about?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were several in the statistical analysis, so, I don't have the maps in front of me, but there were at least a few.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Why don't you work on getting a couple of those maps and then we'll talk again here in a few minutes?

The House recessed at 4:00 p.m.

The House was called to order by the Speaker at 4:28 p.m. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence: 658] (as previously shown in the Thursday, February 2, 2012 *Journal*, page 393).

**Speaker Cannon:** Members, we're back in session. Please find your seats. Everyone has done an outstanding job, I think, giving the attention that this process deserves, and as much as it happens once a decade, I appreciate your respect for the gravity and the hard work of all of the members.

We are resuming in questions. Further questions? Representative Randolph, you indicated you are finished. Further questions on the amendment? Seeing none...Representative Crisafulli, you are recognized for a question.

**Rep. Crisafulli:** Representative Weatherford how many counties were split in the House maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there were 30 counties split, which is a significant improvement from the 2002 map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Crisafulli, for a follow-up.

**Rep. Crisafulli:** And how did you go about this process?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Well, we mathematically looked around the counties and tried to make sure it was a priority for us to make sure that we follow city and county lines and, I think, mathematically the most you could possibly have is 29 and we got as close as we possibly could to that number and we're very proud of it.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Crisafulli.

**Rep. Crisafulli:** At any time, was public input used?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Yes.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Crisafulli.

**Rep. Crisafulli:** And how do you define 'public input?' No, that was a joke.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Crisafulli.

**Rep. Crisafulli:** Ten years ago when this process took place, did this same attempt—was this part of the process, as far as taking public input, in this part of the process?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I cannot speak to what the process was like 10 years ago. What I can tell you is that the product we have before us today is a significant improvement, at every level. Whether you're talking about compactness, whether you're talking about city lines, whether you're talking about county lines, everything about this map is an improvement to the 2002 map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Adkins, for a question.

**Representative Adkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, can you tell me how many cities are split in the proposed House map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have 70 cities split—or 75 cities split, but I believe in the map from 2002 we had 170 plus cities that were split, so a significant improvement on that as well.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Baxley for a question.

**Representative Baxley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you may have sort of addressed this, but just for clarity and for the record and my own mind—the minority districts in the proposed House map that we're looking at, are they more compact? And based on the various compactness measures that you've shared that we used, but are they more compact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Baxley, they are substantially more compact than what they were 10 years ago. It's a great improvement.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Lopez-Cantera.

**Representative Lopez-Cantera:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman Weatherford, how many public maps were submitted this year in relation to previous years?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had over a 177 maps produced and given to the legislature this year which is a tremendous feat considering 10 years ago there were only four maps that were given to the legislature. So, I think that what we set forth to do at the very beginning of this process, which was to make it as open and transparent as possible and to engage the public in a way that it had never been done before, we feel like we have achieved that and I think 177 maps that were submitted to us speaks to it.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Lopez-Cantera.

**Representative Lopez-Cantera:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if I may, chairman, ask a question about the software and the program used that was made available to the public. How does that compare to any other states in the nation that have similar programs?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most states have actually contracted out and bought software from somewhere else, we only know of two other states that have ever done anything similar to what we did. We feel like MyDistrictBuilder™ is the most sophisticated system that exists. I give a lot of credit to our staff and our software developers who worked extremely hard to help make it happen.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Saunders.

**Representative Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification, when you're looking at these districts, do you look at just voting age population or do you look at the actual voting performance population? People who actually vote or voting age population?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** If you're speaking, Representative, to minority districts, then we look at performance and voting age population.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Representative Saunders:** Most of the growth in our population in the last 10 years, or a lot of it, was Hispanic. Can you tell us how many more Hispanic House seats were created in this map as opposed to 2002 and does

that reflect a proportionate increase in the number of seats related to the population?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that at least one, in Osceola County, a new majority-minority Hispanic seat. There is another Hispanic seat that I believe is a majority seat in Palm Beach County. Again, you know, one can never guarantee what the election results will be, but certainly it's an opportunity seat there for a minority.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Representative Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you say minority, can you be specific? How many additional Hispanic seats versus how many African-American seats? When you say a minority, I'm not sure what you're referring to. So, can you be specific as it relates to population growth of the last 10 years. If there was 'x' percent increase in the Hispanic population is that reflected in a proportionate increase in House seats that may be likely to be held by a Hispanic?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to Hispanics, specifically, two. So, the one in Osceola County. Then there is an opportunity seat there, it's actually a majority seat, but like I said you never know how it will perform. You cannot predict that entirely, but there is a seat that is newly created down in Palm Beach County. Also, when it comes to African-American seats, there is one new African-American opportunity seat which is in Orange County, right next to a minority-majority seat.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Horner, for a question.

**Representative Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman, you had a whole series of questions asking about member addresses, and some of those questions left me confused. Would you mind clarifying, for me, how member addresses were used in drawing these maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Representative Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Representative Horner. Addresses were not used in drawing these maps. What I can tell you is that once all the options were coming out and we knew what maps would be set forth in the process, we had five maps if you remember correctly. Once that was done and we were locked in, you know, I have a lot of friends in this room I've been to a lot of people's houses for dinner so, certainly as a courtesy, there were some members who received a phone call after the decisions had been made and we had locked in the maps, but they had not been made public which was coming out the night before. As a gesture of respect, they received a phone call, but never, and I want to really emphasize this, never during this process was where someone lived, what someone's political affiliation, or what the performance of a district would be was ever factored into the decisions that we made. That was not a factor and I think we need to be clear about that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Waldman, for a question.

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked earlier if at any time—either before, during, or after—any of the member addresses were plotted on a map by staff and you indicated the answer was no. At what point did you take a look at those member addresses and determine that there were members living in different districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Waldman:** I've never looked at them on a plotted map and I have no reason to believe that our staff did. But Representative Waldman, like you, I

have a lot of friends in the Legislature, I'm not a loner. So, I have been to some people's homes. Maybe, if my friends in the Minority Caucus would invite me over for dinner, I would know where some of you live too. But, the truth is, the truth is, that certainly, I think everyone here has an idea of where some people live within this caucus and I knew that. But the thing is, even though I knew it, I didn't let it affect my judgment. Even though the committee knew it, even though Representative Precourt knew we were drawing him into a district with another member of the same party and a friend of his, we did not allow that to impact our decision. We followed the law anyway and that's representative of the fact that as media has reported, almost a third of every person in this room—as I look around this room I see a lot of eyeballs, a lot of faces—one out of every three of the people in this room are in a district with someone else and that's according to the media. So, to me, I think that's a very clear indication that addresses and where people lived was not a factor in the maps that we drew.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Waldman.

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that answer Representative. Turning back a little bit to some of the African-American districts. Were there any African-American districts where the composition was increased from the number? So, for instance, if it was at 52 percent it increased to 57 percent African-American?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may need a few minutes to check on that, I do not know the answer right off the top of my head. If you give us a few minutes, if you have another question, or if anybody else has a question, we can get back to you. I'm going to ask staff to look at that and we will come right back to you with an answer.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Waldman, you want to ask a follow up or a different question?

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, no. I just specifically direct his attention to what I believe 94 and 95 might show that, but I don't know. I've been told that that might be something, but I am interested specifically in the south Florida area for the most part.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, we'll take a moment, Mr. Waldman. Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am told that there are some of the non-majority seats, that historically perform for a minority candidate or an African-American candidate, that some of those, the numbers, may have gone up a little bit. I will give you a specific number before we finish here today, but I don't have it in front of me right now.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Waldman.

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then the question I would ask after, once you get that information, is why was that increase?

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Further questions? Oh, Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Representative, I think I can answer your second question. I don't have the data in front of me, but I think the answer to your question, which is if there was an increase in any numbers in any district, why would we do that? I think the answer is that it's the byproduct of following the law. In drawing a very compact district, in following a district that followed geographic boundaries, and drawing a district that didn't have any political intentions, in doing all those things, if a district happened to go up with one minority representation or not that would have been a byproduct of drawing a legally compliant map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Are there amendments to the amendment?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Waldman?

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He was working on getting me an answer, so, I, we were just waiting for the answer for the question about how many districts and which ones.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Waldman, that's going to take a few minutes. Now, we've got an option, we've been in questions, now, for several hours, we actually even came back to questions on this amendment. Do you need that data to sufficiently get all your questions answered? Because I will not move forward in this process until everyone gets a chance to ask every question they want, but, I do not want to unnecessarily delay everyone while we wait for that fact. Representative Waldman?

**Rep. Waldman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we can get the answer tomorrow before we vote on the whole bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** Very well. Are there further questions? Are there amendments to the amendment?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Are there substitute amendments?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, is there debate? Seeing none, Representative Weatherford, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've enjoyed this afternoon. I don't know about you guys, I don't know if it's been as much fun, but I've enjoyed having a chance to talk about this process and, frankly, I give a lot of credit to members of both caucuses and the members of this Chamber for dealing with this in a very deliberate and serious manner. I think this is something worth talking about for two or three hours. I think it's that important and I could save my close for tomorrow, after the full bill is being voted on, but I'd like to speak for just a moment, specifically to the House maps. Tomorrow, when we take a vote on this bill, it will be on the whole bill which will be the House map and the Senate map. And certainly, we've shown a lot of deference to the Senate in drawing the Senate map. But I'd like to speak a little bit about the House map.

As it's been stated many a times in committee and right here on this floor, this has been a very difficult process. Difficult for me, difficult for the sub-chairs, difficult for you, difficult for every member—this has not been easy to have the uncertainty of what district you're going to run in. That's not an easy thing to deal with. But I've got to tell you, I am so proud of the outcome that we've had. I'm so honored that the outcome that we've had has reduced city splits by almost two-thirds. I'm honored that we have county splits that went from over 45 down to 30. I'm very honored and very happy about the determination that we had to not diminish minority representation and, in fact, as I just talked about, we have the opportunity for three more potential minority seats. And I think that's something we should be proud of.

Members, I've spent a lot of time talking to everyone in this room, in this Chamber, has had an opportunity for me to come to you and ask you for your vote. And I understand that there are people, in this Chamber, who plan to vote "no" and have not even considered voting "yes." And I'd just like to ask you to think about that vote. I understand if you want to vote a different way tomorrow when the bill you're voting on—the House and the Senate—maybe you don't like the Senate map, I don't know. But to me, this is an opportunity to show some unity—that the process, under which we drew these maps, was a fair process, that it was an open process, that it was a transparent process, because that's exactly what it was and we made sure of that.

The decision we're making today, which is probably one of the hardest decisions that any legislature has ever made without a court order, is not something to sneeze at. And, in fact, it's bigger than today and I talked about this in committee, but many of you weren't there to hear this, but I'm going to say it again for the benefit of everyone—the way we're handling the map-making process today is going to dictate the way it is handled in the future. We are setting an example for the way these maps will be drawn in 10 years, and in 20 years, and in 30 years—we are the first ones to have to draw maps based on what the Constitution says with Amendments 5 and 6. We are the first ones and it hasn't been easy. And I stated earlier, that the expedient thing to do, the easy thing to do, would have probably been to ignore what the law says and just figure out a way to draw a map that makes everybody in here happy. That would have been easy to do. Nobody would have complained.

We have had a lot of tough conversations with people in this room—both parties. But at the end of the day, this decision is bigger than us. This map is bigger than us. The Constitution is bigger than any one of us. And as I stated earlier, as I look around this room knowing that one out of the every three of you is running in a district that is with someone else, or you're running in a district that you don't live in anymore, that's a very hard thing to deal with and I just want to say, from the bottom of my heart—and I mean this with all sincerity—the dignity and the integrity of which many of you have handled, probably the worst news you've ever been given in your political life, gives me hope for the future of Florida. You owe yourselves a lot of credit for the way that you've handled this process. The conversations that many of us have had, post these maps being finalized, have not been easy. But I got to tell you that I'm proud of each and every one of you and the way that you have handled this, the way that our chairmen, our co-chairmen, have handled this process.

There's a lot of stories in this room that we could tell, but I'm only going to put a face on one, and I mentioned it earlier briefly. The vice chairman of the committee that I am chairing knew very early on in this process that he would be drawn into a district with somebody else. Not only would he be drawn into a district with somebody else, he'd be drawn into a district with a good friend of his, in Representative Eisnagle. He knew that. Never once, never one single time, did Representative Steve Precourt ever come to me and ask for a favor—did he ever come to me and ask me, could you move this here, could you move that there, can you split us apart, can you find a way to use politics to solve this problem—never once. And that's just one story, but that's endemic of how this process has ran.

We have run it with integrity. We have run it with the ability to follow the law and make it transparent. And for that reason, for the first time in the redistricting process in the history of Florida, we are putting principle over politics. This is not a bumper sticker solution. This is a hard solution and for that I think to vote against it is to vote against something that I think has had a lot of integrity. It's to vote against something that I have worked extremely hard on with all of you, and I would just ask that you seriously and strongly consider voting for this amendment. I think it's a fair amendment, I think it represents our state very well, and I think the integrity of the process and how we went through it holds true. So, with that, I ask you to vote for this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [applause]

The question recurred on the adoption of Amendment 1 [Amendment Bar Code: 601757], which was adopted on February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on page 393).

**Speaker Cannon:** Well done, Representative Weatherford. Read the next amendment.

Representative Jenne offered **Amendment 2** (Amendment Bar Code: 756455) on Thursday, February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on pages 393-393).

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne is recognized to explain the amendment.

**Rep. Jenne:** Mr. Speaker, as always, thank you. Members, this is really just a small amendment, fixing a couple small problems. It will adjust the county split in Pasco County so that it is now split along an east-west orientation compared to what we see now with the north-south split. Residents of Pasco County made very clear at public hearings that residents of coastal Pasco County form a distinct community of interest from the more rural east Pasco County. My amendment will also reunite the City of Lakeland into one Senate district. As you all know Lakeland is a city just under 100,000 residents and it was split into three districts on the Senate map, which deluded effective representation of Lakeland and Polk County. Lakeland is the largest city in the I-4 Corridor, in-between Tampa and Orlando, but was placed in a district designed to unite agricultural communities of interest. This amendment places Lakeland, instead, with similar communities of interest such as Winter Haven, Auburndale, Solivita, and Polk City—along with rural Osceola County. I feel that this actually brings the Senate plane more into compliance with Amendment 5. It reduces the number of counties split from 31 all the way down to 30, that magic number, while reducing the number of V.T.D.'s, that's voter tabulation districts, from 421 to zero. It also moves Plant City, for those of you who don't know—a Tampa rural exurb, back into Hillsborough/Tampa suburbs. It also removes it from the Manatee County based district—that would be District 24. Mr. Speaker, that is the amendment.

**Speaker Cannon:** Are there questions of the sponsor—questions of the sponsor? Representative Weatherford, for a question.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Jenne, Thanks for bringing forth this amendment. I appreciate your willingness to try to improve the map. I think that's a noble thing. When I take a look at the map and your amendment and I compare it to the map in the bill, it appears that you split an extra thirty-nine cities—more than the current map. Could you give us some reason as to why you did that?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Really, it was just to make sure—I didn't want to see that community shortchanged. If you look at it, I feel that it—I was there at those meetings in Wesley Chapel and I just don't think it is a good way to reflect a community and that's not what I heard the people speak up and say at that meeting. They were very clear that they wanted Pasco split east-west. I had the opportunity to sit with a representative from Pasco during that meeting and I was able to get a lot more details. Like I said, at the end of the day, it just doesn't make sense based on that and I just don't want that community shortchanged.

**Speaker Cannon:** For a follow up, Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a follow up, Representative Jenne, when I look at the districts in the Section 5 counties, such as Hillsborough and Collier, they have noticeably lost some of the minority rep. populations, but I didn't see any other districts that make up for that loss. So when we're in the pre-clearance process with the Department of Justice, which I know you're familiar with and that we have to go through, how are we going to justify to them the reductions in the minority populations in those Section Five counties?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Jenne.

**Rep. Jenne:** Thank you, luckily I'm not that familiar with the Justice Department, but really, more so than anything else, I know there were a lot of members on this floor who were hoping to see different maps and were hoping to see different variations of maps—and that's just what we wanted to do. Really, to get back to it, we just wanted to make sure that no community was shortchanged. We just didn't feel it was a good way to reflect the community, and again, it's not the way people spoke up at that hearing.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Further questions? Are there amendments to the amendment?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Are there substitute amendments?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Is there debate on the amendment? Representative Weatherford, you are recognized in debate.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say, I really appreciate Representative Jenne for, again, bringing forth that amendment that makes an attempt to improve the map, but unfortunately, it does not do that. Right now, in the bill, there are 54 city splits. This would put us at 93. I don't see how that's any improvement to the map. On top of that, your District 19 would reduce the black voting age population in the Hillsborough County Section 5 district from 39 percent in the 2002 map to less than 32 percent, which is in this amendment. Also, the District 40 which reduced the black voting age population in Monroe, Collier, and Hendry—which is a Section 5 V.R.A. District—from 29 percent to 20 percent. Basically, what that means is this map, I think, would be illegal according to the Department of Justice and therefore, I don't think we can support it. I would urge you to vote no.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Representative Saunders, in debate.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we're trying to find some agreement today, I want to say I agree with Chair Weatherford and I will also be voting against this amendment. Thank you, chair—and I think all the other Democrats will too. We did just want to show there are some ways to accomplish certain things—and that we think that maybe, perhaps, in the original map things could have been differently, but since we see the amendatory process on the Senate map, it's probably not going to be successful for any amendment. We will probably go along with your recommendation on this amendment as well.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Seeing none, Representative Jenne, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

**Rep. Jenne:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. I believe that this amendment vastly improves some sections of the map. We do fix the Pasco problem, we do fix the Lakeland problem, and I feel we move the map towards better compliance with the fair districts amendments. But alas, I think I have to agree with Representative Weatherford. It only moves us towards compliance and doesn't take us all the way there. So for that reason, members, I urge you—I urge you—vote no on this amendment. [laughter] Because while this map does improve the situation, members, there is no amendment that can completely fix this map and all of the problems it possesses. So, with that, members, I urge you—do like me. Hit that red button. [laughter]

The question recurred on the adoption of **Amendment 2** (Amendment Bar Code: 756455), which failed of adoption on February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on page 399).

**Speaker Cannon:** Show that bill rolled over for third reading. Read the next bill.

**CS for SB 1174** was read the second time by title on Thursday, February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on page 399).

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Legg, you are recognized to explain the Senate Bill.

**Rep. Legg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the spirit of the American screen actor, Bill Murray, and it being Groundhog's Day; let's do this one more time. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, CS for SB 1174, the proposed Congressional map as passed by the Florida Senate. This map has differences to the Congressional map that our Redistricting Committee passed as CS/HB 6005. Representative Homer walked you through those differences earlier—in the earlier presentation. Mr. Speaker, that is the bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, members, to get us into the proper posture, we're going to take up the strike-all amendment that contains the House language—the House proposal—and then you'll have the opportunity to ask questions regarding both the House and Senate Congressional maps. Everybody got that? All right. Are there amendments?

**Reading Clerk:** On the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Read the first amendment.

Representative Weatherford offered **Amendment 1** [Amendment Bar Code: 832579] on Thursday, February 2, 2012 (as previously shown in the *Journal* on pages 399-438).

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized to explain the amendment.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, this amendment would strike the Congressional map proposed by the Florida Senate and replaces it with the proposed Congressional map from CS/HB 6005, the map that was presented earlier today. This amendment also strikes the "whereas" clauses in the bill and replaces them with "whereas" clauses that correlate to Congressional map from CS/HB 6005. This amendment does not make any changes to the Congressional map as it passed the House Redistricting Committee. That is the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Members, are there questions? Representative Taylor, for a question. This can be questions regarding the Senate or House map. Representative Taylor, for a question.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, you said—and as I understand it—it doesn't change the same map that was passed out of our subcommittee that I sat on. There was mention that there would be conferencing committees, possibly to establish a committee that will work out the differences. Are we still working on having a conference committee to work out the Congressional differences?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know of anyone who told you there'd a conference committee. I certainly never said that. What this amendment is is the bill that we passed out of the full committee last week.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor, for a follow up.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in many of the meetings that I sat on, I always asked about the process on how the differences were going to be ironed out between the two chambers and I was told that this was going to be set up similar to the way that we worked out our differences on the budget. So, now are we saying that this is going to be something that's totally different? Will this be the two presiding officers or will this be the two chairs that will iron out the specific differences on the Congressional map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may ask Representative Legg to address this if I don't adequately answer your question, but I think what Representative Legg said is that there could be a conference, certainly, if there were to iron out differences between the House and the Senate Congressional map. Luckily for us, here we are in the fourth week and we have an agreement on a map. And I think that what the agreement is, is that, we wanted to make a map that was the most legally compliant map that we could possibly do and we feel like we've done that. And so, there's no need for a conference committee. I don't believe it was ever stated that there would be one. I think that it was just stated—and I will ask Representative Legg to clarify—that there could be one.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, you're saying that the differences have been resolved between the two chambers and this is the actual map that—I'm guessing you're nodding your head so—when and who decided that this would be the actual Congressional map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, Senator Gaetz and I discussed the differences between the two maps. Something that I think is very important for you, Representative Taylor, and others in the Chamber to know and understand is that about 90 percent of the Congressional map is the map that was originally filed. And so our map, the map that passed out of the subcommittee that we identified as the one most likely that we would move forward with, 90 percent of that map is this map. And so, certainly there were some differences with the Senate that we had to work on, but in general, the map is very similar to the map that we passed out at the subcommittee and out of the full committee.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to move on to a couple of other questions that I have of Representative Weatherford. And I was, I closely listened to your definition of retrogression and what Leader Saunders read as far as a definition. Was there any definition applied to the maps, in any way, to determine whether we were regressing or we are in compliance?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I feel like I've answered this question and just to be clear, the answer is the same for the House map as it is for the Senate map as it is for the Congressional map—which is that there is no threshold. There is no numerical definition for retrogression.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But if there is no definition, how would one know that they are regressing?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** We do that by a very fact specific district-by-district analysis.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now what I asked, because there was mention earlier that there was no particular definition for minority districts and minority could be defined in several different ways. It can also include white female. So, how would you know that you have actually created minority districts if there was no specific definition applied to how you were going to draw these maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that there is historical case law that speaks to that. But, to be clear, we have very specific standards in our constitution. I'm going to go back and I've done this before, if I can find it—a copy of what Amendments 5 and 6 said, but here's what it says in regards to diminishment. It says that, "districts should not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice." I think that's pretty clear and I think that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act is pretty clear and I think Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is pretty clear.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And would you consider this to be fact-based or just your opinion about whether or not these were actual minority districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I think we have a lot of historical data that shows whether or not a district has performed for an African-American, or a Hispanic, or a minority candidate.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Representative Weatherford. So, the data that was used—the performance data that was used to determine whether or not this was a minority district is what was used to construct the actual districts themselves?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** You already have members of the Congressional delegation of African-American, Hispanic descent so, I mean, what you have is, as I stated earlier when we were talking about it in either House or Senate Maps, is that you have a reference point of what the district currently looks like. It is currently represented by a minority. In some cases, it's a minority-majority seat. In some cases, it's not. But our focus, as I've stated many times, is to make sure that we continue to abide by the tier one standard of non-diminishment. And I think that we've done that in this Congressional map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And one of those particular members of Congress, Representative Weatherford, was an African-American that was voted in a district that actually only had 4 percent African-American. Would you consider that a district that would be access for African-Americans?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And there was also a district that's in this particular plan that has actually 28 percent African-American. Would you consider that a part of this, African-American seats that are constructed for that particular district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Taylor, could you be more specific about the exact district you're talking about? Because I'm not exactly sure which one you are referring to.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's actually district number 3, it's either 2 or 3. It's the one district that encompasses Leon County here in this area.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** So I'm looking at that district, Representative Taylor. I see that District 2 has a 23.8 percent African-American voting age population and your question is, is that enough to elect a minority candidate of choice? Is that what you're asking me? Because if that's what you're asking me my answer would be I guess not, because currently the congressman who represents that district now is not a minority. But that being said, this is a new district and there is no way to predict how the voters will vote. As you stated earlier, there was a member of congress who is African-American and has a 4

percent African-American voting age population in that district. So, I cannot predict for you what the voters will do.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, there were two additional seats that we had to develop within this actual Congressional map. Are there any Federal standards outside of Amendment 6 of this state? Are there any Federal standards that need to be applied that weren't applied within the construction of this particular map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have two new districts in the state of Florida, we have 27 new districts. Because every district—and because of the fact that we did get two new districts apportioned to the state of Florida—it changed the composition of all the districts in the state of Florida. So we don't have two new districts, we have 27.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I said two additional districts that we had to incorporate within what we were trying to accomplish here on the Congressional map. I was trying to determine if there were any specific standards that the Congressional map needed to have that the House and Senate map did not have.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I can tell you one standard we did follow was 'one-person, one-vote.' We followed the Amendments 5 and 6 and the standards that are set forth in the Constitution. And I believe that's it. As far as—I may need more clarification if you are looking for more than that, but that's what we did.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to move on to just one other line of questioning. I sat on this particular Congressional subcommittee and I attended approximately 20 to 21 of these different meetings. And in these meetings that you chaired with Senator Gaetz, you often talked about how we were putting the cart before the horse whenever it came to the public having maps. Everywhere we went, there were questions about, 'Where are the maps? Where are the maps? Where are the maps?' And, consistently, you made that statement that we're putting the cart before the horse. Now that there are Congressional maps and I know you're going to say—or some folks have said that we don't have time now. But, why haven't those maps been back to the public the same way, in the same intensity, that it was when we went out soliciting their input?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you hit on a great point here, because I think what we should all be most proud of when it comes to these maps, and even in particular these Congressional maps, is the amount of public testimony that we have gotten—the 5,000 people who showed up to go those committee hearings that you went to and I went to. That took four months. We started in June and we went all the way through September and took public testimony. We incorporated the public testimony into the maps. We can document the actual incorporation of the public comment and how it correlates to a lot of these districts. But what we've also done is we've made this process so transparent and open and engaging that even after we put the maps out on December 6th, I think we had seven Congressional maps when we started on your subcommittee. We have continued to get feedback. We've had more maps to be offered. We've had more public testimony. We've had more emails that have been sent in. We've had more folks who have reached out to us, in many different ways, to give us their thoughts on the maps. Whether or not there was time to go out and spend four months asking for input, again, after the maps—I don't know about you, but I know that we've

had a lot of Supervisors of Elections who had asked us to be time sensitive. There is a reason we are having this debate in week four and not in week nine. And the reason for that is because what we also heard at every public hearing around the state is that we need to pass the maps as quickly as we can, but also as diligently as we can. And I think we've achieved both.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Representative Weatherford. It was mentioned earlier that there were members notified on the House maps early on, before they came out. Were there any members notified in that same example on the Congressional side by either members of subcommittees, staff, or anyone?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You mentioned early on that Representative Precourt knew so if these maps were—before they were made public, people were notified, for what purpose did they need to be notified before the maps went public?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Mr. Speaker, I think we are talking about the Congressional map. I think the question he's asking pertains to the House map and I think I've answered that question, but I'll answer it again. Representative Precourt, which I spoke about a couple of times tonight, is the vice chair of the committee. And so, certainly, he was aware of the way that the maps—once we finalized the map—he was aware of the final product. And it had him paired up with another member. But again, whether we're talking about Congressional, whether we're talking about State, whether we're talking about the House maps, at no point did we allow someone's address of where they lived impact the decision that was made. At no point did we do that. And I think that needs to be very clear.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that this is an amendment because the product that came out of the subcommittee has been changed. And you said the reason for the change, today, is that you want to make improvements to the product that came out of our subcommittee over here. Can you be specific as to whatever deficiencies there were in the product produced by the subcommittee and the reason for any changes that are now reflected in the amendment before us today?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no changes to this amendment. It is the substance of the bill that we passed out of the committee that I chair, last Friday.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question goes to the fact that there was another version of the Congressional map that was considered in our subcommittee and that has been changed. I thought what you had said was that the changes were made to improve the product and we want to know, specifically, what were the improvements that were made and the reasons for them.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Representative Horner probably can speak to some of the differences between the two maps, but while he's getting ready for that, what I'll talk to you about myself,

is—certainly, when we were working with the Senate, they had their own version of a map, we had a version of a Congressional map, and we worked with them to come up with the best product that we thought possible. And so, that's what we did. There are improvements to the map, I think, and one of those improvements to the map, that I think is in the House map, is that District 5 is a minority-majority seat and becomes a protected Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, protected seat. But as far as, if you want to know the differences between what the Senate passed and sent to us versus what we have and passed out of subcommittee, Representative Horner can speak to some of those as well.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Horner, you are recognized.

**Rep. Horner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, I'd like to just go ahead and repeat some of the key changes between the two maps, if that would be helpful.

**Speaker Cannon:** Sure. Representative Saunders, is that responsive to what you're asking? OK, Representative Horner, you are recognized.

**Rep. Horner:** Great. Some of the overall differences between the two maps are the Senate's version of the Congressional map splits 24 counties and 46 cities. The House version only splits 21 counties and 27 cities throughout the entire map. First area I want to cover is Congressional District 9 in Osceola County. Both the House and Senate maps drew the districts in the similar way including all of Osceola County, portions of Orange and Polk County. But District 9 in our bill is noticeably more compact than its Senate counterpart.

The next area is the Pasco/Hernando area in the Tampa Bay region. The Senate's version of the Congressional map, Hernando and Pasco counties are linked together which pushes the district to the north, containing Citrus and Sumter County further into Lake County. As a result, the Senate's version of the map has a Congressional district that entirely spans northern Pinellas and Hillsborough County. In the House's version of the Congressional bill, Hernando County is joined with Citrus and Sumter County. Whereas, Pasco County is in a district that also has portions of north Pinellas and Hillsborough County. This configuration also creates a district that is mostly in eastern Hillsborough and western Polk counties keeping Plant City, Lakeland, and Bartow wholly within the district.

The next difference is also in the Tampa Bay region. In the House map, District 14 does not go into Manatee County. So, the district is wholly and more completely, excuse me—more compactly located in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The Senate version of this Congressional district dips into Manatee County.

Moving south along the Gulf Coast, the House version of the Congressional map keeps Sarasota County whole, along with the majority of Manatee County. The most similar district in the Senate's version of the Congressional map splits Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties with the coastal side being in one district and the rural side being in another district.

Moving to District 17, the House's proposed Congressional map. Essentially, the Senate's version splits Charlotte and Okeechobee counties. The House version keeps those counties whole.

The final area of significant differences are the two districts in south Miami-Dade County and Monroe County. Both maps connect Monroe County with Miami-Dade County. However, the Senate's version of the map connect Monroe County with eastern Miami-Dade County, while the House version creates what turns out to be a more compact design connecting Monroe County with western Miami-Dade County. Those are a summary of some of the key differences.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Horner for speaking to some of those changes and I'm going to come back to the question again and maybe answer it, also, with some specifics. The map that you see before you now has 21 county splits and 27 city splits. The map that the Senate sent over to us had 24 county splits and 46 city splits. The map that you voted for out of the subcommittee—I don't know if you voted for it, but some people voted for it—had 22 county splits and 39 city splits. So, the reason I give you that data is that this map before you is, actually, the best map we had of any map that's been out there when it comes to city and county splits. So, significant improvement when it comes to those standards in law that they ask us to consider.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders, you are recognized.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we are here, in part, to determine legislative intent. I just want to make it clear that one of the reasons there was a change in the Congressional map was in no way related to the fact that perhaps an incumbent Congressman's percentages were subject to change. Because we've read in the papers that, I won't mention any names, but let's say a certain, several incumbent Republican Congressmen's districts significantly improved by virtue of this amendment. So, you're saying that had nothing to do—it was totally based on the information you just discussed?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've actually never heard that before or haven't read it anywhere. I would love you to send me the article if it's out there, but it's not true. The fact of the matter is that we drew these maps based on the public input and how to make sure that we follow the Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act—just like we did the House maps, just like we did the Senate did the Senate maps. At no point were these maps drawn with any political intent.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Saunders.

**Rep. Saunders:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we want to be specific, I served with Congressman Webster. He is currently in the Congress. It was my information that in some of the versions his district was not as Republican as this amendment reflects. So, are you saying that any improvement, if any, to Congressman Webster's district was not based on the fact that that was meant to improve his chances as an incumbent of winning. It was solely, those changes are solely done to reflect the county splits or the other issues that you brought up—is that correct?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Representative Saunders, I don't know any of that information and have no reason to believe that, but I can tell you, one thing I do know, I think it has been reported that Congressman Webster, actually, doesn't live in the district that we drew. So, you know, again if you're trying to insinuate that there was some type of intent in these maps, I can tell you that was not the case, at any point in time.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Steinberg, for a question.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Chairman Weatherford, I'm going to—these [questions] are going to be the Congressional maps, and some of them are going to be a little redundant, although it is Groundhog Day today, so maybe it's a little bit appropriate, but these are focused to the Congressional map. When drafting the maps, was there any conversation between you, or staff, or anyone in the process here with people at the Republican National—I'm sorry, the Republican National Committee, the RNC, as far as how to draft these maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that you actually forbid the staff and this Chamber of even talking to anyone at that

level. I never had any conversations. I believe the answer is unequivocally, no, we did not have any.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And same question, but not to the RNC, but RPOF. Were there any conversations with people, directly or indirectly, at RPOF regarding the makeup of this map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Was that conversation also forbidden?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I believe it was and I think it was forbidden for the Florida Democratic Party, as well.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were there any conversations with members—current members of Congress—about how this map should be made up during the time that the map was in consideration?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No. No, and in fact, I want to reiterate what I stated earlier which was that, you know, at no time was there any indication, or were there any phone calls made to any congressmen letting them know about what their district would or would not look like prior to them being finalized and being submitted to the public.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure if you understood my question. I'm trying to understand, was there any input either sought or given by members of Congress, for example—I don't want to name names—but did congressman or congresswoman so and so reach out to you or staff or anyone that you know and say, you know, 'it would look great if the district in my area looked like this,' or, 'it would be really bad if you did that. Don't do this, do that,' or any conversations along those lines from any members of our delegation?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** We all certainly bump into members of our delegation from time to time, but I can assure you, every time anyone, whether House member, Senate member, or a Congressional official, ever wanted to have that conversation about redistricting, I would stop them at the door because it was not the type of conversation that was appropriate. We didn't want to know what they wanted. That was not something we were willing to take into account. Our job was to draw maps that were legally compliant and factored in the public comment.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the, 'not wanting that conversation to occur,' but my question is more, I guess, did it occur?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Not with me, and I can tell you that. I can only speak for myself. But, I think, it's also been documented in quite a few newspaper articles and, maybe, some famous radio hosts about members who were actually complaining about their lack of access and the lack of

responsiveness of this Chamber. And so, I think, I can very easily state to you that there was no intent whatsoever, at any point, during this process of drawing these Congressional maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And on that point, this will probably be my last question. You said, "Not to you there were no conversations." Were you aware of any conversations with staff or anyone that was involved in the process of drawing the maps along those lines?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Absolutely not.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is, specifically, on this map, although I know it's already been asked of others. Did staff have access to performance data, as it relates to the Congressional maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Everyone has access to the data. The only time it was ever utilized was for minority districts to make sure that the analysis could be done so that we were in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act and the Justice Department and, frankly, the State Constitution.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, if the 2002 maps were drawn in order to preserve incumbency at the Congressional level, or to help a party in power preserve its numerical dominance, is that something relevant to determining whether we can simply keep 2012 districts—or districts that look very similar to the 2012 districts—in this plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I have no idea what the intent of the framers of this map—the Congressional map was in 2002—but I can tell you, with certainty, that there was no political intent in the maps that we drew.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But, clearly, the media has indicated—and there's been a lot of conversation about the gerrymandering process in the State of Florida in days gone. In fact, I think, it's clear that the amendments that were on the Constitution, the way the voters voted, probably is indicative of the voters—believe that as well. So, with that knowledge, does it make sense to use maps from 2002 that have been reportedly overwhelming, throughout the state and throughout the nation, as being malapportioned and with an electorate who appears to have thought that way by putting in standards because they didn't feel that the maps were being drawn in a way that didn't favor or disfavor a political party. Would it be right for us to draw maps based—or a portion of the maps—based on those maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the premise that you can believe everything that you read in the newspaper, which I'm not sure is entirely true—no offense to our friends—but let me speak, specifically, to a couple of points that, I think, are important here when you're talking about the makeup of our map. The old district, for example, that went from Palm Beach to Charlotte County—gone, doesn't exist. The old district that went from Duval County to Leon County—gone, that district does not exist anymore. The old district that went from Marion County to Osceola County—gone, doesn't exist. The arm of the district that used to cut through Martin County to Fort Pierce—gone, doesn't exist. Lastly, the district that started in Winter Park and went all the way to Ponte Vedra—gone, doesn't

exist. So, the premise that you started with, that somehow these maps were a reflection of the maps of 2002, frankly, just isn't true. Now, these maps are significantly different, significantly more compact, significantly more compliant with the standards of [Amendment] 5 and [Amendment] 6 when it comes to following geographic boundaries in cities and counties. So, I guess I just don't agree with the premise of your question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Don't some of the minority access districts, in particular, seem to mirror closely the 2002 maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** There's only one district. I'm assuming you're speaking to District 5?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the maps in front of me. Obviously, you're much more familiar and actively involved in this for a number of months, if you're saying District 5 is one, I guess that could be an example. If that map was drawn with that intent and to pack a district in that sense, would that mean that we can't do so today?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've said this on numerous occasions, today, but clearly it's not resonating. So, I'm going to say it again. We have not packed any maps, any districts—there is no packing throughout this process, particularly with this Congressional map. What you have with District 5 is a map that was created by the Federal court back in 1992. This is a map that was created by the court 20 years ago. It is a minority opportunity seat, or has been represented by a minority—African-American for 20 years. And the way it's drawn today—it is actually drawn with just above 50 percent, which would actually give it protection under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And on another note, I guess, tracking back to some of my other questions as far as conversations that were had with people outside of our body. Were there conversations that you're aware of with either yourself or staff or anyone involved in drawing the maps—with the Chamber [Florida Chamber] or AIF [Associated Industries of Florida]—in proposing this map or any of the other maps?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I have not had any conversations like that nor do I know of anyone on our staff, or anyone associated with this Chamber, that has had conversations like that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, if a Congressional district is composed of 70 percent voters of the same party as an incumbent, isn't that evidence of an intent to favor that incumbent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I've answered that question several times today. Before, I answered it in regard to the Senate and House map and I think the answer stays the same, which is, the way we draw the map, there is nothing in the standards that call us to look at anything that is partisan in nature. What it calls us to look at is, does it follow the Federal law? Does it follow the compactness measures that are called for in the Constitution? Does it follow geographic boundaries that it calls for us to utilize, when we can? Does it follow the tier one standard of making sure

there's no diminishment? Does it follow the tier one standard of making sure that it's not drawn with any political intent? And so, to me, you know, I think I've answered that question. But, again, those are the standards we're utilizing to draw districts. We're not paying attention to what the political data has, nor have we ever.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, the standards of [Amendment] 5 and [Amendment] 6 both provide that districts can't be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor an incumbent or with the intent to favor or disfavor a party. So, if a district is drawn with 70 percent of the party of an incumbent, is that evidence of an intent to favor that incumbent?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** You're a lawyer, so maybe I should ask you, if you could, define that for me. But, the way I define a map and whether it is compliant with the law is whether it's compact, it follows geographic boundaries, how it utilizes cities and counties, if it follows the tier one standard of making sure there's no diminishment. That's the way I make a determination of whether or not a map is compliant. We're not even looking at the data, so I wouldn't even know if a district was 70 percent Republican—I have no idea. We're not looking at that data. So, I guess, I'm not sure I can answer your question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, let me see if I understand this. If a district—or, frankly, if a map as a whole—performs heavily in favor of one party or another, that doesn't matter? That's not something we should be looking at?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** That's not something we should be looking at. As it was stated earlier, someone made the suggestion that maybe for the House we should've drawn 60 Republican seats and 60 Democratic seats and somehow that would be fair. The reason we did not do that—and the same reason we didn't do that with the Congressional maps is that then we would be using political intent to create an outcome, which is the opposite of what the voters who voted for Amendment 5 and Amendment 6 wanted. They don't want political intent. We're not legally allowed to utilize political intent and so, for us to look at the data and make a determination based off that would be against the law.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I know this question was asked to the other maps, but I just want to ask it to this map specifically. Was residency of the incumbents taken into account in the modeling of how districts were drawn?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Absolutely not.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were there any discussions with members as to whether or not their residence would be in or out of districts?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No, and frankly, I think if you're reading the same news clips I am, there's probably some congressmen out there that aren't very happy.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on publicly available historical election data certified by the Secretary of State, the Congressional plan overwhelmingly favors Republicans, creating nine districts that would give Democrats a chance of winning. A fair plan, based on a 50/50 split, would obviously create 50/50 districts. Why doesn't this plan do that?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford, you are recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** I'm glad that you have all this political data, unfortunately, I haven't used it—I haven't look at it. So, I can't speak to the validity of the data you just stated. But, again, it has not been utilized in this process. And for us to use it, in any way, shape, or fashion, would be in violation of the Constitution. And we're not going to do that—we have not done that, and I feel like I've answered this question 47 times and I probably won't answer it again.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And that was the reason, probably; you are getting multiple questions that are similar is there are three different maps—so, yeah, people are asking questions, too, that are different based on the individual maps. But, at any time, either during the drawing of the maps or after that, between now and then, have you looked at the performance data of the districts? I know before you said you did on the minority access districts, but have you looked on the other districts or the maps, as a whole, to see how they perform from a partisan nature?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No. I've never looked at the performance of the minority districts. I've never looked at the performance of the other districts. I've never looked at the performance of any districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has staff looked at that information?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Our staff and our counsel looked at that information, in regard only to the minority districts, to make sure that we were in compliance with the Department of Justice, the Voting Rights Act, and the State Constitution.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify this, so, on the other districts—the non-minority districts—that information was not looked at by staff or by legal counsel?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** That is correct. That information was not looked at by staff or legal counsel in regard to any districts aside from those minority districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg.

**Rep. Steinberg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has anyone reported to you or to staff what the performance of the other districts or the maps as a whole are?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** No, not until you just did.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Steinberg. Further questions, further questions? Representative Reed, for a question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Reed, for a question.

**Rep. Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman Weatherford, ah look a great smile, thank you. [laughter] How are people housed at a jail counted for the purpose of redistricting? I have a brand new question.

**Speaker Cannon:** Thank you, Representative Reed. Representative Weatherford, you're recognized.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Everybody knows I love me some Mrs. Betty Reed, she's a wonderful lady. [applause] She keeps us all out of trouble back in Tampa Bay. Steve Precourt has been feeling lonely over here to my left, so I'm actually going to allow him—since he's paired up with another member, I feel like we owe it to him. We should at least allow him to answer a question. So, Representative Precourt, if you could enlighten us on that.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Precourt, you're recognized.

**Rep. Precourt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the opportunity to shine. Appreciate that. I believe the question was where are the prisoners counted?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Reed, you're recognized.

**Rep. Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How are people housed at a jail counted for the purpose of redistricting?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Precourt.

**Rep. Precourt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The census gets data from our prison system to use so that we know how many people are there in order to have them counted. So, we use the data from the census that is provided.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Reed.

**Rep. Reed:** Are they counted from their home district or are they counted from the district where they are located at that time?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Precourt.

**Rep. Precourt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are counted from the district where they're located at the time.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams, for a question. Did you have another question Representative Reed?—OK—you're very welcome. Representative A. Williams, for a question.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman Weatherford, I'm going to ask this question as it relates to Congressional compactness—and you may have answered this, I had a family emergency and had to step out the Chamber for a few minutes. But, could you tell me what is the definition of compactness as it relates to this map, or at least to this plan, and how was it applied to constructing this plan?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my answer would be the same to this question that I gave it for the House and Senate map and that is that compactness is not determined by a single measurement. There's different ways to look at it but, I can tell you in all the measurements that we have utilized, we have found that this map is far superior to the map that was made in 2002.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response Chair Weatherford. How does this plan reflect your definition or the definition of compactness? How does this plan specifically reflect your definition of compactness?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just say that in regard to how we measure, there are different measures. But on the measurements for example, travel distance from one side of a district to another, the radius of a district, the geometric distance around—from basically in a circle all the way around. Those are some of the ways that you can look at compactness in ways that are actually chartered. I think we have that data, we can provide that data to you and every member of this caucus. I think it's actually publicly available on the web if you'd like to see it.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Chair Weatherford. As it relates to the 27 Congressional districts, what were the reasons for the districts not being clearly as compact or not being clearly compact?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Could you speak to a specific district that you feel is not compact and maybe I could react to that?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it relates specifically to Congressional District 10, the one that was on the map that was kind of the Pepto-Bismol color. The Pepto-Bismol pink.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually think it's very compact, I'm looking at it and it represents kind of the heart of central Florida there—as parts of Orange County. It appears to keep Lake County whole and then comes into Polk County. But just to give you an idea that the amount of cities that are kept whole, I won't read them all off, but it looks like it's almost close to 20 cities that are kept whole.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I was referring to when you looked at Congressional District 10, how it kind of horseshoed around downtown. Can you, kind of, share with us the justification for those boundaries?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on compactness measures this district is actually much more compact than the current district. So, it's a significant improvement to what the current map is now from the 2002.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative A. Williams.

**Rep. A. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Chair Weatherford.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Representative Clarke-Reed, for a question.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Weatherford, how do we account for those prisoners and I'm going to follow up on Representative Reed's question, those prisoners who may have been moved since the census was taken and we are drawing districts now. How does that account for the one-man one-vote when you move these prisoners and you're going to another district?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Precourt, you're recognized.

**Rep. Precourt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative we're required to use data from a snapshot in time from the census, from the 2010 census, and that's for everyone not just the prisoners.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Clarke-Reed for a follow up.

**Rep. Clarke-Reed:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions. Representative Saunders, for a question.

**Rep. Saunders:** Apparently, in the Senate Redistricting Committee, residents in Taylor County felt they had more in common with the Nature Coast than they do with Tallahassee, but apparently in this map Taylor County is included with Tallahassee, but yet you split Madison County. Can you explain to us why the wishes of the Taylor county residents were not reflected in this map?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Look, certainly common interests and communities of interests, or whatever term you want to utilize, can be looked at, but it's a sub-standard to the standards in the Constitution. One of those being a Federal requirement that we have to have very precise deviation in the districts. So, the reason it stops right there in Madison County is because if you were to go further over there, you would be overpopulated. So, to keep population exactly equal, which we have to do in the Congressional map, we stopped it right there, but it was able to keep the entire county of Taylor County whole which I think is important. I mean, you look at the map, it's an extremely compact map, and I think is a significant improvement to the current map that we have now.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions. Representative Randolph, for a question.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go back to Congressional District 10, real quick. With the arm that wraps around from west Orange County and now splits the city, not only splits the city of Orlando, but because thanks to that arm, splits Winter Park—a city of 44,000 into two, if not three Congressional districts. I'm wondering why we chose to split Winter Park into three Congressional districts.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, you're wrong. Winter Park is kept whole in this map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I can tell, Winter Park is split between; well I don't have a number on this, the district currently represented by Congresswoman Adams and now Congressman Webster. So, is Winter Park not split there between those two cities?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Winter Park is not split, that is right.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then why split the city of Orlando into that district, Congressional District 10, with that arm all the way over there?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, there's two things going on there, of course. First, you have the minority-majority District 5 which comes through into Orange County which District 10 is adjacent to,

but you also have District 9 which is a Hispanic opportunity seat in District 9 and if you didn't have it drawn the way it is currently drawn, if this district did not go into Osceola County, you would be a below 40 percent V.A.P. Hispanic district. So, to truly give a Hispanic district, in what is a very compact seat, to give a Hispanic a true opportunity to win that district, this allowed it to get over 40 percent.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, then, it's your position then that the downtown Orlando area, which is right next to Winter Park, that the downtown Orlando area has more in common with Umatilla in Lake County than it does in Winter Park, right next to it? Why not move that district over there which is much more compact than an arm and a district that stretches all the way to Fruitland Park and Umatilla?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was actually an amendment that was voted on in this chamber that actually would have allowed us—to allow us—to consider communities of interest on the Constitution. It would have been at the same standard as all the other standards that we're abiding by, but that is not the law. It did not go through so, communities of interest are something we look at, but it is a sub-standard to tier one, which is to make sure that there is no political intent, and to make sure there is no diminishment. It is a sub-standard to compactness to geographic boundaries, to city lines, to county lines. So, this map, I think, is the best reflection of all those standards. And particularly, it was important to Senator Gaetz that that Hispanic opportunity seat got over the 40 percent threshold.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Randolph, for a question.

**Rep. Randolph:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, then, you had no other data before you, or no other proposed map, or nobody submitted anything that would have put, that would have taken that arm out and put that in a more compact district with either the district that includes Winter Park or the district to the east?

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative, one thing I've come to learn in this process, I came into this as a neophyte when it came to redistricting, and I've learned quite a bit. One thing that I've learned that I think is extremely important and I think is relative to this case is that there is more than one way to draw a compliant map. So, I'm not going to sit here and tell you that there's not another way we could reconfigure this part of the state and it would not also be compliant. However, in working with our partners in the Senate and making sure that we have communities that have an opportunity to vote for a candidate of their choice in District 5, to try to have an opportunity district at District 9, to try to keep District 10 as compact as we possibly can and factor in all the standards that we have to abide by, this is what we came up with. I think it's extremely compliant. I think it follows the standards of the law. I think it follows the Voting Rights Act, and for that reason, that is the map that is before you today.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further questions? Any questions?

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, members, as before, if there is debate, please coordinate through your respective leaders. We're moving into debate. Is there any debate on the amendment? This is debate on the amendment. Going once. Seeing none, Representative Weatherford, you are recognized to close on your amendment. And we will do a quorum call when you're done, Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I, again, ask that you support the House's proposal. In this case, it's a proposed Congressional map. The amendment would reduce the county splits from 30 to 21. This amendment would reduce the city splits from 110 to 27. Every time I hear

that statistic, I think that's overwhelming. I mean, the fact that our staff was able to reduce from 110 to 27, I think, is overwhelming. This Congressional map improves the compactness of Florida's Congressional map in all the various ways we've looked at compactness—geographic measurements, functional compactness, measurements, use of county boundaries. And frankly, when you look at the map, it just looks better—cosmetically.

I said this earlier, but I'm going to say it again because I think it's important for the record to state this—the old district that went from Palm Beach to Charlotte County that didn't look so good—gone. The district that went from Duval County to Leon County that didn't look so good—gone. The old district that went from Marion County to Osceola County—doesn't exist. The arm from a district that used to come through Martin County to Fort Pierce—gone. The district that went from Winter Park all the way to Ponte Vedra—gone. And yet, and yet, while making the districts compact and more adherent to the county and city lines, we maintained the strength and the diversity of Florida's Congressional delegation. I think that's something we should be proud of. As such, I would ask everyone to please support this bill—this amendment.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, members, before we vote on the amendment we're gonna have a quorum call. The Clerk—this is a quorum call, quorum call preceding the vote. The Clerk will unlock the machine and then members will record their presence. Quorum call.

The absence of a quorum was suggested. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence 661] (as previously shown in the *Journal* of Thursday, February 2, 2012, page 438).

**Speaker Cannon:** The question now recurs on the adoption of the amendment. The Clerk will unlock the machine and the members will proceed to vote. Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

**Amendment 1** [Amendment Bar Code: 832579] was adopted (as previously shown in the *Journal* of Thursday, February 2, 2012, pages 438-439).

**Speaker Cannon:** Show that bill rolled over for third reading. Read the next bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, members please—we're moving into reapportionment bills. Read the next bill.

**CS for SJR 1176** was read the third time by title on Friday, February 3, 2012 (as previously shown in today's *Journal*).

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Nehr is recognized to explain the bill.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, CS for SJR 1176 is the proposed State Senate and House maps that we discussed yesterday. That is the bill, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right. Members, yesterday we had a pending question that Representative Weatherford is prepared to answer. Representative Weatherford, I want to recognize you to answer Representative Waldman's question from yesterday.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Representative Waldman, I apologize. Yesterday, you asked a very good question and I did not have the answer in front of me. It took a little bit of time to get the data, but in order that we give you correct data, I thought we'd give it today before we go into debate. Just to remind the membership, Representative Waldman asked which minority districts in the proposed State House map had an increase in their voting age population as compared to the House map drawn in 2002. So, I'm going to give you a list of those and the numbers that correlate to them.

The first one was District 20, formerly District 23, which is located in Alachua County and Marion County. It went from 30.94 percent African-American V.A.P. to 31.20 percent African-American V.A.P., which is voting

age population. District 62, formerly District 58, is a Section 5 protected district and a very compact district in Hillsborough County, went from 49.82 percent Hispanic voting age population to 51.89 percent Hispanic voting age population.

District 94, formerly known as District 93, in Broward County, went from 50.94 percent black voting age population to 54.56 black voting population and also became, significantly, more compact.

District 101, formerly District 105, is a Broward County seat. It went from 34.05 percent black V.A.P. to 36.37 black V.A.P., and frankly, it's probably one of the most compact districts on the entire map. It looks almost exactly like a brick. The increase in black V.A.P. just coincides with the more compact design.

District 108, also formerly known as District 108, in Miami-Dade County, went from 57.97 percent black V.A.P. to a 62.88 percent black V.A.P. This is now the only African-American district in the whole map with a greater than 60 percent black voting age population. Formerly, there were three districts like that as the map was drawn in 2002. This district also, significantly, is more compact than the existing district.

District 109, formerly known as District 109, in Miami-Dade County went from 49.53 percent black voting age population to 50.63 percent black voting age population. This district makes much better use of roadways and geographic boundaries than its predecessor in part due to a public request from the Mayor, El Portal—I hope I'm saying that right—Portal?—Portel?—Portal? Thank you.

In terms of Miami-Dade Hispanic districts, they are so dramatically different in the way that they were drawn from 2002. We didn't feel that we could bring an accurate characterization of those districts as being predecessors of others throughout the county. So, that is the answer to your question, Representative Waldman. I hope that it answers it. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Thank you, Representative, Speaker-designate Weatherford. Are there amendments on the desk?

**Reading Clerk:** None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** All right, members, as a reminder, if you wish to be recognized to speak in debate, please notify your respective leaders. We're now going to move into debate. Representative Baxley—now here—Representative Eisnaugle, you're recognized in debate.

**Rep. Eisnaugle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to simply address a point that came up, an allegation that came up in committee, as I recall, in some of the interrogation yesterday, that somehow politics had anything to do with the map before us today. And I felt like, that I had to stand up and simply note, as probably everybody in this room, if we're being honest, knows that is simply, patently absurd. Members, I'm sure everybody in this room has seen the news articles and the blogs that lay out what is happening in the House map, and the newspaper accounts that show, that list, the nearly a third of the members in this Chamber are paired with another member in this current map. I think that's obvious. I think we all know about that. And it's Republicans, it's Democrats, it's freshman members, committee chairmen, it's across the board. It's well documented. But members, I'm here to tell you as a member who is paired with a friend in this House map—that's what should have happened. If you do this the right way, that is what will happen, because when you follow the law, when you follow the legal standards that we have in our State Constitution and under Federal law, the results don't take into account individuals. They just don't. The results have nothing to do with what I want, or what you want, or what any of us want. They have to do with cities, counties, voting rights, State and Federal law. It's plain and simple. And so I stand here today, as one of those members paired up with another member, drawn into the same district as another member and I'm here to tell you that these maps are done right. This is exactly the result that we should have, because we followed the law and I am personally proud of the job the

committee's done and Chairman Weatherford has done, and I am proud to support this bill today.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Thurston, in debate.

**Rep. Thurston:** Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, we have a unique and historic opportunity, and the public and the nation is watching. Never before have we had this opportunity. But we have an opportunity to make a difference here in the State of Florida and to get this done the right way. Florida voters in the last election demanded by over 63 percent that we do redistricting different. They asked for fair districts, members. They want fair districts, overwhelmingly. Because these maps have clearly been drawn in violation of those two requirements, I will not be able to vote for these maps. I did not serve on the Redistricting Committee, even though I wanted to, but I have—this will be my first time having an opportunity to speak on these maps. I, like Representative Eisnaugle, also teamed up with one of the incumbents. I appreciate the work that was done by Representative Weatherford and the time that he put in on these maps. The staff—certainly, although I'm not taking a shot at the staff—I think that Alex Kelly, Jeff Silver, Jeff Takacs, and Jason Poreda really put some awesome time in this—and the committee who traveled across the state. Although, I will not be advocating these maps, I think that we certainly owe them a debt of gratitude. They went to a number of hearings, they went across the state, and they had that listening tour.

What are my concerns? First, the House map is, unquestionably, intended to give Republicans a two-to-one advantage on Election Day. This is not what our voters asked us to come and do. They asked us to create fair districts. We have an opportunity. And you may say, well, what is 'fair district?' But we don't have to take my word or listen to what I say fair districts are. We can just listen to the justices of the 11th Circuit when they say what a fair district is. The provision seeks to maximize electoral possibilities by leveling the playing field. These maps don't level the playing field, members. But that's not—those are not my words, those are the words of the court.

Secondly, I really don't know the basis of these maps. Although I wasn't on the committee, I served and I went to a number of the hearings. I saw the maps that were prepared. When I look at the maps that we are voting on, those are not the maps. So, I don't know what happened between the community submitting a map and the maps that we have that appear here today. I know there were a lot of suggestions by members. There was some suggestion of nesting the three House seats into a Senate seat. There were all types of suggestions that doesn't appear here. So I don't know what happened between what was happening on the listening tour and what we have here.

Thirdly, members, I think that the sight unseen agreement between the Senate and the House—for us to just accept the Senate map was terrible, terrible agreement that we made. We agree in essence to advocate our responsibility to the Senate. And what did we get? The most incumbent protection maps that I've ever seen. A pig in a poke. That's what the Senate sent us. And we've already agreed that we're going to accept that. And when I say we, members, we didn't agree to it back here. We weren't in the room when that was happening. But that's an abdication of our responsibility. And if they would have gave us a—clearly, we didn't know that that's what they were sending, I would agree with that, but having agreed to it, now we're stuck with it.

Members, we heard some great details yesterday about the maps and we saw a great presentation. But what did we not see, members? What is it that was missing on yesterday? I'll tell you what was missing—the indication of the partisan performance of the districts. That's what's missing. The partisan performance of the districts tells you that Amendments 5 and 6 have not been applied to these maps. And how do we get there? We get there by starting with a presumption that we have to go along with what was done in 1992 and 2002. And how do we know that? And what was done? I think it's unquestionable back in '92 and 2002, there was packing of minority districts. And what would that lead to? That would lead to bleaching of the districts that are surrounding

those districts. And why are we saying we have to maintain that? Well, we're saying, well, the Voting Rights Act requires that. So, we're starting with that presumption. That presumption leads us to the same problem that we have that we had before. Clearly, if you're going to maintain that and not look at the voting patterns, not look at the fact that we could—we do not have to have 80 members, 80 percent minorities in a district to elect a representative. Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed can establish that by her current district. Representative Joe Gibbons can establish that. We don't have to have 80 percent minority in a district to elect a representative of our choice.

You know, there was a discussion the other day about architects and Representative Rouson say, well, why are you so interested in helping the architects? They didn't come and ask for your help. That seems to be a pattern. The union members didn't ask for your help. The Black Caucus members voted with a redistricting over 63 percent. We voted 90 percent. Ninety percent—we want fair districts. Just give us a fair district. We'll run and we'll win. We're not asking for 90 percent members to be packed in a district.

We, like the people of the state of Florida, want to see a change. We want to see it done right. They're counting on us. We have a unique opportunity. The whole nation is watching what we do. I can assure you, you're going to see other Amendments 5 and 6 across the nation, because they're watching. It's not just that you're in charge and therefore you're seeking to increase your political clout. When the Democrats was in charge, we did the same thing. But, the people are saying that's not what they want, Republicans, Independents alike. They're saying do the districts fair. Let's be fair about it. Let's have 50/50, if that's what the state's make-up is. Members, we can do better than this. Members, the people of the state of Florida deserve better than this, but more importantly, the Constitution requires us to do this—and I urge you to vote no on these maps. Thank you. [applause]

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Baxley, you are recognized in debate.

**Rep. Baxley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first thing, it's great to rise in support of this great resolution and to be a part of this process of delivering this product. Even in addition to the great support, we owe the staff members who worked so diligently—our leader, Will Weatherford, really led us in the right direction. And it's also a comfort, as I hear testimony and debate, that I'm not the only one moving. I hope it'll help the housing market in Florida, what we're doing here today. But, in fact, I see very little protection for anybody, but instead a great adherence to where we're headed.

I did a little math—I was actually here when we did the map last time. And I did some contrast on how our adherence to this emphasis on abiding by things like county boundaries after the adoption of Amendments 5 and 6 and here's what I found. The State House map drawn 10 years ago, when I was here, created 59 districts that were entirely located within the boundaries of a single county. The proposed State House map that we vote on before us today creates 86 districts that would be entirely located within the boundaries of a single county. Folks, greater than two-thirds of the members in this Chamber would serve only a single county. Now, that's what I heard as we travel the state and listened to the people. A very common theme everywhere we go, from both sides of the isle, from all different groups was—we want to be closer, we want somebody from our county or our community. And clearly, clearly as much as possible, we have abided by that desire and that input from these public meetings all summer and we have, looking at that map, done a great deal to bring representation locally home, back to the home county.

Floridians want legislators who are closer to home that they can feel connected to. Well, those numbers that I just shared are pretty convincing evidence that we followed the law, we listened to the people, and I'm happy to support this great bill. Thank you, sir.

**Speaker Cannon:** In debate. Representative Nuñez, in debate.

**Rep. Nuñez:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I have two levels of appreciation for these maps. First of all, I think it absolutely adheres to the requirements of the law in ensuring and preserving the opportunity for people to elect the candidates of their choice, particularly in Miami-Dade County.

Secondly, I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber that can logically dispute that these maps are absolutely more compact. I also think that there is a general misperception about what a minority district is and that's unfortunate. But these maps here, they are a game changer and I can assure you whether your concern is voting rights or whether your concern is compact districts, that this map gets it right on both counts and for those reasons, members, I am proud to support these maps. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Fresen. I'm sorry, Representative Wood, in debate. You are recognized, Representative Wood.

**Rep. Wood:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, as I look around this great Chamber at all my fellow Representatives and how we all are so different, how we reflect the diversity of this great state that we live in. How my district can send a member of Cuban ancestry, named John Wood—it's a great day to be here and to participate in this process. And, thank God, that as in our state we have a division of labor so, we have a division of labor in this House. I chose not to be involved in the redistricting process. I did not serve on the committees, I did not attend one meeting around the state. I left that to the members that chose to be part of that process. And so, my first awareness of this process has been yesterday and I sat and I listened, very carefully, to the presentation of Chair Weatherford, to the comments around the Chamber from both sides, and I'm approaching this on the representations that were made in this Chamber that this has been a, strictly, apolitical process and for that I want to thank the process for listening to the people of my great county—imperial Polk County. My county commission passed a resolution asking that the State House map have five districts that represent their county and I'm happy to see that we have five districts—four of which are entirely or almost entirely within the boundaries of my county. And for that, I want to express that gratitude for listening to the input of the people of my county.

At the same time, I want point out that the Senate map reduces the voice of the people of Polk County. And you know what? I'm OK with that because it was an apolitical process and that's what we are here to do, is to listen to the will of the people of Florida, to pass their districts based on an apolitical process. And for that, I plan to support the bill. Thank you for your attention.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Fresen, in debate. Representative Fresen, you're recognized.

**Rep. Fresen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to just briefly address—and I'll emphasize briefly—certain points that were made yesterday that I think were a little bit flawed. I think it's impossible for me to articulate or better explain how it is that our maps and our process and certainly the work that our chairs and our vice chairs and co-chairs and staff did on these maps, so I'll just be brief.

But, there was one statement that was made several times that, I think, had a fundamental flaw in the line of questioning and that had to do with the purported, intentional intent that was suggested by some members in the back row that somehow the minority populations were intentionally reduced. Now, this is what is called voter dilution, members, and while voter dilution has always been federally prohibited, it is now also prohibited by State law. And what I can tell you is this, to purposely dilute a district, a minority district which is close to our heart—and just to dovetail off of Representative Nuñez's point—to dilute a minority district is to take a district that is currently at 40, or 45 percent, or 50 and reduce that down to a further point.

Nothing in these maps could be further from the truth. The notion that a State House district's minority voting population be intentionally diluted flies in the face of the process that happened here and certainly flies in the face of what is reflected by the maps that we'll be voting on today. I'm happy to vote for the State House map because it does not follow that line of thinking.

Rather, this map follows the letter of the State law, of the Federal law, and preserves the minority access that we have not only in Miami-Dade, but all throughout the state of Florida, to have the opportunity to elect minorities and to have the opportunity to elect those that we would like to vote in. So, what I would say to you members is look at the maps, look at the process, and you can see that suggestion, that assertion, could not be further from the truth. And for that reason, I ask you to support these maps.

**Speaker Cannon:** In debate. Representative Taylor, in debate.

**Rep. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, it's the next bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** Ah, OK. Representative Soto, in debate.

**Rep. Soto:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, members, we often rank a lot of things in this House. Whether it be teachers, whether it be insurance companies, so I wanted to give you my top ten concerns about redistricting this year.

Concern number ten is that this Chamber attempted to pass Amendment 7 to undermine Amendments 5 and 6. My ninth concern is that it took an Appellate Court loss for this House to stop its lawsuit against...

**Speaker Cannon:** Hey, members, take your seats. Excuse me, Representative Soto, just one moment. Members, please give Representative Soto your full attention. Take you conversations to the bubble. Keep the center aisle clear. Representative Soto, you may continue.

**Rep. Soto:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My ninth concern is that it took an Appellate Court loss for this House to stop its lawsuit against Amendment 6. Concern number eight is that there are no returning incumbents that were displaced in the State Senate maps. My seventh concern is that a Congressional district sneaking from Jacksonville to Orlando does not comply with Amendment 6. Concern number six is that certain members, by admission, yesterday, had information early on in the process, before the maps were drawn. My fifth concern is that we had a listening tour, prior to constructing maps, but no tour after they were drawn. Concern number four that many of these maps appear to favor one political party over another, by wide margins and numerous districts. Concern number three, seeing members explain to ethnic minority members the importance of complying with the Voting Rights Act. Concern number two, that the changes to the maps between the House and the Senate were agreed to without conference and without amendments. And my number one concern in this whole process is that the no diminishment clause is being used to undermine the entire fair district amendment process. As a result, I believe, strongly, that these maps will not survive scrutiny at the Florida Supreme Court or upon Federal review.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate. Representative Frishe, in debate.

**Rep. Frishe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I'd like us to reflect a little bit on some of the comments from yesterday, and there was one in particular. It was a very misleading question being asked about districts that were 70 percent similar to districts from the 2002 State House map and I'd like to review some of those facts.

District 6 in Bay County is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. It's a district that's entirely within the boundaries of Bay County and includes multiple whole cities and is clearly, if you look at it, it's very compact. District 8 and the Big Bend is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. It's a majority-minority district that includes the entirety of Gadsden County. District 9 in Leon County is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. It's a district entirely and very compactly included within the boundaries of Leon County. District 20 in Alachua and Marion counties is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. It's a district that historically elects African-American candidates. It was redrawn to do exactly the same thing, as the Federal law requires, while it also includes seven whole cities. District 23 in Marion County is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn

10 years ago. It is a district that looks like a square and is entirely located in Marion County.

District 34 and 35 in Citrus and Hernando counties are districts that are greater than 70 percent similar to districts drawn 10 years ago. But again, there's a catch. They are the entirety of Citrus and Hernando counties. District 38 is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. But again, there's a catch, it's practically the shape of a square drawn entirely in a single county. District 41 in Polk County is a district that is greater than 70 percent similar to a district drawn 10 years ago. But again, there's a catch. It's a very compact district located entirely in Polk County with six whole cities contained in the district.

Now I'm not going to go through 120 districts, like we had to yesterday, because I think you get the point. The point being in most of these districts we're talking about either minority districts or districts that were drawn very compactly within the borders of a single county. Frankly, if by your questions you are suggesting that we shouldn't draw compact districts that follow county lines, you are actually suggesting that we gerrymander. Members, that is not the path that this Chamber should be willing to go down. Furthermore, these percentages are also misleading because if a district was overpopulated and had to shrink in size it is highly likely to include a significant portion of a previous district. With that, members, I am very proud to support this bill and these maps for the State House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Corcoran, in debate. You are recognized.

**Rep. Corcoran:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I just want to compliment Speaker-designate Weatherford. I actually—even though I'm not a veteran or a retreat, I actually was a staffer in '90, and in 2002 I was outside counsel. So, I've been through several redistricting processes. Never has it been this open, and transparent, and fair. And your adherence to Amendment 5 and 6 is exemplary and I just want to thank you for that as now, a member.

But I want to address—yesterday we heard a lot of comments about 'packing,' and I just want to clarify what that term means. It's not some ethereal term that we pull out of thin air. It's something that finds itself in a litany of case law regarding the Voting Rights Act. And you can read any of those cases and it will give you the clear definition of what packing is. And it's simply this: it's when you have two neighboring majority-minority districts—you have a majority-minority district, with a neighboring area with more minority population and you take that population and you put it in the other district where it's already 50 percent. You take it up to 80 percent and you water down what was left in the other district, so that you cannot have two majority-minority districts when you could have and should have—that's packing. It's that simple. That's the term and that's what it means.

And I will tell you, in the House plan; in no place anywhere in the state does it occur. Not one place. You cannot put one single place where it occurs. It does not exist. And really, to suggest that, what you would do by diluting that majority-minority population when you could have drawn another district, what you're really suggesting, is you're saying let's have the Legislature violate the Federal Voting Rights Act. And, furthermore, let's have the Legislature remove any future Federal Voting Rights Act protections that those districts should have.

And so, I would tell you when you're making your final decision here and you're debating just remember this: when the Florida State Conference of the NAACP submitted maps to the Legislature, they didn't take a single majority-minority district below 50 percent. And I would suggest that we do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** In debate, Representative Weatherford. You are recognized in debate.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I get into the debate and start talking about some of the points that have been brought forward this

afternoon, I want to really thank the co-chairs of both the Senate and the House committee. The Co-Chair Nehr and Co-Chair Hukill, they did a phenomenal job throughout this process. I really appreciate their leadership. I appreciate the amount of effort and work that you put into this process. And Representative Schenck and Chair Dorworth also worked extremely hard to make sure that the maps that became before this committee, our full committee and then ultimately to the floor—that it was a great product. You did the bulk of the work and I really appreciate the efforts by them. I want, Representative Thurston, I want to thank you for taking the time to thank our staff. I thought that was a classy thing to do. They have worked extremely hard to provide us with as much data and detail as they possibly could—26 meetings around the state. They worked very hard. Thank you for taking the time to recognize them for that.

Our agreement on these maps may start at that point, though. We may have some points of contention that I would like to point out myself. Numerous times today people have brought forth that somehow a political outcome is necessary to dictate a fair map. I don't know where this thought process came from. It's nowhere in the Constitution. I think if the drafters of Amendments 5 and 6 wanted 60 Republicans and 60 Democrats, they would have just stipulated that and put it in the Constitution. But the reason they didn't do that and the way that our Constitution reads, to get a political outcome violates the law. I thought Representative Precourt made a great, did a great job of explaining that, but just let this sink in. To create any type of political outcome, whether it's for fairness reasons or whatnot, violates the letter of the law. So, therefore, we're not going to do it. And we didn't do it. We're not going to engineer anything that will violate the law. We can't tell Democrats to vote for Democrats and we can't tell Republicans to vote for Republicans. Somehow, the thought that we can control the outcome of an election by controlling what the voter registration is in a district is absurd. And I think Representative Precourt talking about the statewide elections of 2010 spoke to that as well. There have been numerous accounts today talking about how the maps have been redrawn according to media records, to have a two-to-one favor for one party over the other. There was an article today in the *Orlando Sentinel* that clearly stated that, in fact, Orlando has gone Democrat. There are now more Democratic districts in Orlando than there were and, under the current map, more than there are Republican. So, somehow, the thought that what you're saying to be true and what the facts are just don't line up.

Somebody brought up the notion of nesting—I think it was Representative Thurston brought up the notion of nesting. Nesting is nowhere in the Constitution. Again, if the framers of Amendments 5 and 6 wanted nesting to be in our Constitution, they would have put it in there, but they didn't. There's a couple problems with nesting. First of all, it can serve to be a vehicle of incumbent protection, which is something that we cannot do. It would be really hard for a House member who is running for a Senate seat, that his seat is entirely encompassed in, to run against someone else who may be just a citizen legislator and wants to run for the Senate. It would also be really hard for someone to defeat a Senator who's running for a House seat that is wholly encompassed within his Senate seat. It could breed incumbent protection and for that reason, I think, that's a good reason why we did not incorporate it. There's also studies that have been done that have shown that by utilizing nesting, you can actually infringe on minority rights. To draw a Senate district first and then say we're going to put all the House maps inside of that district, no matter what the impact is to minorities' ability to vote for a candidate of their choice, that's a problem. So there's a reason we didn't do that.

And lastly, the reason we didn't do it is because there was an amendment in my committee last Friday that would have allowed nesting and everybody voted no—including the members of the minority caucus. So, if you cared that much about nesting, you would have voted yes on the fair map that came from the leak.

Next, people have been talking about the Senate map and making all kinds of accusations about it. Up until yesterday, there had never been an amendment filed by anyone on the committee to make a change to the Senate map. And if people had such great problems with the Senate map, why would

they not bring forth an amendment? And then yesterday, Representative Jenne took it upon himself to file his own amendment, which I commend you for. The problem was, if our map is so flawed, why would you file an amendment and then have everybody in the caucus vote no? So there was an opportunity to improve a map that you said was flawed, which I disagree with, but then in the time when you presented an amendment, you voted no on it. That doesn't make any sense.

Someone talked about 80 percent black V.A.P. districts. I think it was Representative Thurston. There are no 80 percent black V.A.P. districts in this map. There is no packing in this map. In fact, what this map did is it increased minority opportunities. It increased two new Hispanic seats—one in South Florida and Palm Beach County, one in Orange County. It also created a new African-American seat in Orange County. We should be proud of that. The last thing that we would ever want to do is pack and we did not do that—not in any shape or form.

I'm going to tell you what we did do. It's very simple. We started with the Federal law. One person, one vote—the Voting Rights Act, the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. We then went to the tier one standards of Florida's Constitution that prohibited intentional political favoritism. We followed that. It prohibits the ability to diminish a minority's opportunity. We followed that. It said you have to be contiguous. We followed that. Then, there's tier two of Florida's Constitution. It talks about compactness. We followed that—significant improvements over 10 years ago. It talked about equal population. We followed that—significant improvements. Feasible political and geographical boundary lines—we followed that. Less cities and counties were split. That's it. That's all we did. If you want unfair districts, unfair districts would be a February surprise, would be a strike-all on this fall—on this floor—that redraws all the districts. But there was no February surprise. There was no 'gotcha' moment. What we said we would do, we actually did. And in politics, that's rare. Unfair districts are districts that would show political intent. Our maps did not do that. Unfair districts are districts that would dilute minority representation. Our districts did not do that. Unfair districts would disregard cities and counties and geographic boundaries. Our districts did not do that.

If you're voting no simply because an attorney who doesn't—is not a part of this process and a part of this Chamber is telling you to vote no, that's wrong. That should not be the reason you're voting against this amendment. If you're voting against this amendment and this bill, it should be because you actually think there are fundamental flaws in the House or the Senate map. I can respect that. I can respect a decision based on policy. But if the decision is based on politics and you're pushing that red button because an attorney told you should—I can't respect that. So, ladies and gentlemen, I would please ask you to vote for this bill. Thank you very much. [applause]

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Seeing none, Representative Nehr, you are recognized to close on the bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Seeing none, Representative Nehr, you are recognized to close on the bill.

**Rep. Nehr:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, thank you. In closing, I'd like to walk you, quickly, through analysis of our State House map. You know, Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act provides legal obligations and protection for our state's majority-minority districts and therefore, we've drawn them, consistently, with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. In Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act provides legal protections and obligations for minority districts in Collier, Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe counties and therefore, we've drawn them consistently with that provision in mind. And State law prohibits drawing our districts with a political intent and we have followed the law.

Newspaper accounts of the profound impacts of our State House map point to a drawing of this map without intent. And the reality, members, is that because we have followed both Federal law and our State Constitution, some

of us in this Chamber won't be coming back. And it has nothing to do with term limits.

State law also requires that we not diminish existing opportunities for racial and language minorities and to diminish the likelihood of something means to make it less likely or less able. And that, also, has not occurred in this State House map. In addition, State law requires districts to be contiguous and we've done that in every district on these maps. You know, those that are first tier standards in our state law and the second tier standard in our state that requires equal population, compactness, and where feasible, adherence to political and geographical boundary lines within our districts. And those three things are put on equal footing based on the language in the third paragraph of our new State law.

Members, our population deviation in these maps is only 3.97, well within the ten percent range permitted in case law. And that deviation is directly tied to the effort to use county lines and something that our new state law is on equal footing to equal population. Regarding the compactness of our districts, you can see just by looking at the maps that many of them look like squares and rectangles and the travel time and distance of the districts has been reduced from that of the district drawn 10 years ago. Compared to previous maps, they are more compact based on every perimeter test and width-height test we've looked at and they make significant use of county lines. Once again, we followed the law.

In speaking of better districts, you have to split up 29 counties in the State House map and we drew a map that only splits 30. Only one above the minimum. And we also drew a map that reduce city splits from previous 170, from the map 10 years ago, to just 75. Members, the compliance of our state map is something that we can all be proud of and when this legislation passes this Chamber, Florida will become the national model of how redistricting should be accomplished. These maps conform to all the legalities of Amendment 5. These maps conform to the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. These maps were drawn by the most open, transparent, and bipartisan method in our history. Now, all of you know that we've had dozens of meetings, all the way from the Panhandle to the southernmost part of our state in Key West, and we listened to hundreds of hours of public testimony. We received hundreds and hundreds of suggestions and we received over 170 maps inputted from the public. But most important, we actually used many of those ideas suggested from our citizens when the final maps were drawn.

Members, in a moment, you'll be voting on one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before us in the last 10 years. And with that, I urge each of you to vote "yes" for SJR 1176 and send a clear message that the Florida House rose above the rhetoric and created legally compliant districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [applause]

The absence of a quorum was suggested. A quorum was present [Session Vote Sequence: 669] (as previously shown in today's *Journal* on page 472).

**CS for SJR 1176** passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate [Session Vote Sequence: 670] (as previously shown in today's *Journal* on page 472).

**Speaker Cannon:** Read the next bill.

**CS for SB 1174** was read the third time by title on Friday, February 3, 2012 (as previously shown in today's *Journal*).

**Speaker Cannon:** Members, as before, if you wish to be recognized to speak in debate, please notify your respective leaders. We're now going to move into debate. I'm going to begin by recognizing Representative Adkins to begin in debate. You are recognized.

**Rep Adkins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, as a resident of Nassau County, I want to say just how much I appreciate and how much I support this Congressional map. The map that was drawn 10 years ago connected my

community right there at Atlantic Beach, or at the Atlantic Ocean, with areas of Tallahassee within one single district. And I know for those of you who were here on June the 20th, when we had that first redistricting committee, you will remember that we had many members of the public who spoke and said, 'please do not have a district that goes all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to Tallahassee.' And so, members, I am glad that we listened to that public input and we're now connected in a much more localized district. What that means for my county is that our representative will be able to spend more time in our community listening to our needs, and that we'll have more time to spend with our representative to hear their vision for our community and for our country. This bill is a major improvement for Northeast Florida and I ask that you support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate—Representative Caldwell, you are recognized in debate.

**Rep Caldwell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, when people voted in favor of Amendment 6, one of the things they were telling us was to draw compact districts. This can be a difficult task when you're dealing with districts 700,000 people in size. And then you have to achieve the exact ideal population. However, this map demonstrates that it can be done. And in every way possible, the measure of compactness—whether it's geometric measures of compactness, functional compactness scores, or even simple things like how long it takes to drive across the district—this map is dramatically different than the ones that we saw 10 years ago. I remember on several occasions during public meetings, people saying that their vote November 2010 was all about the public input we needed. In terms of creating a more compact map, I think in this bill we've demonstrated that we've achieved compactness. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further Debate? Representative Frishe, in debate.

**Representative Frishe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I just wanted to highlight one part of this redistricting process that I think really worked, and it's embodied in this Congressional map. When the map came to our redistricting committee, District 14 encompassed greater portions of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County than the bill does now. Numerous constituents in Pinellas County asked for a shift in these maps and that request was accommodated, shifting a greater balance of District 14 into Hillsborough County. Interestingly enough, it better aligned the cities and neighborhoods in Pinellas County as the public had requested, and that shift also resulted in keeping the city of Gulfport whole and better aligning District 14 with the Federal Voting Rights Act. Overall, District 14 is dramatically more compact than its predecessor that was drawn 10 years ago. Members, I think when we can align or marry up the public input with the legal requirements of the law, I think we've done exactly what we were called here to do. And I just want to thank Chair Weatherford and our committee for making that change. I'm very happy to support the Congressional maps and I recommend that the entire body does. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Representative Snyder, you are recognized in debate.

**Representative Snyder:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I just want to offer a simple observation about the Congressional district lines that affect my home county in this bill. In the map that was drawn 10 years ago, we were given two Congressional districts—one that is largely based out of Palm Beach and Broward counties with a finger that extended through Martin County, and another that wrapped around that district going from Palm Beach County all the way to Charlotte County. The bill before us has a compact district with the entirety of Martin County, St. Lucie County, and southern Palm Beach County in the map. This is a dramatic improvement and I think it will be a dramatic improvement for my county and our neighboring counties. And so I would therefore urge everyone to support this bill and vote for it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker Cannon:** Very well. Representative Taylor, in debate. Representative Taylor.

**Rep. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank you for something else, Mr. Speaker. You appointed me to this Congressional subcommittee, and I want to thank you for that opportunity. I took my appointment just like all the others that you've appointed me to—very, very seriously. One of the things that I wanted to report to you, and I believe this entire chamber could agree on, is that at every meeting and at every stop, the Sergeant's staff and staff was always there prepared and on time to do what you've asked them to do. And for that, I believe they deserve a round of applause. [applause]

Now, Mr. Speaker, we went to these meetings. We drove mile after mile. We sat through numerous hearings getting information from the public, asking them what they thought their maps should look like. And often, at every meeting, people would ask, 'Where are the maps? Where are the maps?' You are asking us to give you input on something that they cannot see. We didn't give them a map. You didn't show them anything, but you asked them for their input and they did give you that. Now, at no time, Mr. Speaker, did anyone say that they would not be back with the final product, giving the opportunity to the people to see what was developed by all of their ideas. You didn't take it back to them. You didn't show them your final product. This is an important element. They were shortchanged the opportunity for them to make their comments, and their suggestions, and their recommendations on what it is that was actually produced. Now, it was often said that they had that opportunity to look at it on emails, or to comment on emails, or to look at it on the website, but we didn't ask them to do that when we were visiting their locations. You didn't ask them to do that, only. We could have done that in the very beginning and saved a lot of money and then took the map back out to them, but you didn't do it. Now, there are some theories, there are some people who believe that you just didn't want to do it. And I have my own belief, Mr. Speaker. I have my own belief and my belief is this: the reason why you didn't go back is because you knew that the people would not like these maps. And for that reason I'm urging you to vote no.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Representative Corcoran in debate.

**Rep. Corcoran:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, earlier when we were talking about the House map and there was discussion of an excellent point that was raised about the realities of these maps—the issue is political intent. When you hear all the stories in the media, even from the likes of Rush Limbaugh, in the blogs and so forth, the inconvenient realities of what happens when you draw more compact districts that adhere to our city and county lines, you have this outcry. And it makes it clear that there was no political intent involved. And the fact is that the potential impacts of these maps have affected Republicans and Democrats. Several of these proposed districts are very different from their predecessors. The reality of this proposed Congressional map is that it was drawn with the legal standards in mind and it was drawn without the intent of political favoritism. And for this reason I ask you to support the Congressional map.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Representative Bileca, you are recognized in debate.

**Rep. Bileca:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What caught my attention was the map's attention to the city re-boundaries. The final product before us keeps 384 of Florida's 411 cities whole. Ten years ago the legislature drew a map that split 110 cities. This bill splits only 27 cities. That's a dynamic shift in the way people will be represented. And that's enough proof that this chamber listened to the public, that the law was followed, and that everyone in here should support this good bill.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Further debate? Representative Weatherford, you're recognized in debate.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I'm going to be very brief on this one. I know you all are probably tired of seeing my face and hearing my voice so, I'll be brief. I do want to take a moment to thank, again, the co-chairs who worked extremely hard on this—to Chair Legg and Chair Holder, you guys did a tremendous job and I want to thank you for your

efforts. And I know you're going to get to close, but Representative Legg you really have done a wonderful job here. And again, you all did the lion's share of the work that got before the committee, and so, we appreciate that.

I also want to say thanks to Senator Gaetz. Senator Gaetz and I worked very closely. Historically, the train wreck of redistricting usually comes into play during the Congressional map. And the fact of the matter is that we were able to work out a way to not only negotiate a map that we could agree on, but in doing so, reduce the amount of county splits, and the city splits, and make it a more compliant map, legally speaking. So, with that, I ask that you support this map. I think it's a good one and I think it's a good opportunity for us to show future legislatures how to draw a Congressional map. Thank you.

**Speaker Cannon:** Further debate? Seeing none, Representative Legg is recognized to close on the bill.

**Rep. Legg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into the end of the close, I just want to take a minute to say thank you to a couple of folks. First is Chair Holder and Chair Horner for all their hard work traveling around the state, but I'd also like to say thank you to Representative Taylor and the other Democrats in our committee for your hard work in that committee process too—spending time with us, and asking questions, and being involved in the process, and trying to work alongside of us.

There's three points I want to make here at the close. And the very first one is, I think, a very important point and that is—what did we do? We followed the plain language of the Constitution. We've heard that phrase several times, and what do I mean by the 'plain language of the Constitution?' The plain language of the Constitution said, where possible, to leave cities and counties whole. If you look at this map, 27 cities are remained whole compared to 110, 10 years ago. That's an 80 percent decrease. That is, simply, following the law. If you look, we kept 46 counties whole.

Members, the other part that I think is getting in the crossfire of politics quite a bit, is this phrase that is simple language that is in the Constitution that says do not diminish. You know, when the proponents and the groups out there were advocating for this Constitutional amendment and they were asked, 'what does the phrase do not diminish mean?' they said it means 'do not diminish.' They kept over and over and over saying that it means 'do not diminish.' Now all of a sudden, when we're drawing the maps, the words 'do not diminish' to them means something different—it means 34, 35. They're putting some numbers on it outside this Chamber, trying to stick a number to it, and their story has changed. What they told the voters when they were advocating for it versus what they are saying now is two different stories. Members, that simply is not acceptable. When the voters said, where they were given this amendment, and they said 'do not diminish' means 'do not diminish,' I believe that's what the voters meant, and that's what they passed.

The second issue I wanted to bring to your attention is that never before, never before, I believe, in the history of the United States and, for sure, the state of Florida has so much public input and public comment went into creating the map. Each and every one of you should be commended for that. We went 26 plus cities to hear public comments. Over a hundred maps were produced. Never before has so much went into public comment have went into creating these maps. That is where staff started. That is how staff generated these maps—adhering to the Constitution and listening to the public. That is where these maps were generated from.

The final thing that I want to bring to your attention that often gets overlooked, and I want to put this in perspective and really drive this home, whether it was 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 30 years ago, 40 years ago—in this process it is very, very difficult to separate politics of personal ambition, to separate politics from policy. Many of you may not know this, and maybe some of you know—I know Representative Corcoran does—when the redistricting process comes around, it is anything—anything, from what Representative Schenck has said, but boring. Without a doubt, redistricting is one of the most explosive, controversial, gut-wrenching processes that tears chambers apart whether you're Democrat, whether you're Republican, no

matter what, it rips it to shreds and usually, usually it comes because of the presiding officer. Because they have some personal ambition, because they want to extract some sort of revenge or they want to cajole or influence members. I will tell you that this Chamber has a lot to be proud of. It was a boring process. And why was it boring? Because it was transparent, it was well organized, there was no January or February surprises, and—more importantly, more importantly—because we had a Speaker who asked us to do one thing. It wasn't for him, it wasn't for some one of his buddies, it was one simple thing and it was for the people of Florida. He told Chair Weatherford, he told myself, one thing: follow the law. Follow the law. That's all you do. Follow the law. You follow the law and we will have good maps.

Members, I am proud to be a House member. We did not have the excitement that other chambers have had. We have not had the excitement of decades past. And you know why we haven't had that excitement? Because it started from our presiding officer making sure, making sure, that it was clear and simple that we followed the Constitution. We adhered to the law. We did it in a transparent process, that it was well organized, that everyone had a seat to speak and to debate and to do what was right. Members, you may not vote for this bill, but I will tell you what—I am proud to be a member of the Florida House because I've never seen in my, this is the third redistricting process that I've watched. I've never seen a process where it has been so open, and so organized, and there have been no surprises. And, Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to say thank you for setting the tone and allowing me to be proud to be a House member. And with that, members, I would ask every one of you to support this great map. [applause]

**Speaker Cannon:** Members, before we vote, let's do a quorum call. The Clerk will unlock the machine and the members will record their presence. Recording their presence for a quorum call. Have all members recorded their presence? Quorum call members, quorum call. The Clerk will lock the machine and announce the presence of a quorum.

**Reading Clerk:** One hundred seventeen members voting, a quorum is present, Mr. Speaker. [Session Vote Sequence: 671] (as previously shown in today's *Journal* on page 472).

**CS for SB 1174** passed, as amended, and was certified to the Senate [Session Vote Sequence: 672] (as previously shown in today's *Journal* on page 473).

**Speaker Cannon:** So the bill passes. [applause] Members, I'd like to ask you all to take your seats for a moment because what we have just done is historic and truly rare. And I want to allow Chair Weatherford a moment of personal privilege because—and I want to say some remarks about you, sir, and your team in a moment—but I wanted to first recognize and thank you and allow you a moment to thank your team and say a few words. So, Representative Weatherford.

**Rep. Weatherford:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'm going to be brief. I know that this has been a long two-day process. Actually, it's been about a long nine-month process, but Speaker, you are the tip of our spear and the—I talked a lot over the last 48 hours about how proud I am of the Florida House. You've given me that honor to chair this committee. It's been a challenging task, and when you told me I was going to chair it you were laughing at the same time. I wasn't sure why, but now I understand. But truthfully, the tone that you set for this Chamber—not only on this issue but throughout last session and this session, particularly on something as complicated and historically what has been a political process, but it's not this year, starts with you. And to have the faith that you put in me and into our chairs and our co-chairs, I just want to thank you for being the great leader that you are for this Chamber. Thank you, Speaker. [applause]

I know we've mentioned some of the names and Representative Thurston mentioned them again, but I've asked our staff to come out on the floor, and our staff has had no personal life for about the last year. They have, literally, been married to their jobs here. I know all of your wives, and kids, and girlfriends, and boyfriends, and everything else are looking forward to

actually seeing you again. But, to Alex Kelly, and Jeff Takacs, and Jason Poreda, and Jeff Silver, Ben Fairbrother, Katie Crofoot, I think I said Jeff Silver. I call them—it's the army of six that we have over there. And the amount of work, the amount of sheer work that came out of these six people—I've never seen anything like it in my life, and I'm just proud that we've had a chance to work with you. We thank you for the honor that you've bestowed upon us by dedicating yourselves to a process that is extremely complicated, but also, you did such a thorough job of making sure that everyone had a voice, that we did follow the law, and everything we did today would not have been possible without you. So, thank you all for everything you've done. [applause]

And, Mr. Speaker, also, just last but certainly not least, there are some other organizations who really contributed to this journey that we've been on. The Sergeant's Office—Sergeant, thank you for everything you did. All 26 trips around the state, you and your staff did just a phenomenal job. Our House Office of Public Information, making sure that the information was out to the membership and to the media. The House Administration, putting everything together that it took. The Florida Channel, who partnered with us for the first time and televised every single presentation we had around the state, thank you. And to the Speaker's Office, and everyone, this has just been such a team effort, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for dedicating the resources and the time that you did to make sure that this was done right. But, thank you for the personal privilege. Thank you all that we mentioned for making this a good process and a fair process, and with that, I'm very grateful to have chaired such a wonderful committee. Thank you. [applause]

**Speaker Cannon:** Chairman Weatherford, I want to thank some of the same people. I want to begin and end with you, sir. As I watched yesterday in questions and answers, and today as you and your team and your leadership of this process for the House, it reminded me that although much has been made of the fact that redistricting is a once-in-a-decade event, we need to celebrate the once-in-a-decade effort that has gone into this process—led by you and fulfilled and carried out by those you mentioned.

I will admit to more than a little disappointment in those members who, in their desire to turn this conversation into a partisan conflict, have failed to acknowledge what should be so clear to anyone without an agenda. And that is that this redistricting process, in this House, has been a triumph for this House and for the Constitution that I love so much and that we all took an oath to uphold. The process we undertook was without precedence. It started over two years ago. During the census data collection phase, the House developed a website to serve as a point of coordination for the entire state. And for the first time, I think, in any state, in any process, allowed Floridians to report homes or neighborhoods that were missed by the census. We published the general historical, public historical references on redistricting, recommendations on how to effectively participate in the process, and the population data.

Rather than simply buying a commercial product off the shelf for software, we designed, developed, and custom built—in-house—MyDistrictBuilder™, which is our very own internet-based redistricting tool that gave not only every member, but frankly, every single Floridian access to map drawing technology. Not only did we have a record shattering number of public submissions—177—but over two-thirds of those submissions came in through MyDistrictBuilder™.

And we didn't just build the tools, we then actively engaged the public. We developed and pushed public service announcements to increase awareness of the process, we pushed out the social media, alternative media, and as a result, our public hearings exceeded all expectations—and I know there were a lot of them, and I know that you all put a lot of miles on your cars and a lot of hours on your calendars to do that. We had over 5,000 attendees, cumulatively, and over 1,600 speakers at meetings held throughout the entire state. None of that would have been possible without the extraordinary effort, dedication, and skill of our staff. And, guys, I'm going to recognize you again—that's got to begin with Alex Kelly, the staff director of Redistricting Committee.

Alex's tireless dedication, your incredible diligence, creativity, and machine-like command of even the most minute details or piece of data are apparent to anybody who dealt with you. And that he has all of those qualities and also manages to be one of the most honest, sincere, hardworking, and enthusiastic people I know is a testament to your character and a credit to this House. So, we thank you, Alex. [applause]

You're team, the rest of the gang of six, Chairman Weatherford, deputy staff director Jeff Takacs, Jason Poreda, Jeff Silver, Ben Fairbrother, and Katie Crofoot—everyone who worked with you said to me, 'Wow, your team is responsive. Your team is diligent. Your team takes their job very seriously.' And I think one of the reasons that I would put the House staff up against any other team around is that you all, and I think our whole House staff, demonstrated a gift for teamwork that is often missing from government and that makes us very proud.

For that reason, as you mentioned, Chair Weatherford, I also want to thank Erin Rock and her team at the Office of Public Information, who traveled the state and took the House's public outreach to new levels.

Sergeant Sumner, you and your staff always, always represent us, no matter where we are—in what city, on the Floor, or in Tallahassee—with efficiency, courtesy, and professionalism.

Scott McPherson and the House IT team for their assistance in pushing the technology envelope, as we did.

And I'd also want to join you all in thanking and acknowledging the work of Beth Switzer and the Florida Channel for being such enthusiastic partners in our public outreach effort. [applause]

We set out this process and my charge to Chair Weatherford and to the other chairs was to fulfill a single goal, which is to fulfill our constitutional duty to the best of our ability and to honor and respect the rule of law. We established a careful, thoughtful, and deliberative process, and despite all the pressure to rush or cut corners, we never did. We followed our rules, we respected the process. And the maps and the quality of the product reflects it.

I remember, curiously, the first time our maps were made public in the House, and there were members in this Chamber who claimed that these

maps could not possibly be the real maps. I don't know if you remember that, Chair Weatherford, that there was no way the Republican majority would put forward maps that had members in the same districts. The not so subtle insinuation, frankly, being that there was no way that the Republican majority in this House would follow the law. And I cannot tell you—I cannot tell you how proud I am to say that those members were wrong. The maps drawn by this house were done so in full compliance with the requirements of our State Constitution and Federal and State law, and this Chamber honored that obligation and that oath that we all took, the voters, and, frankly, to the Constitution to uphold it.

I want to thank each and every House member who, having had an exhaustive 2011 session, then spent their summer and fall traveling the state attending the meetings. I know that was a lot of work. Our team leaders on redistricting demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities and total dedication to the task, and so, I want to recognize and specifically thank the co-chairs of the Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, John Legg and Doug Holder, and Vice Chair Mike Horner. I want to recognize the co-chairs of the House Redistricting Committee, Rob Schenck and Chris Dorworth, and the co-chairs of the Senate Redistricting Committee, Dorothy Hukill, and Peter Nehr, and Vice Chair Ritch Workman, and also Vice Chair Jim Frishe of the House Committee, and our overall Redistricting Committee chair, Representative Precourt. All of you led with grace, and with strength, and with dignity. And you represented us well.

And most of all, I want to thank you, Will. Chairman of our Redistricting Committee and my long-time friend, Will Weatherford, who's our Speaker-designate. You have conducted yourself with integrity, with clarity, with good humor and thoughtfulness, and a lot of grace through what was, without a doubt, not only the most complex, but the most difficult reapportionment because of the burden that you had to bear. You truly have validated the faith and confidence that your fellow members have placed in you to lead this Chamber and you've represented us all very, very well. You set an example, frankly, that all of us should emulate. And so, to you, to the chairs, to the team, to all the people I have mentioned, I want to say well done, and you've made us all very, very proud. Thank you. [applause]

# **2012 Redistricting Bills**

**State House – CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)**

**Congressional – CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)**

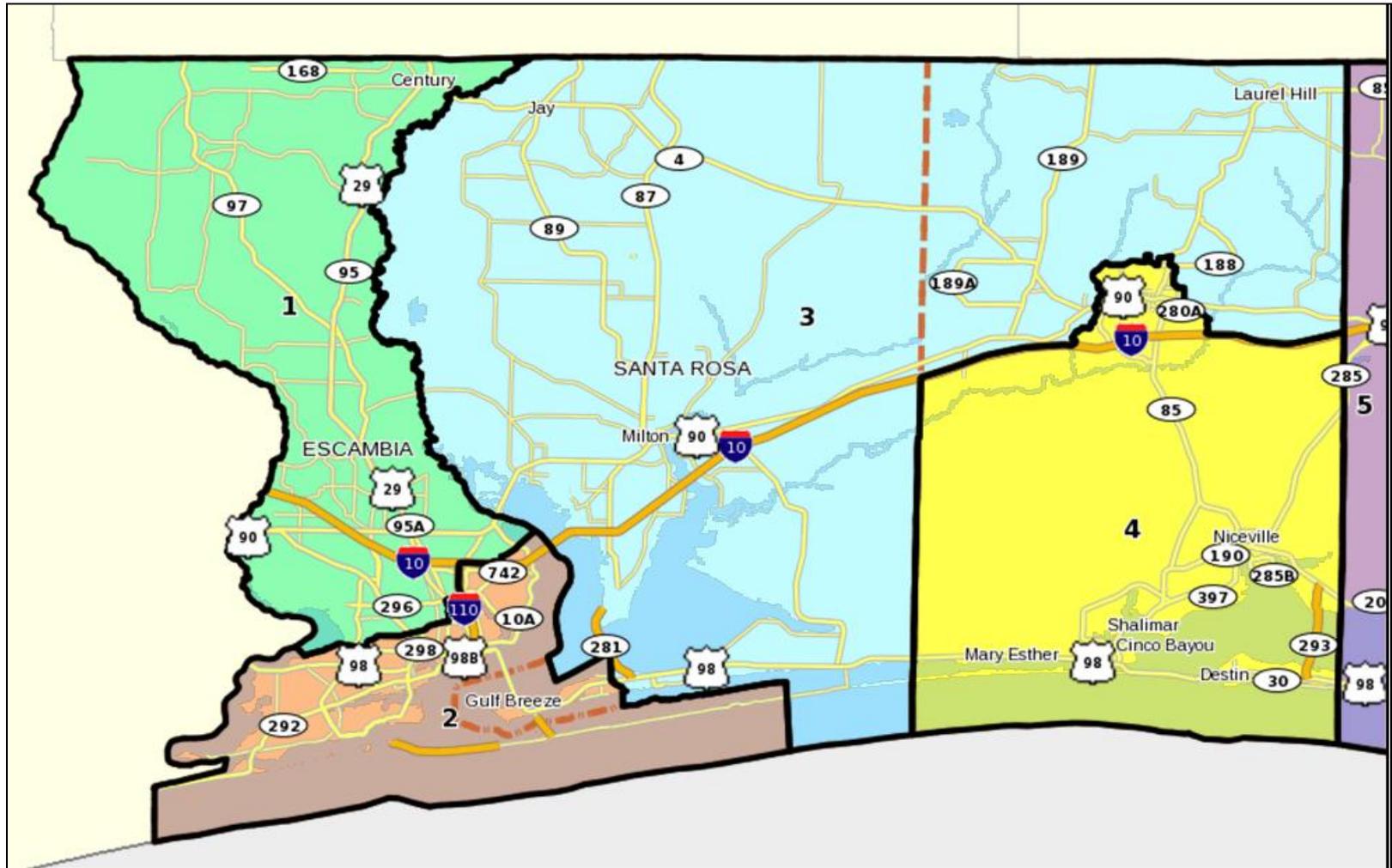
**State Senate – CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)**

***as passed by the House Redistricting  
Committee***

# **State House Map**

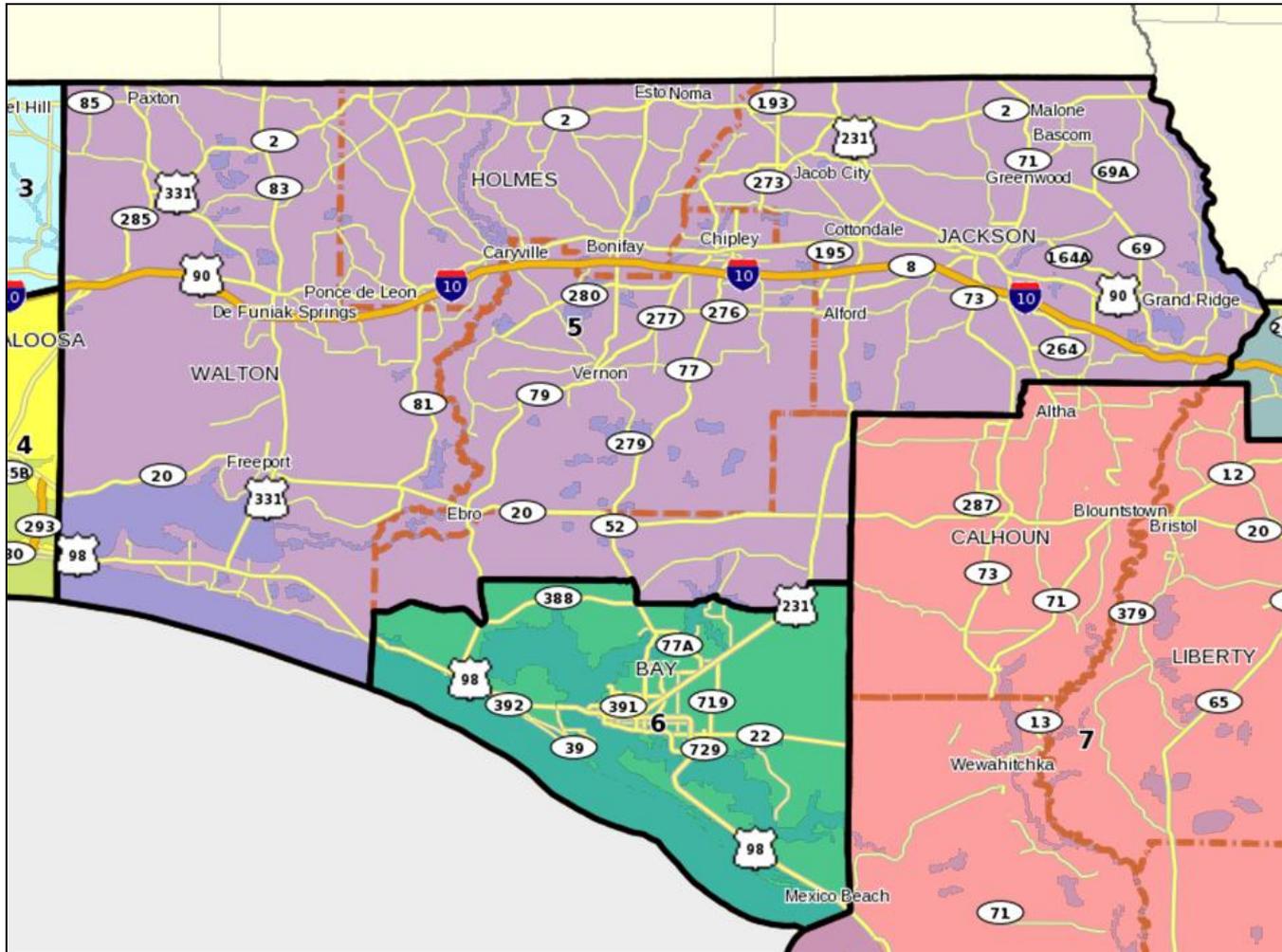
**CS/HJR 6011  
(H000H9049)**

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



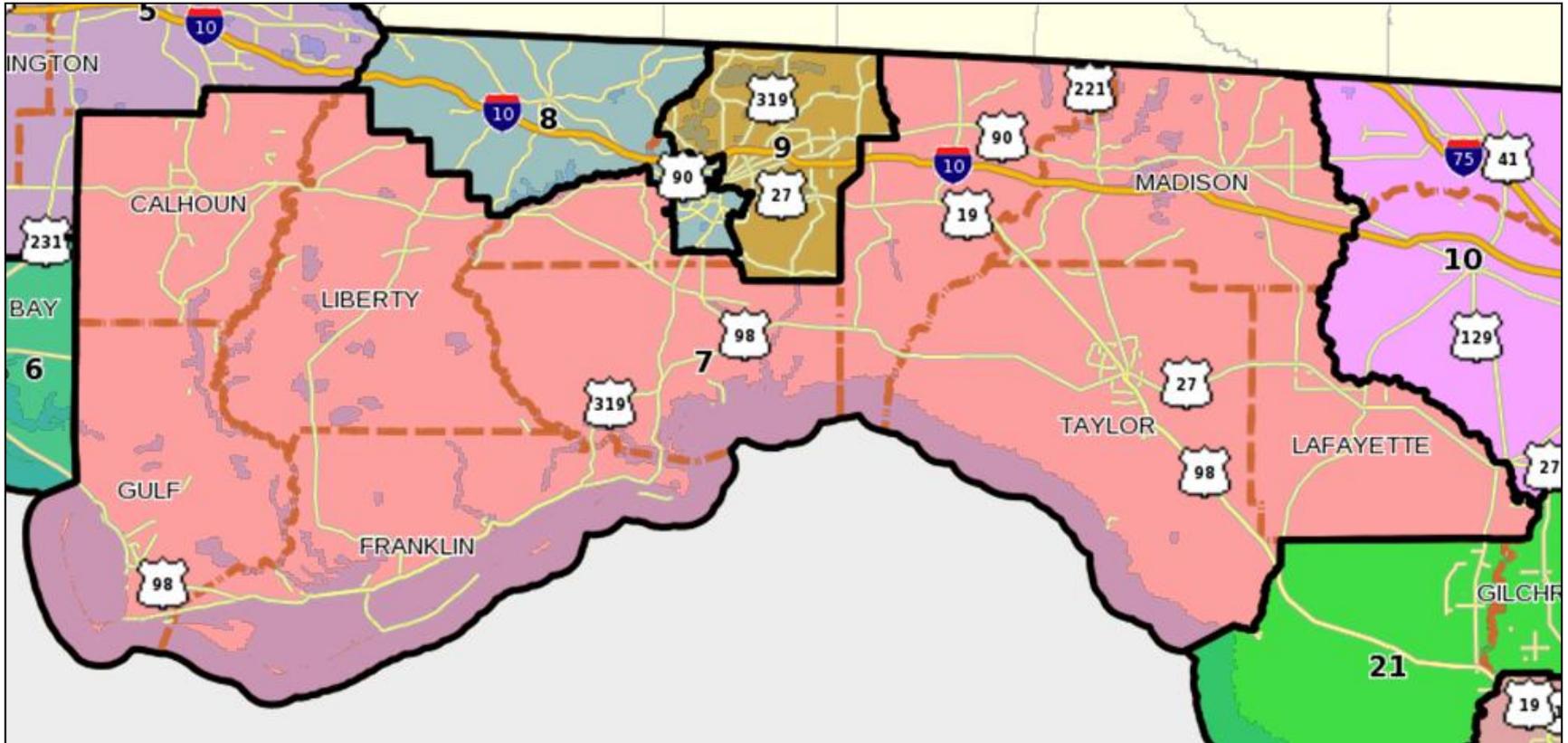
## State House Districts 1-4

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



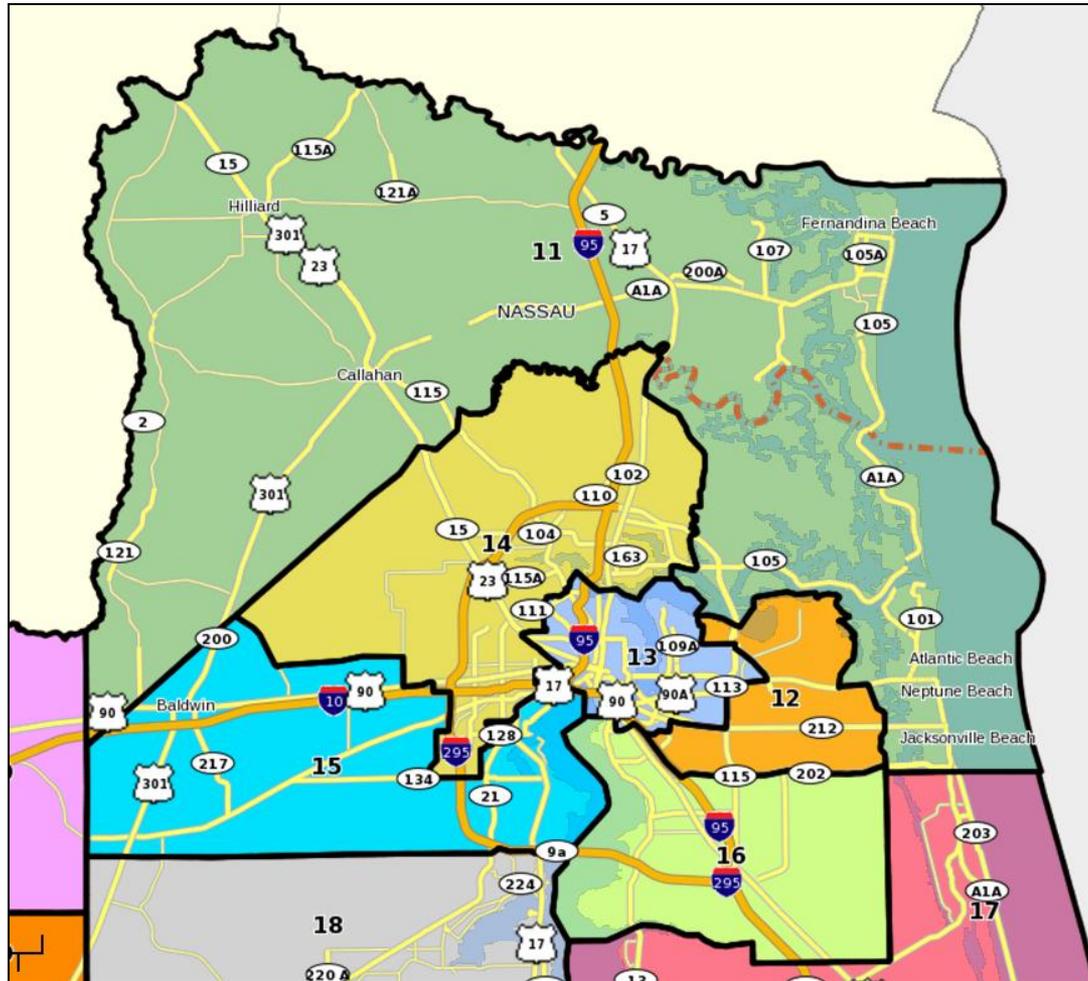
## State House Districts 5 and 6

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



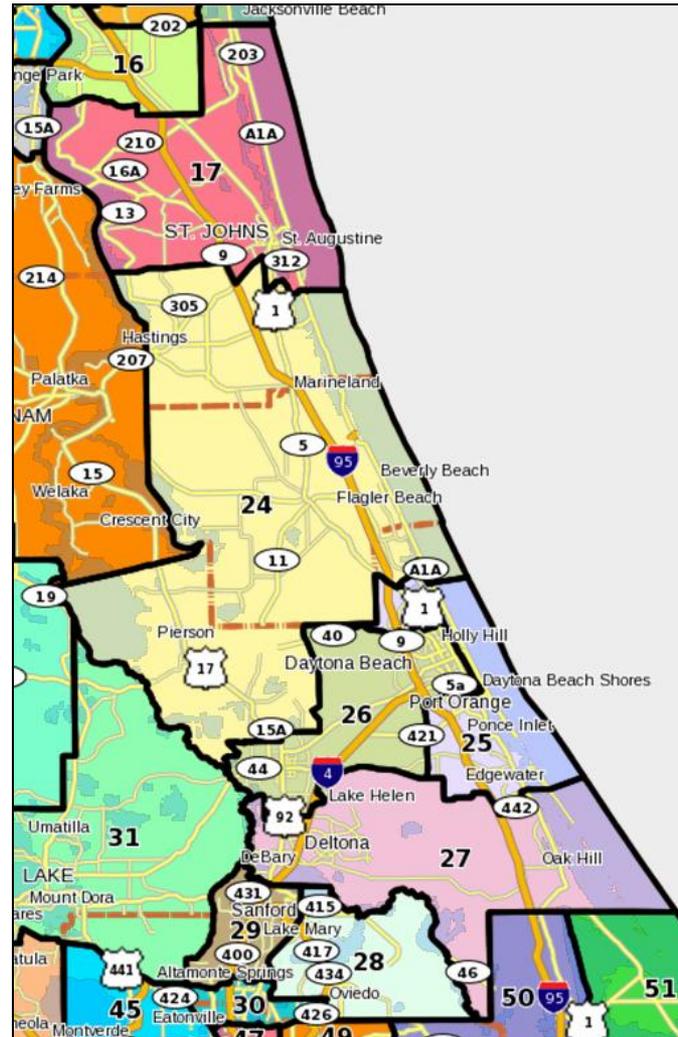
## State House Districts 7-9

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



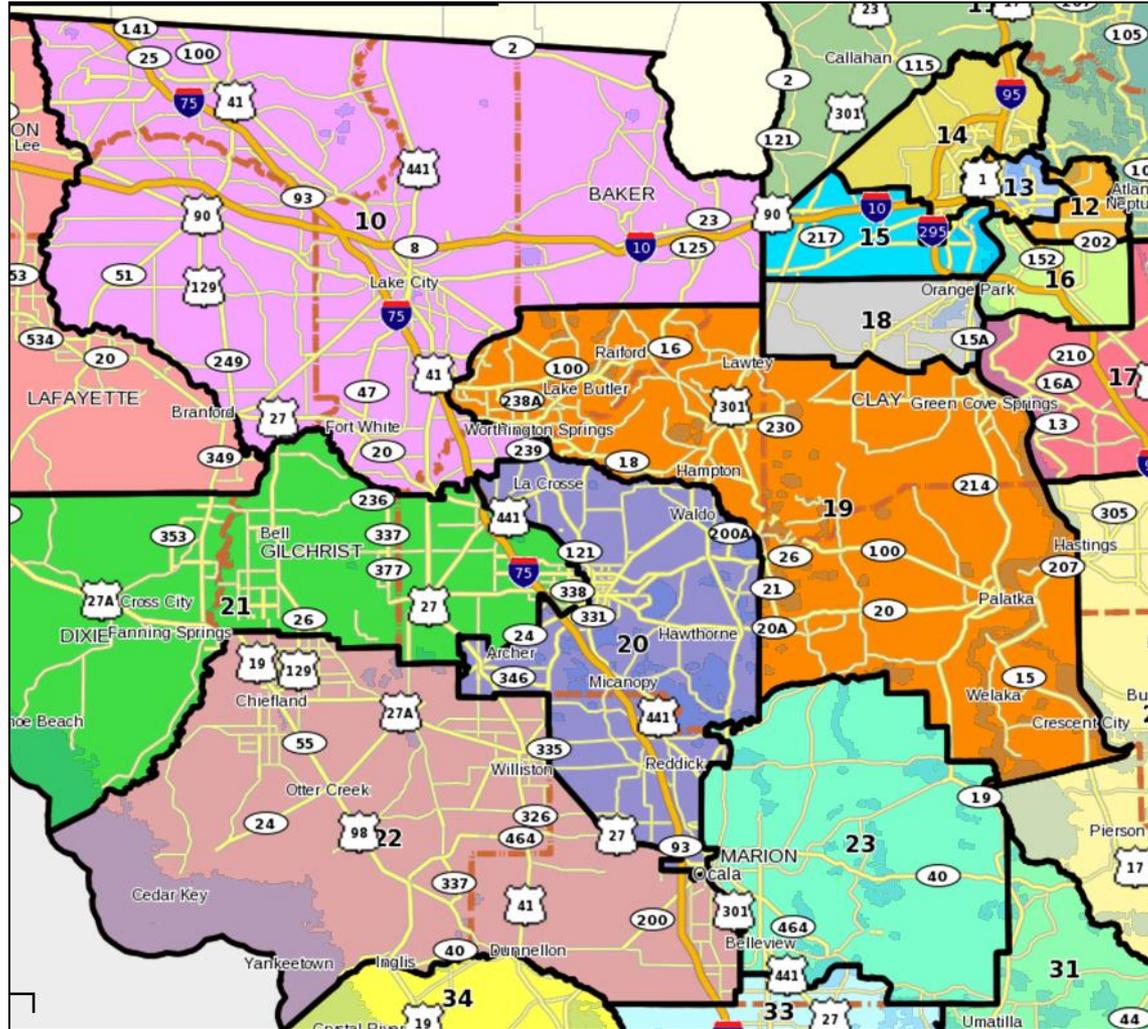
## State House Districts 11-16

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



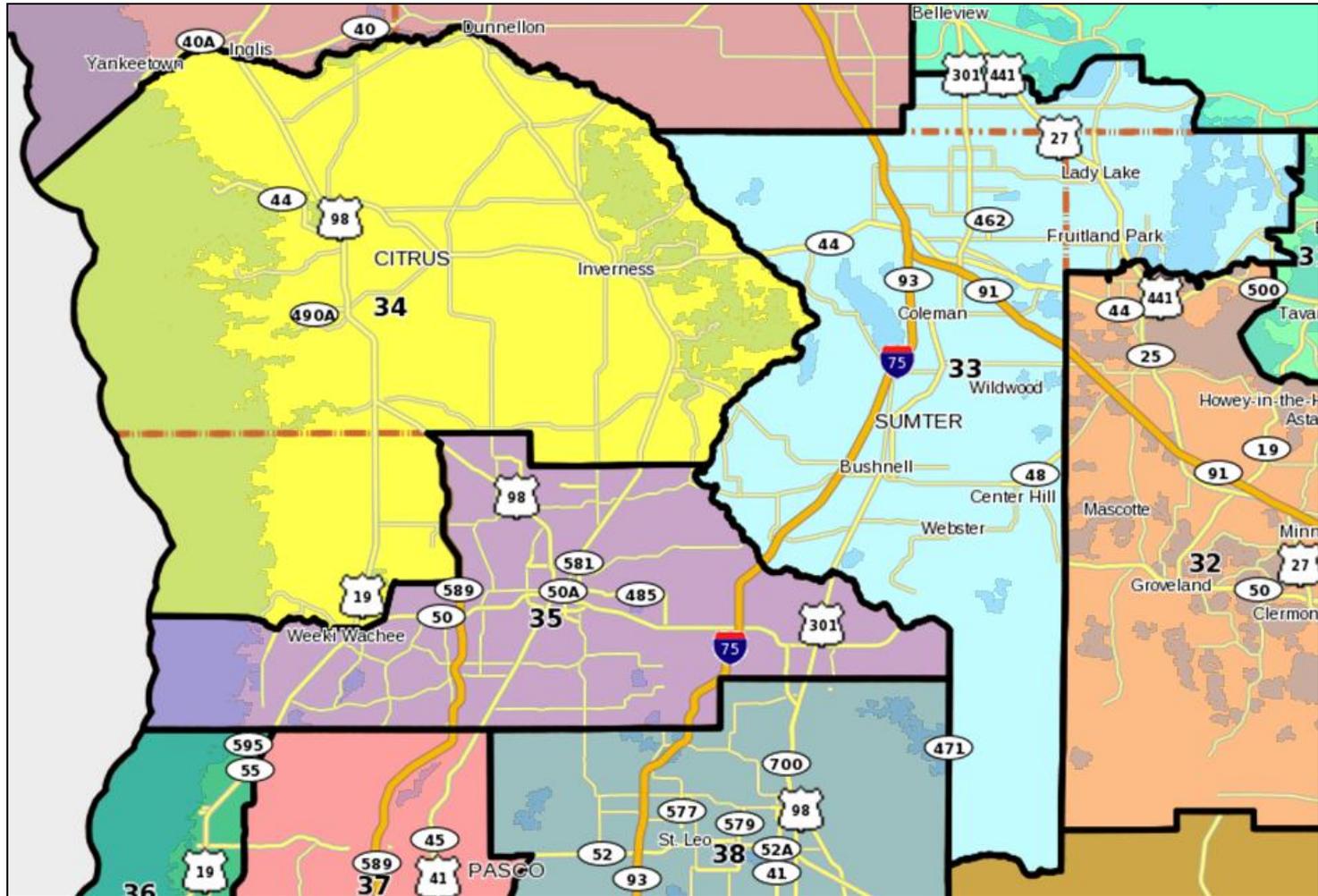
## State House Districts 17, 24-27

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



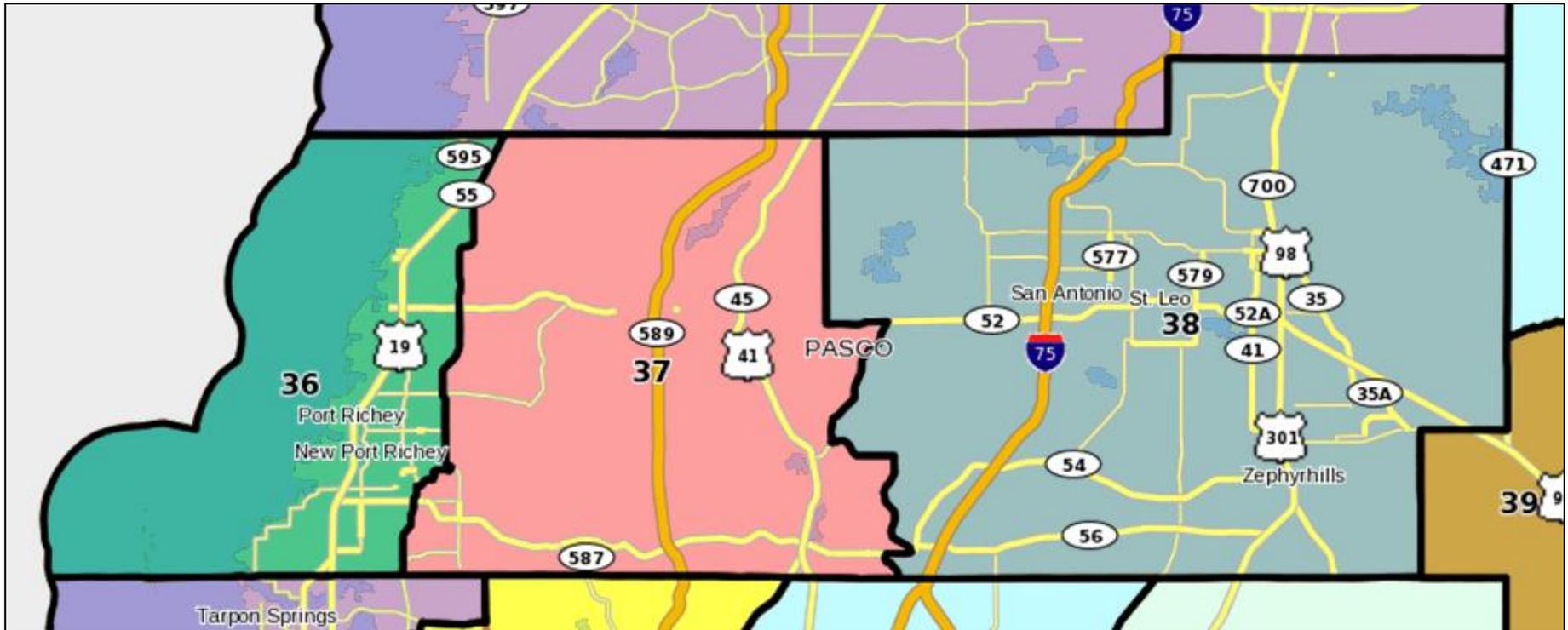
**State House Districts 10, 18-19 and 20-23**

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



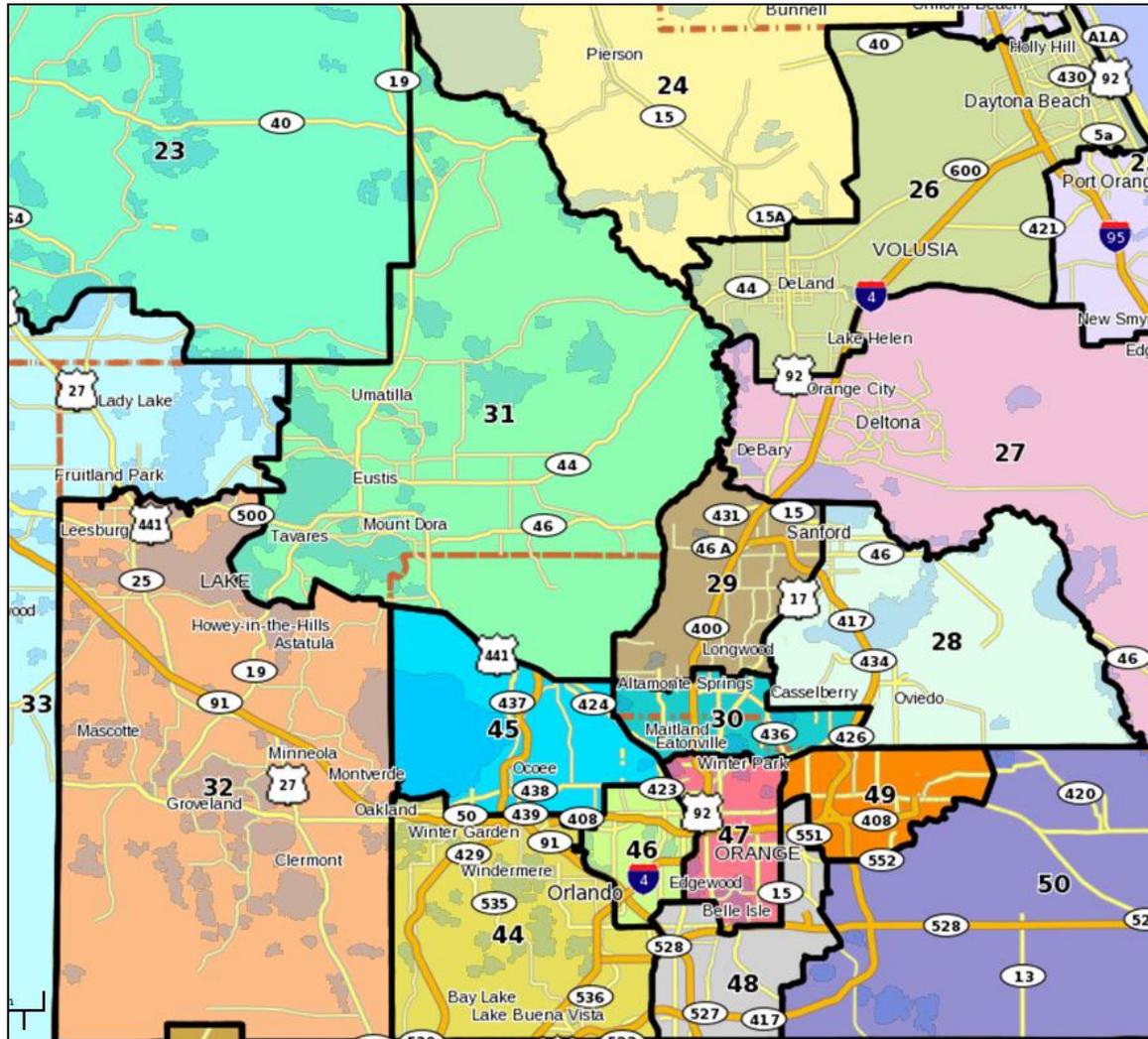
## State House Districts 33-35

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



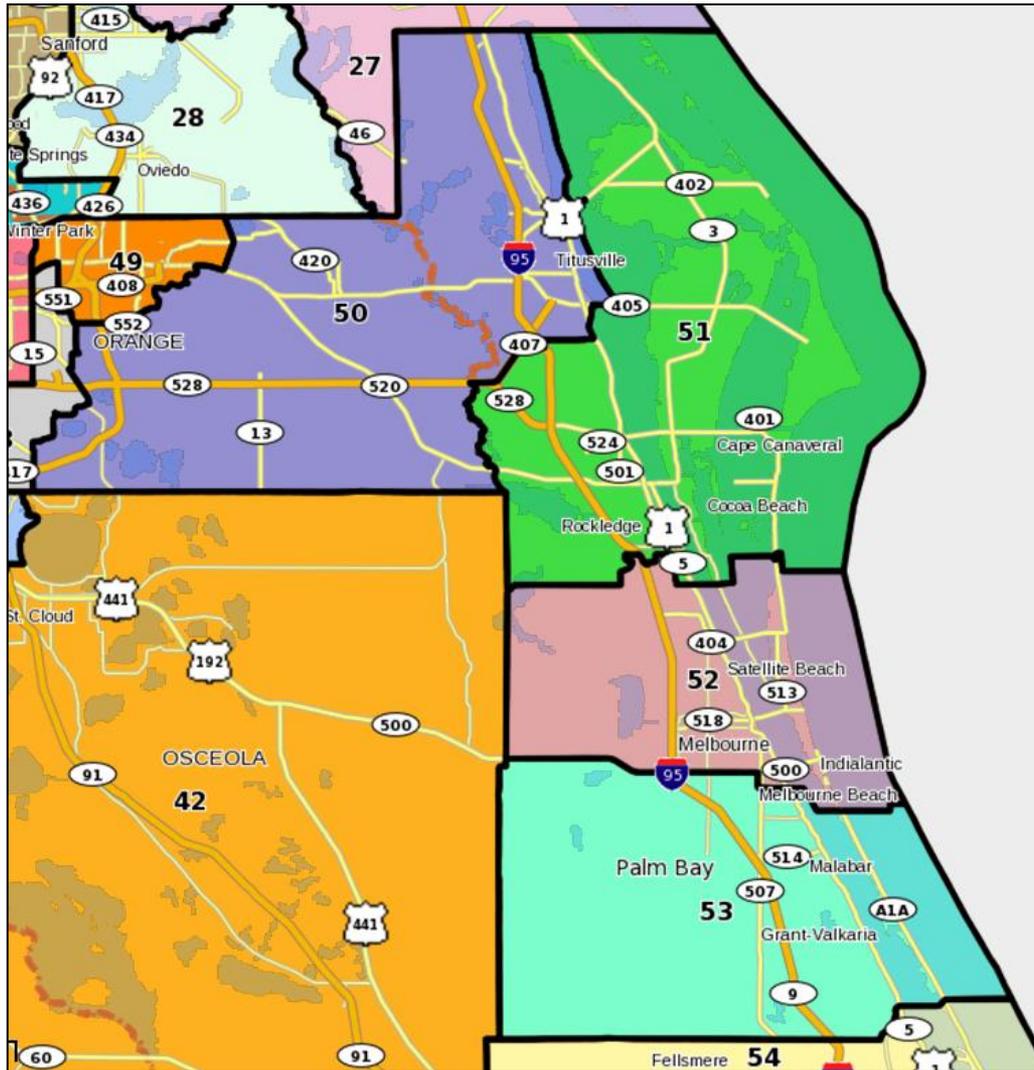
## State House Districts 36-38

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



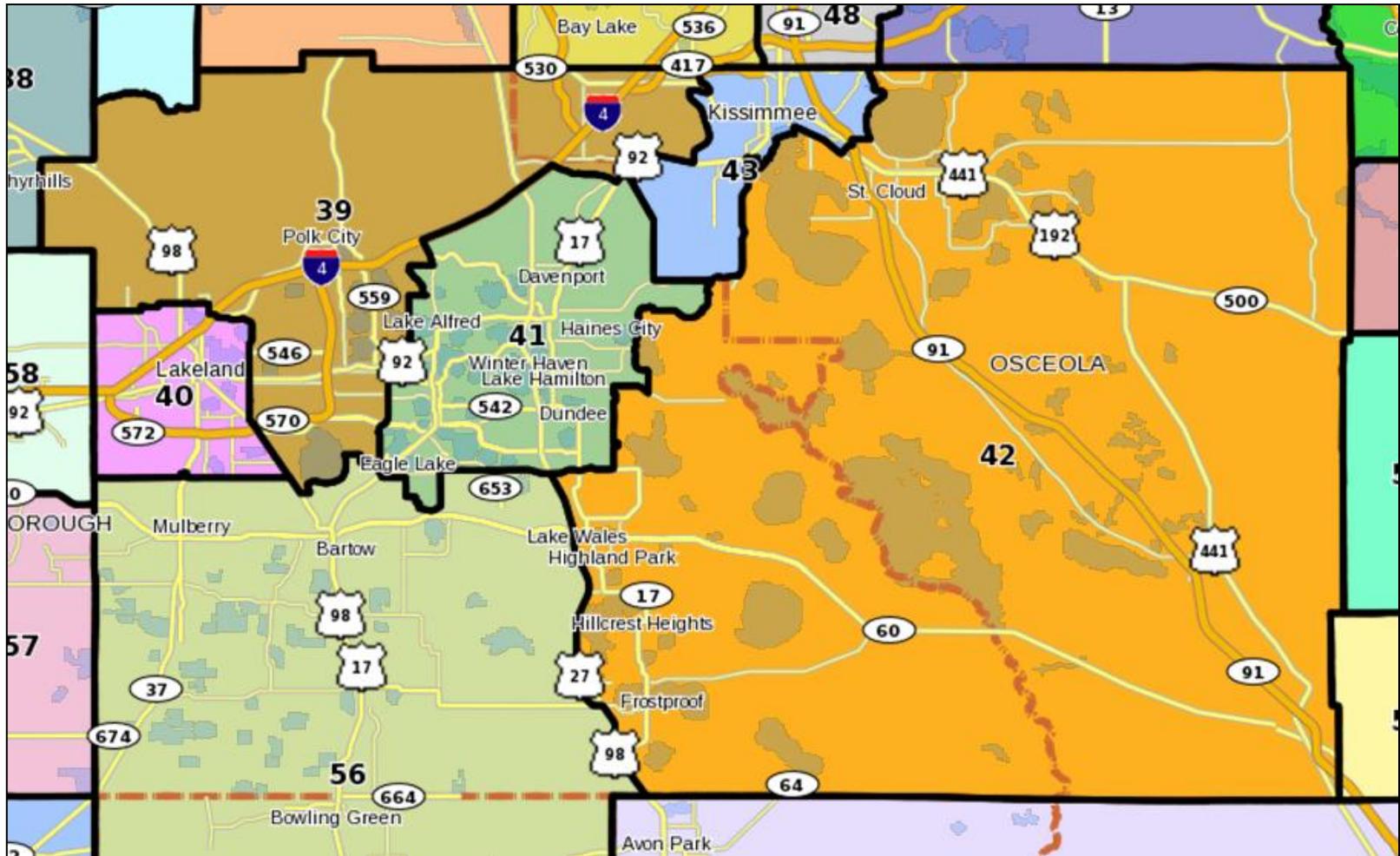
## State House Districts 28-32 and 44-49

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



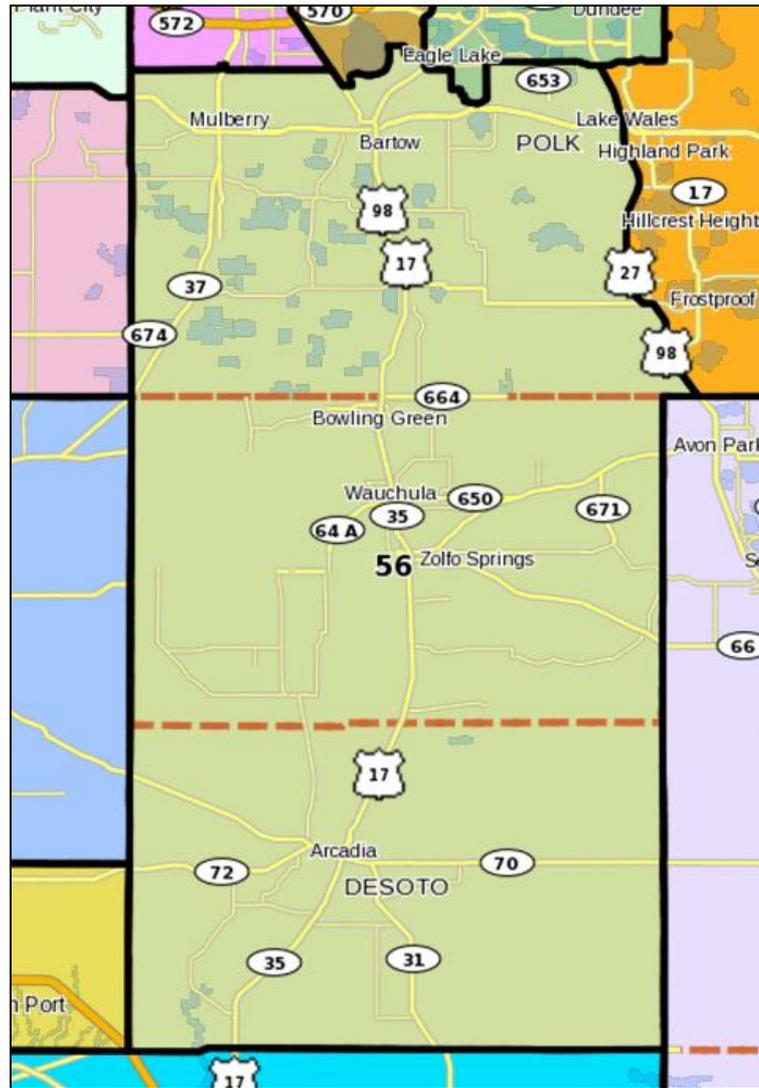
## State House Districts 50-53

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



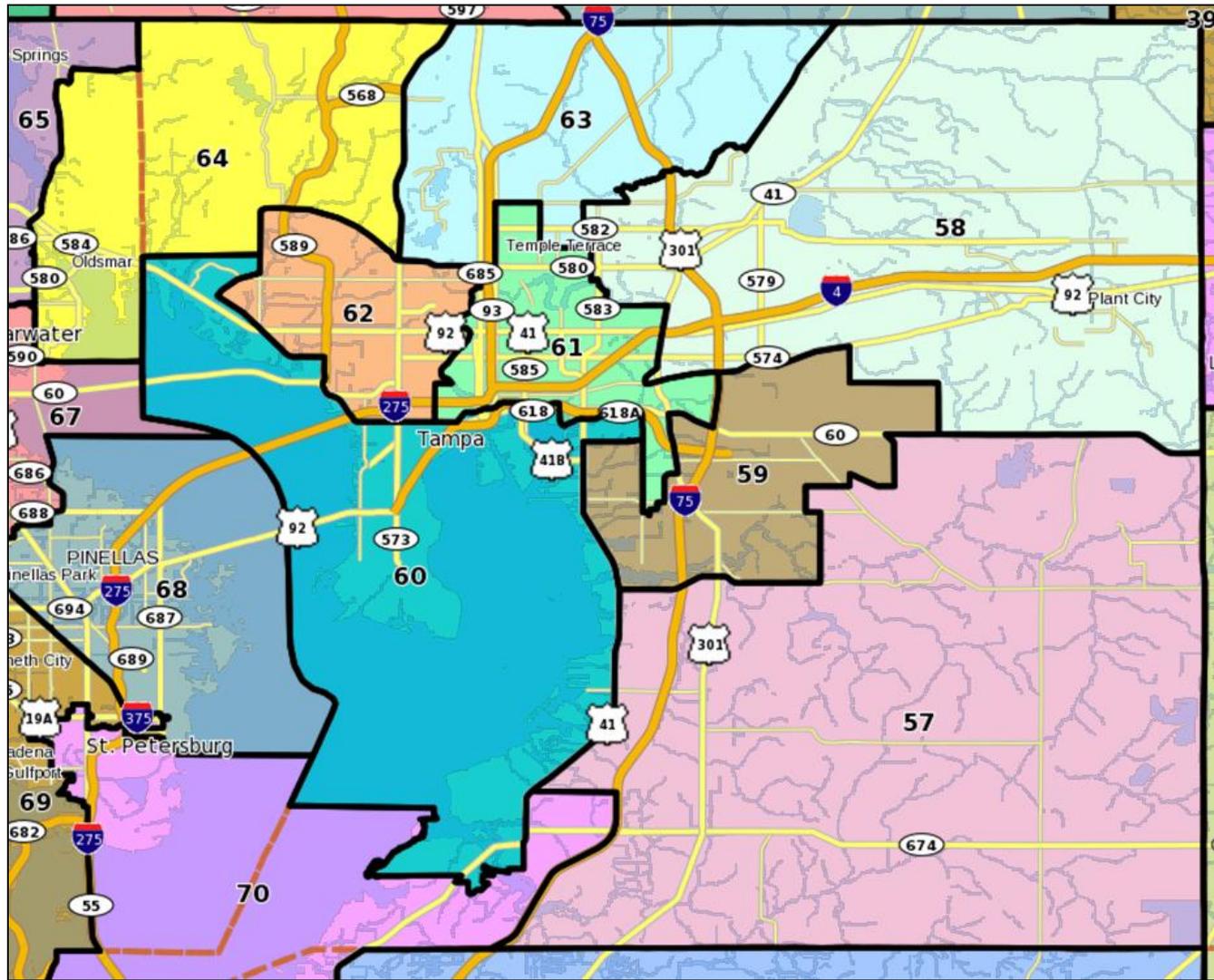
## State House Districts 39-43

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



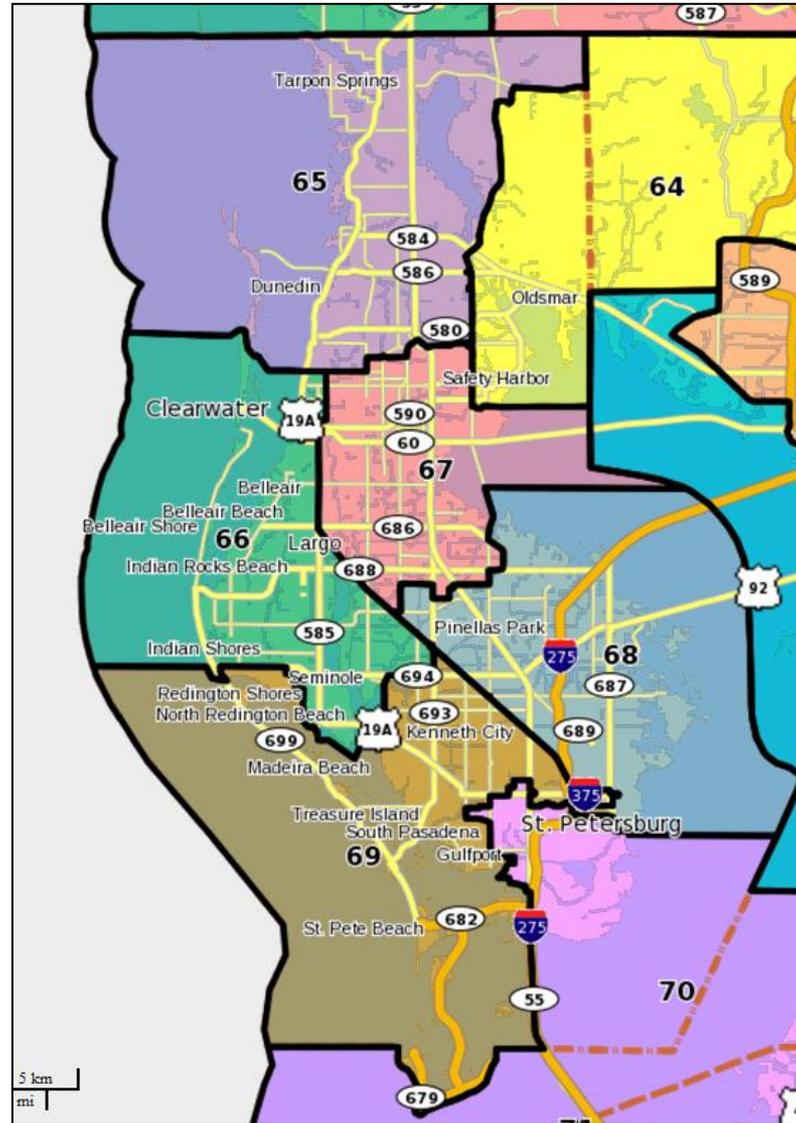
## State House District 56

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



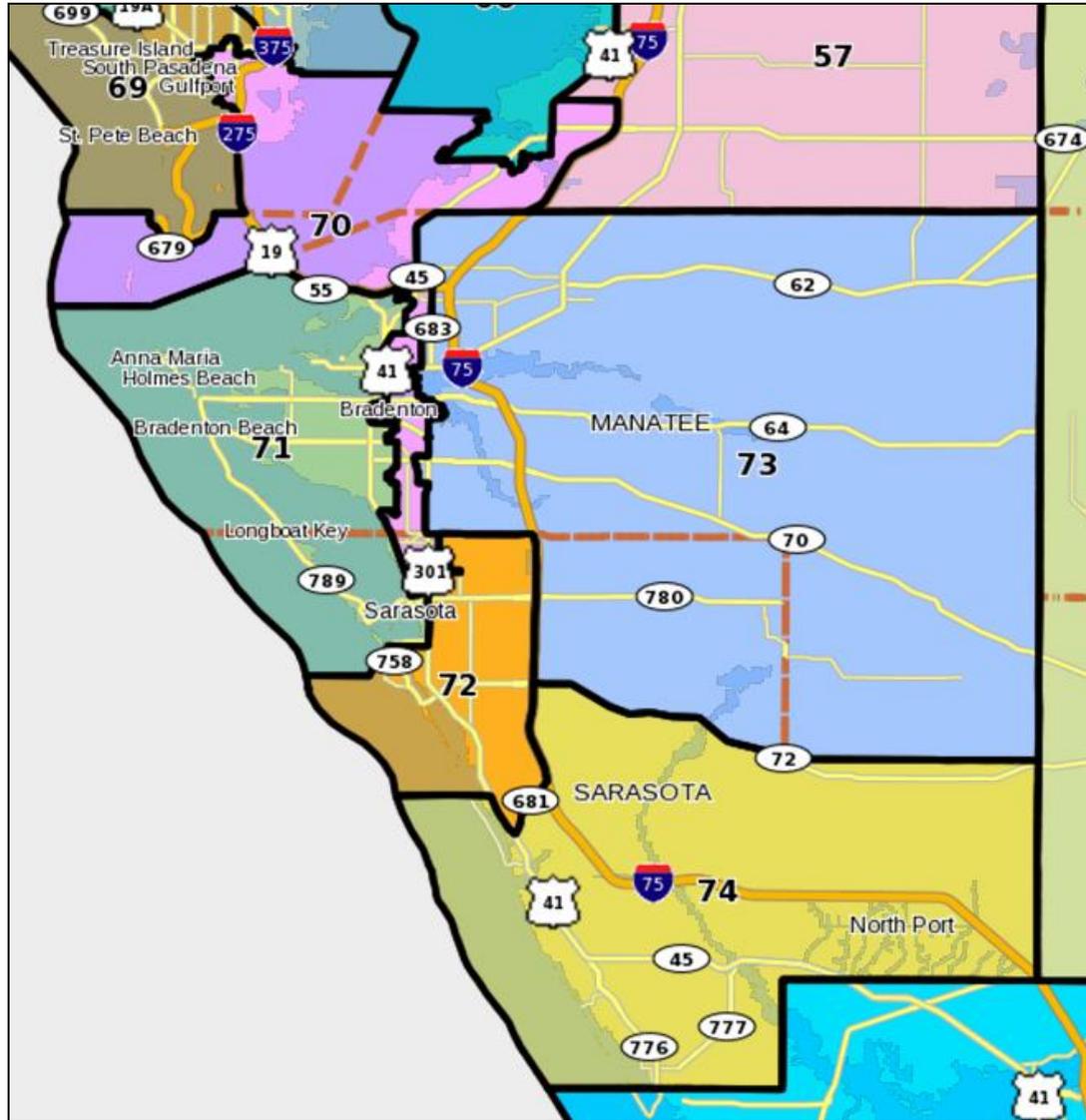
## State House Districts 57-64

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



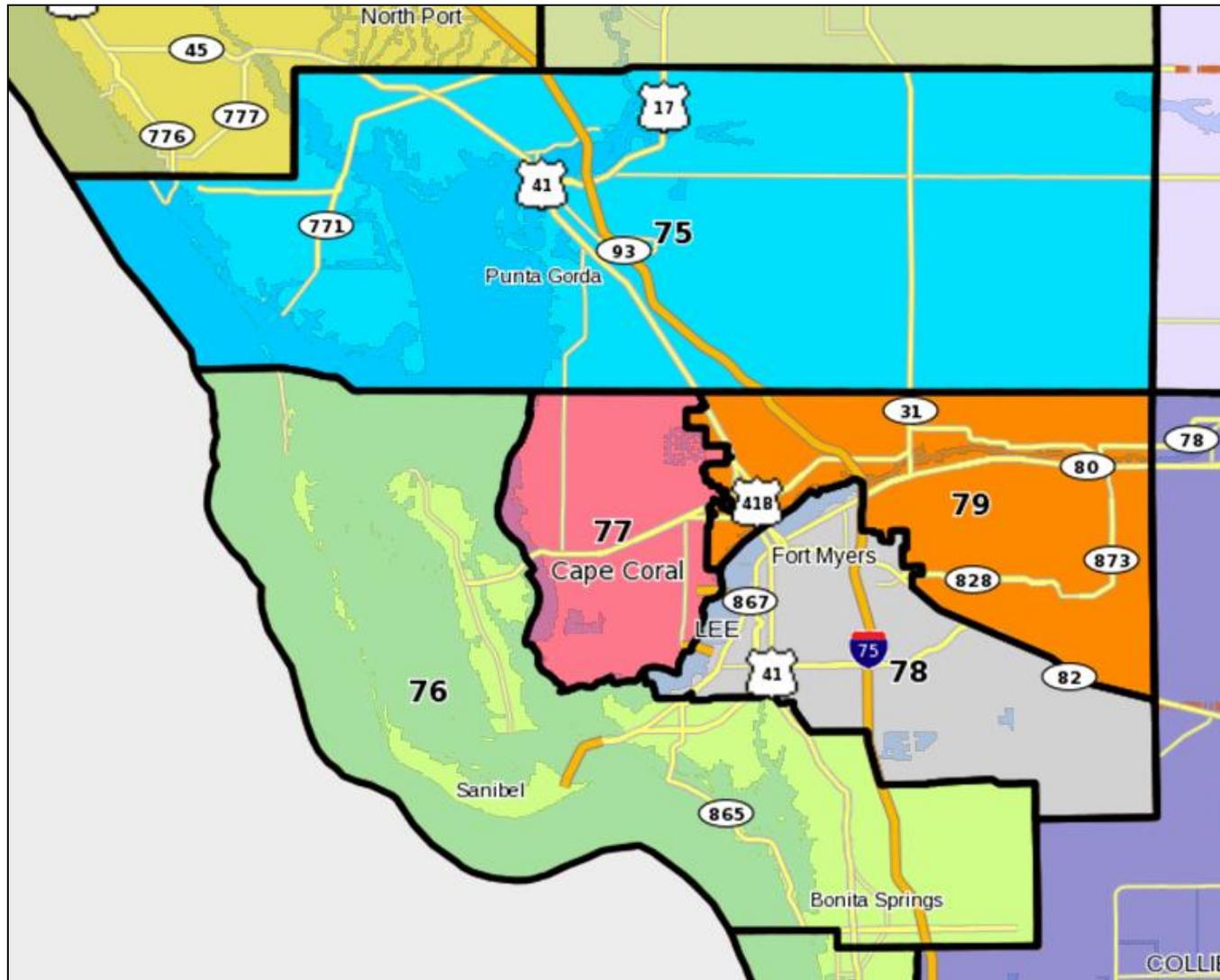
## State House Districts 65-69

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



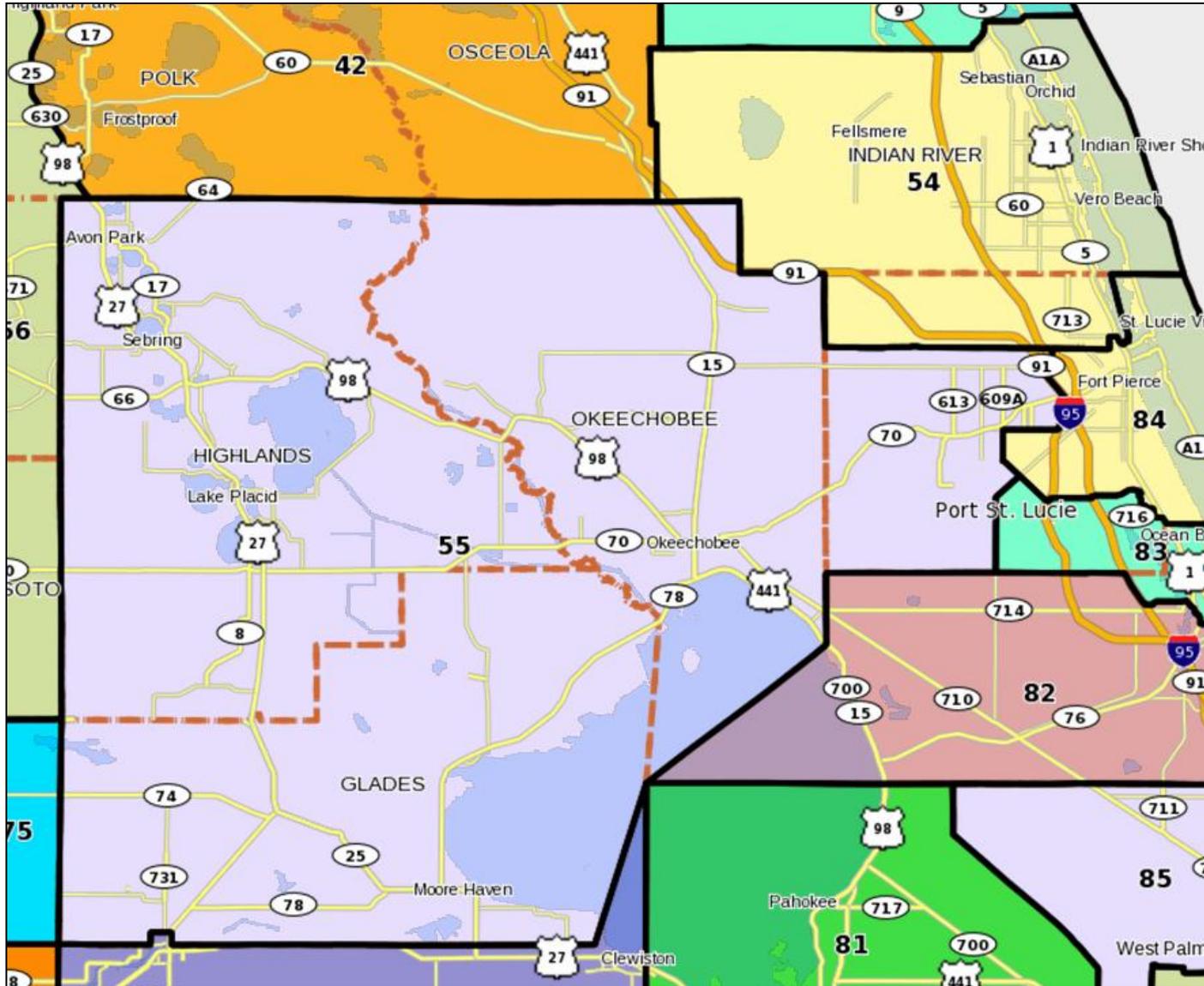
## State House Districts 70-74

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



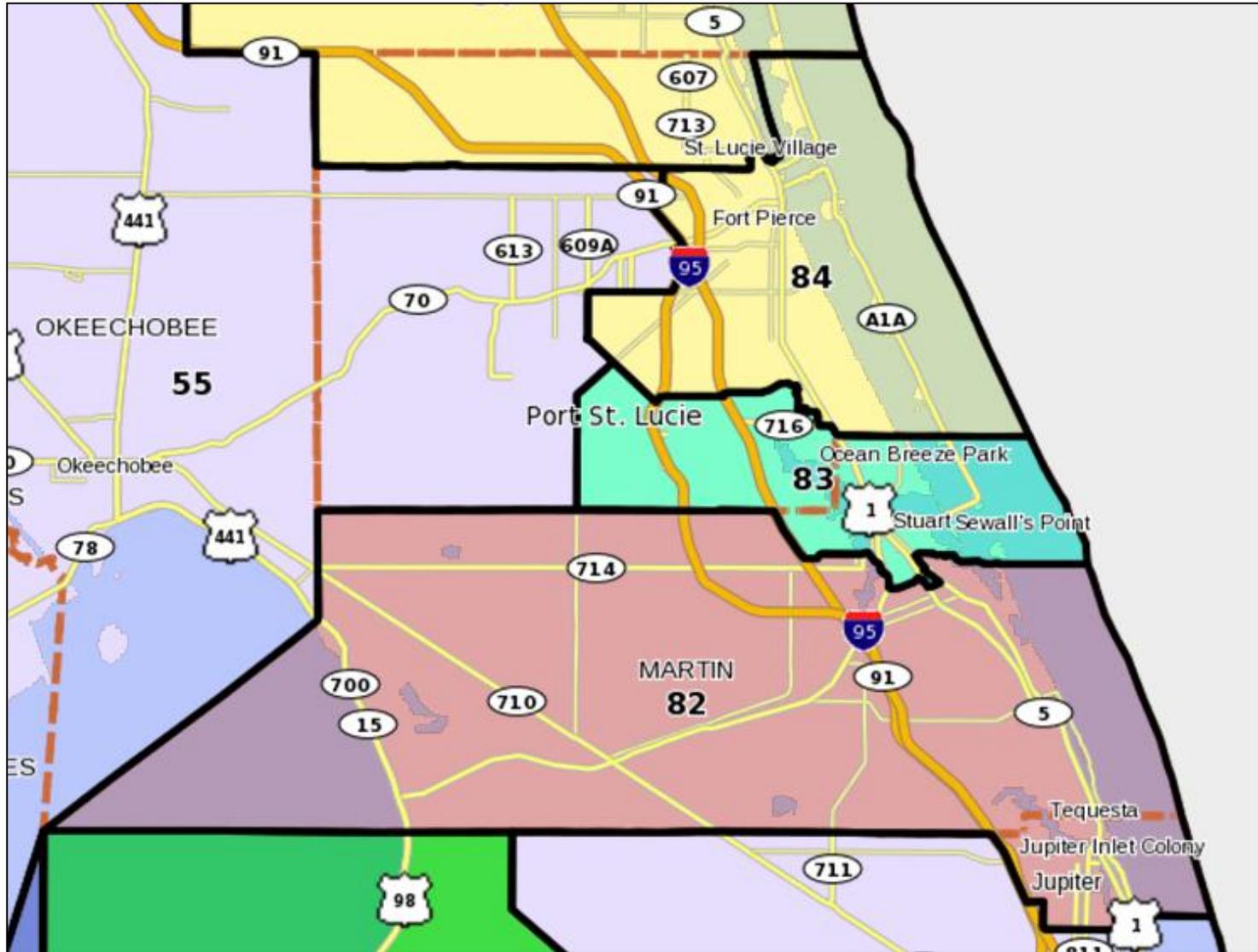
## State House Districts 75-79

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



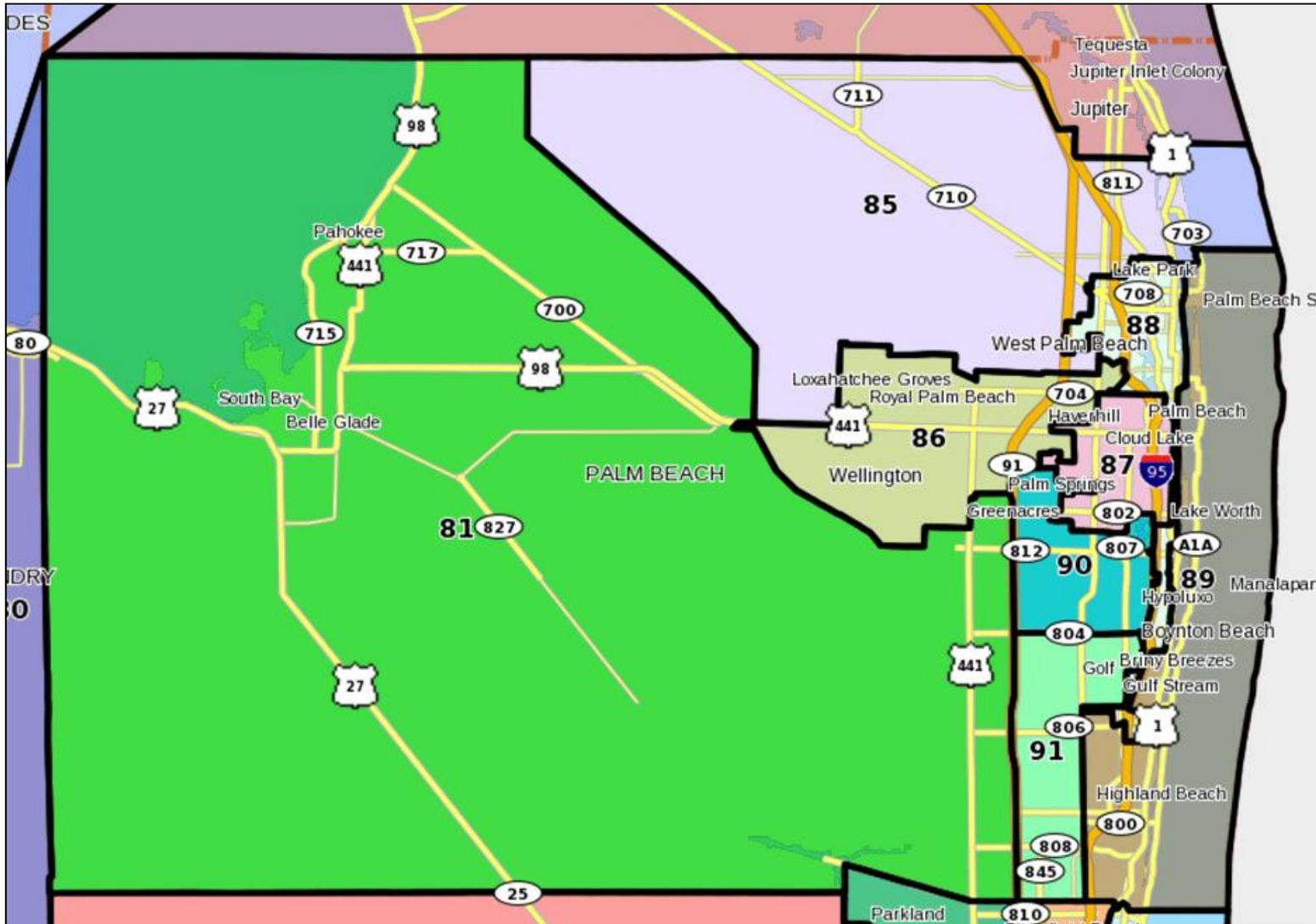
## State House Districts 54 and 55

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



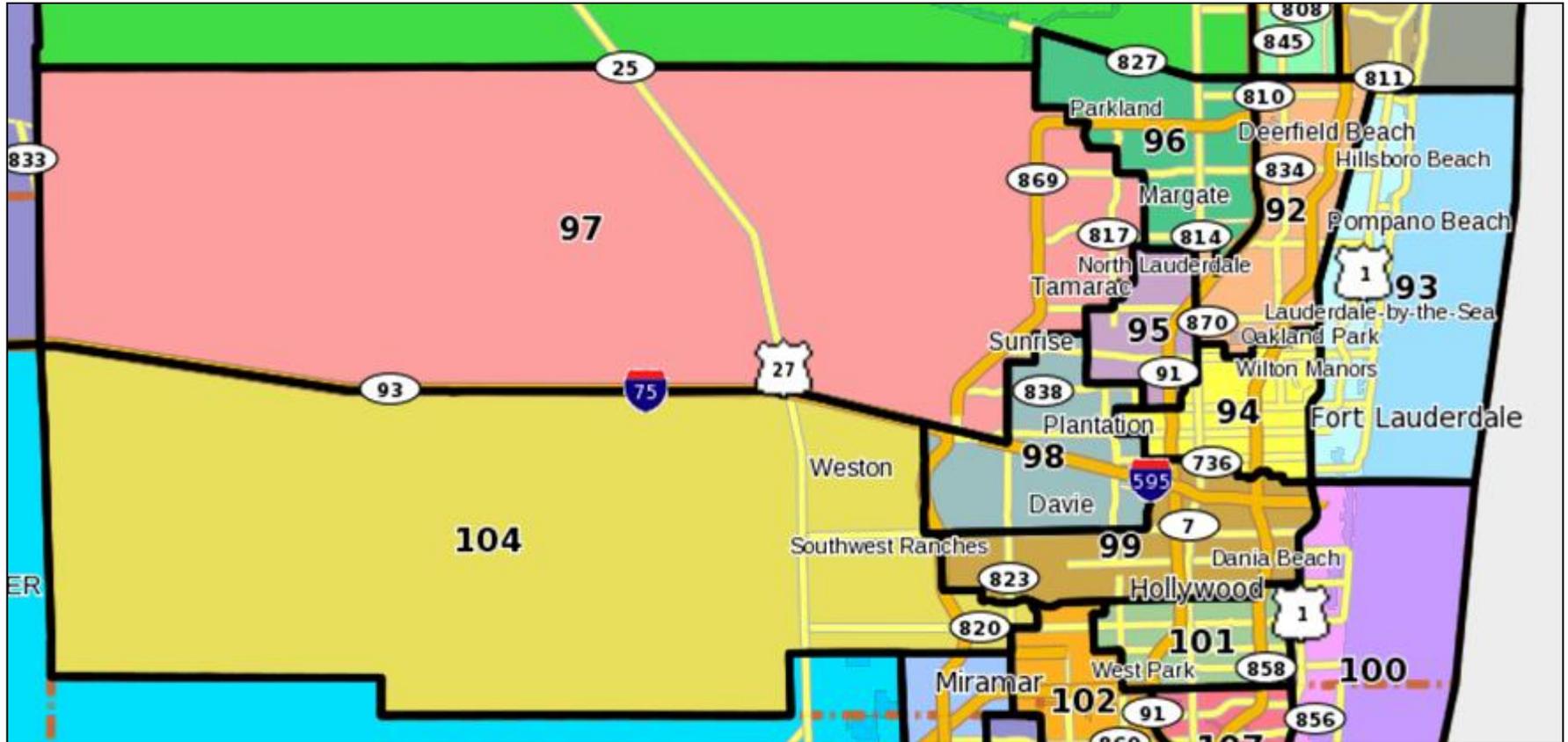
## State House Districts 82-84

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



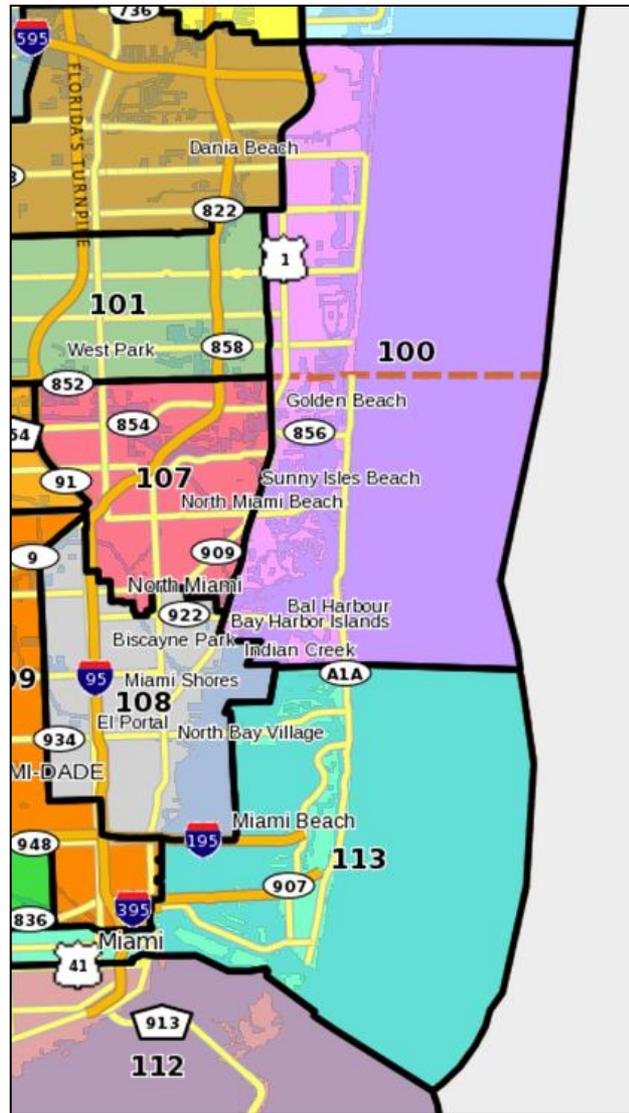
## State House Districts 81 and 85-91

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



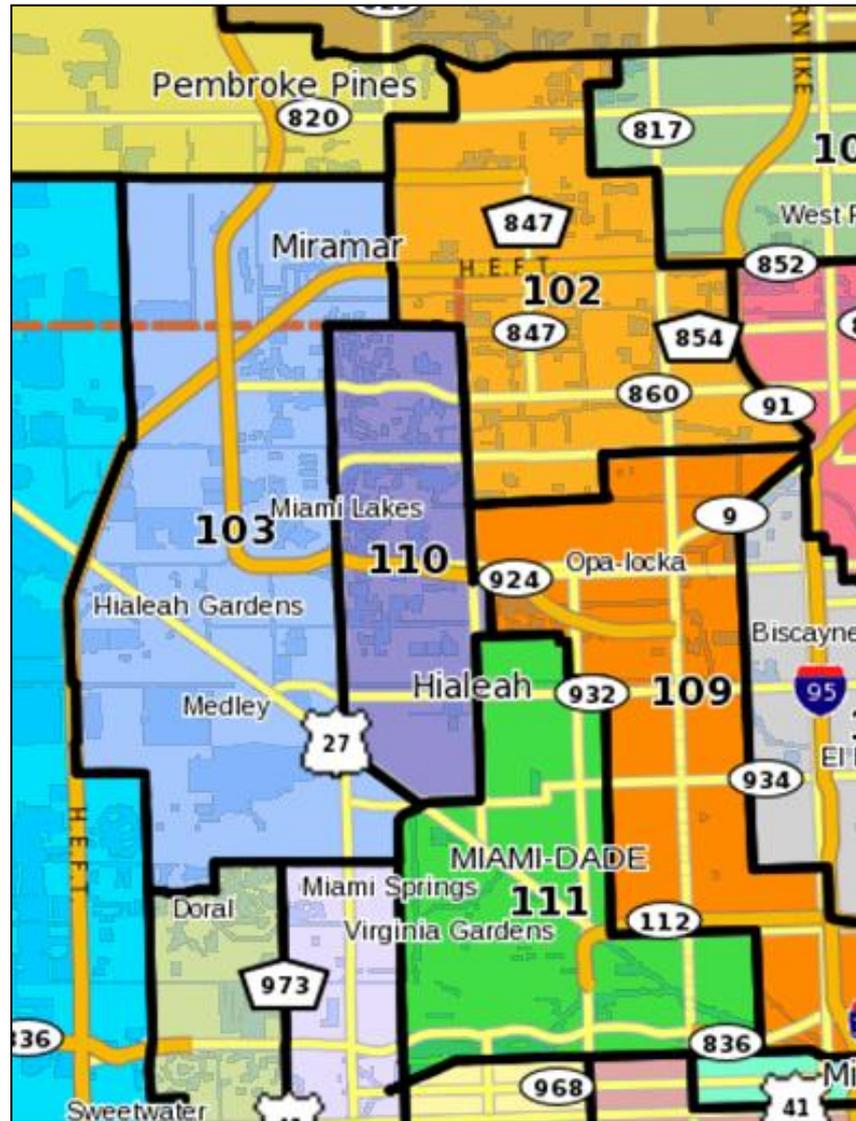
## State House Districts 92-99, 101 and 104

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



**State House Districts 100, 107-108 and 113**

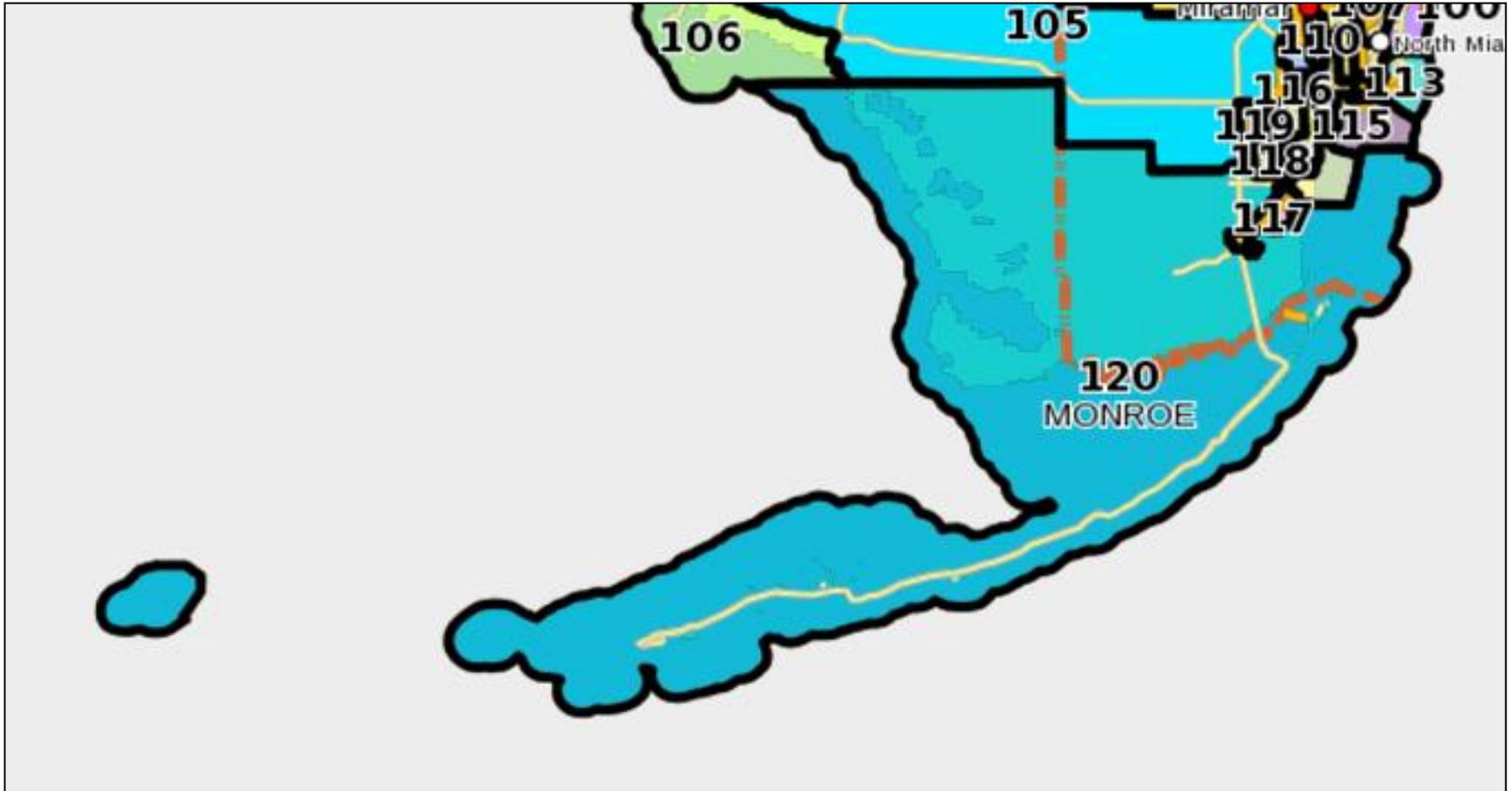
# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



**State House Districts 102-103 and 109-111**

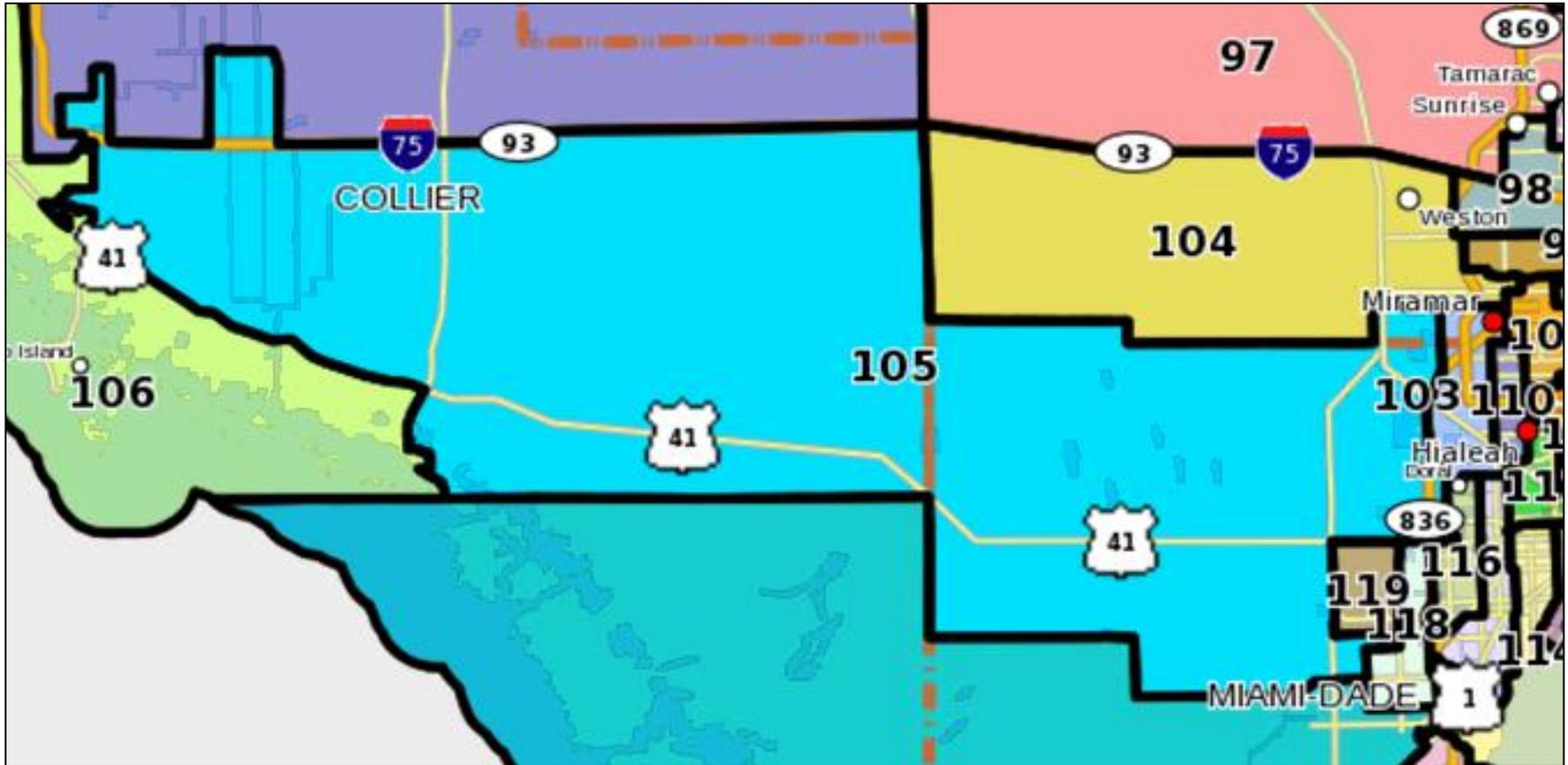


# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



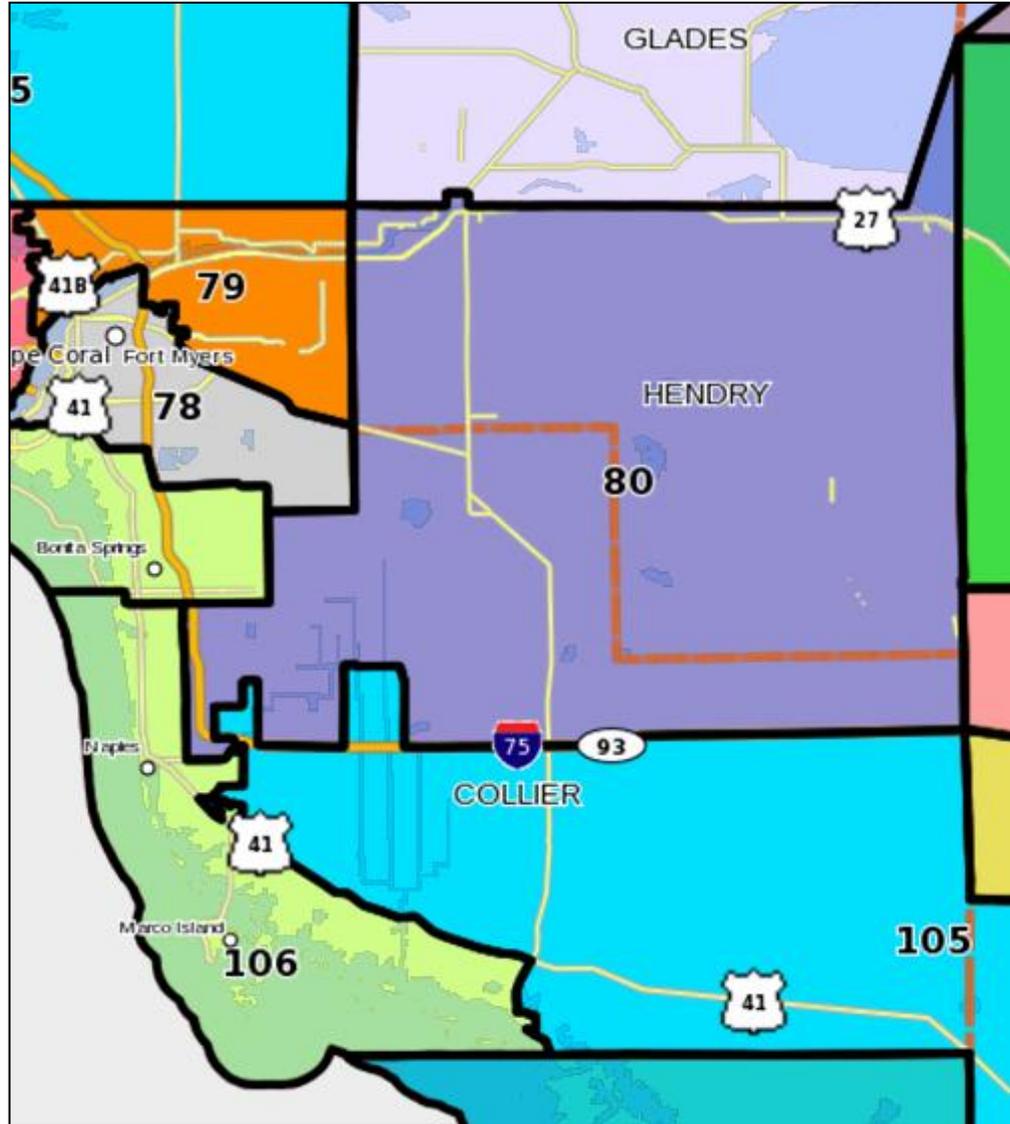
## State House District 120

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)



## State House Districts 105

# CS/HJR 6011 (H000H9049)

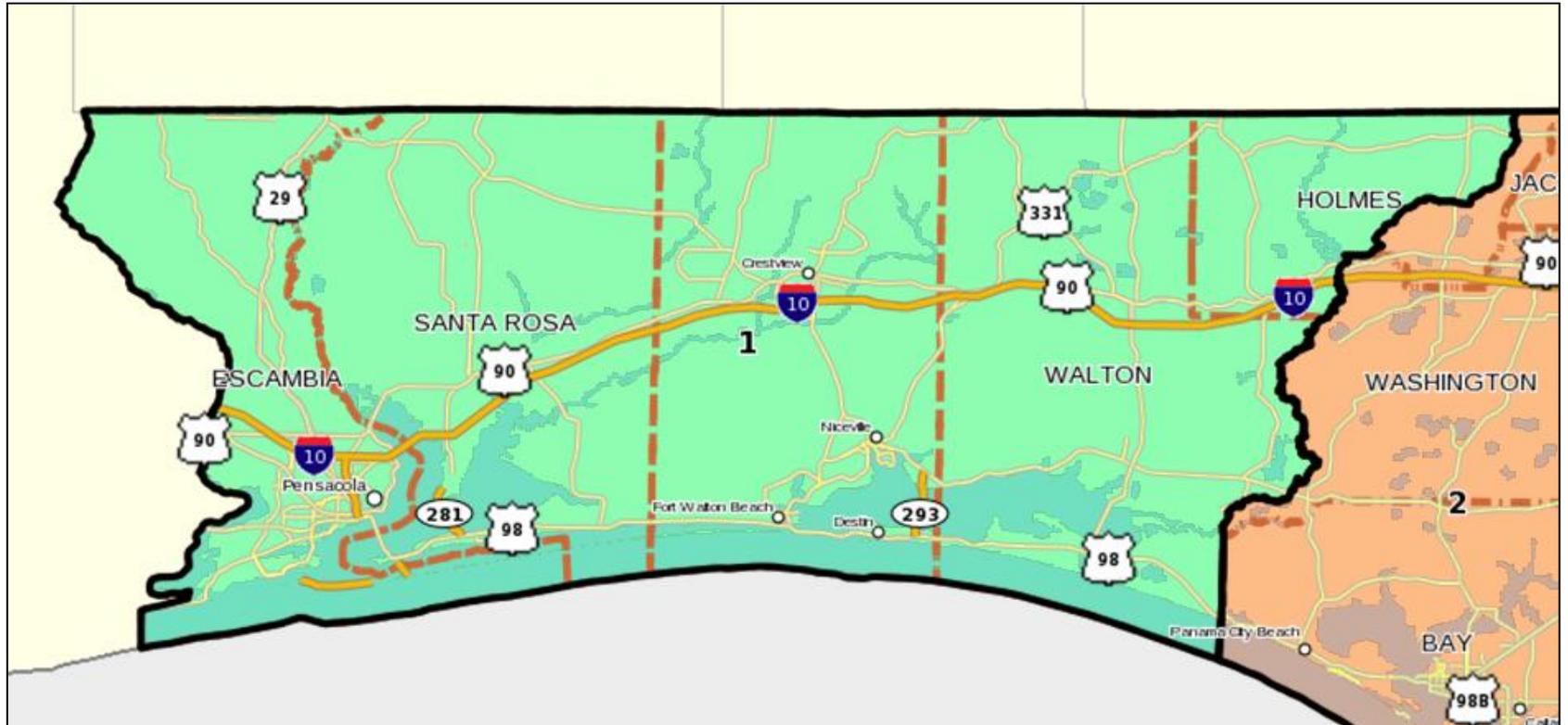


## State House Districts 80 and 106

# **Congressional Map**

**CS/HB 6005  
(H000C9047)**

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



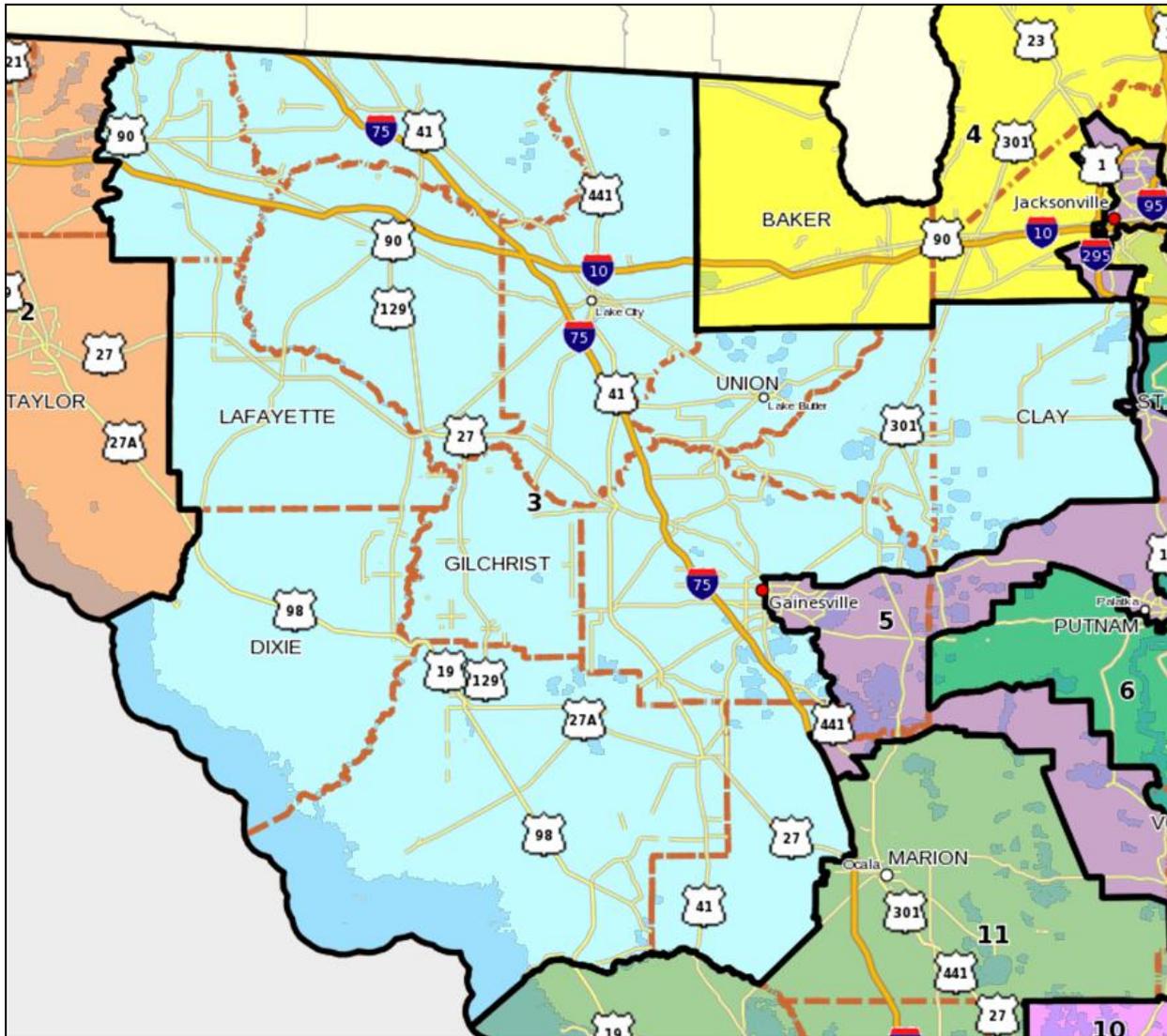
## Congressional District 1

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



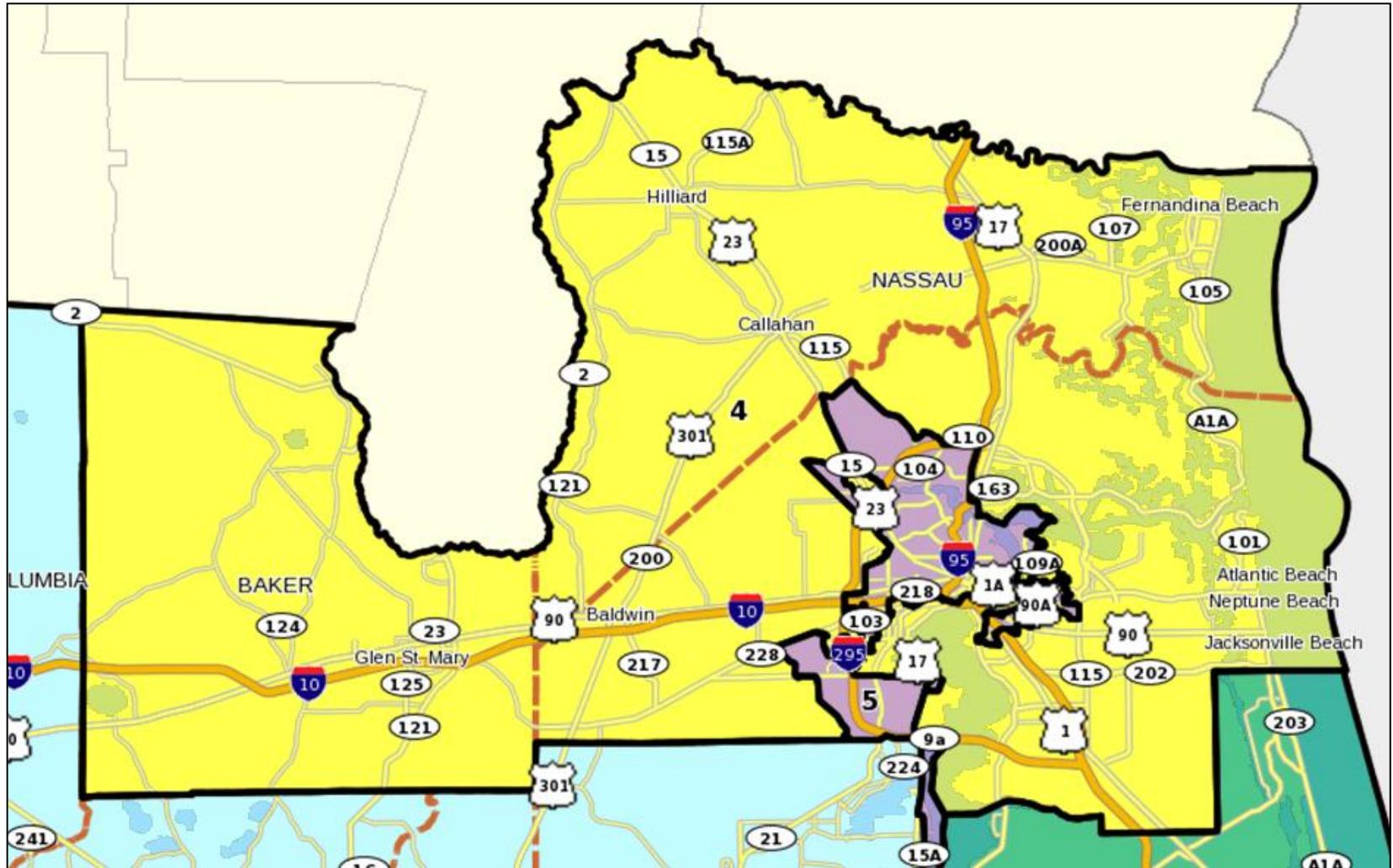
## Congressional District 2

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



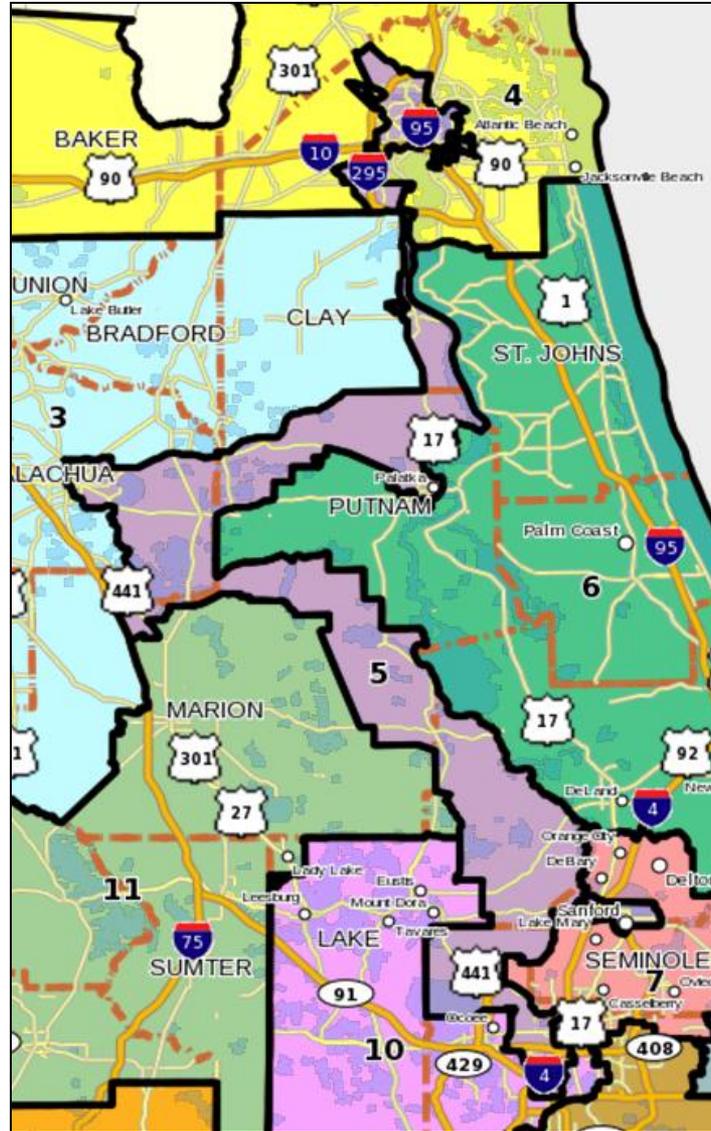
## Congressional District 3

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



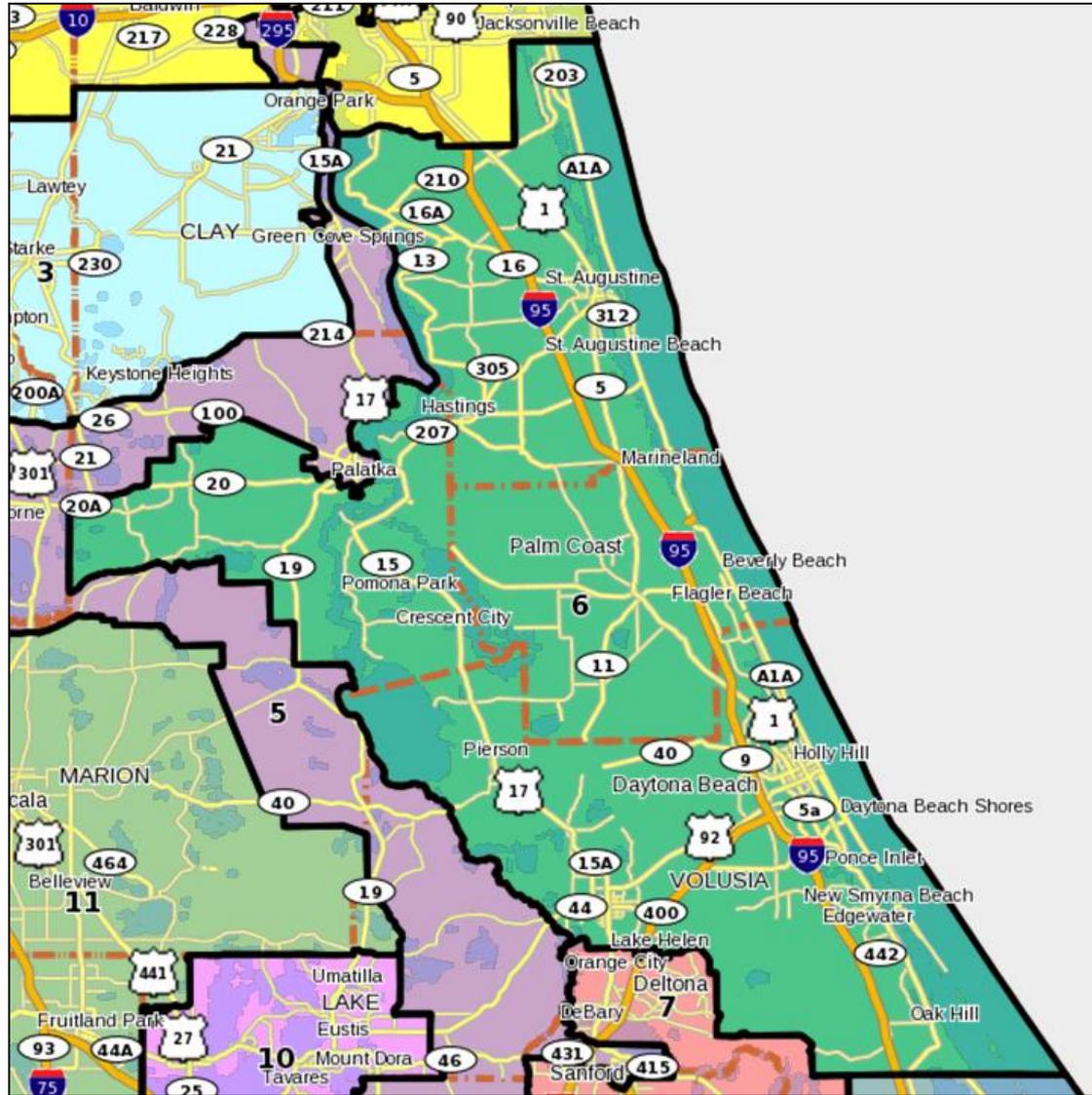
## Congressional District 4

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



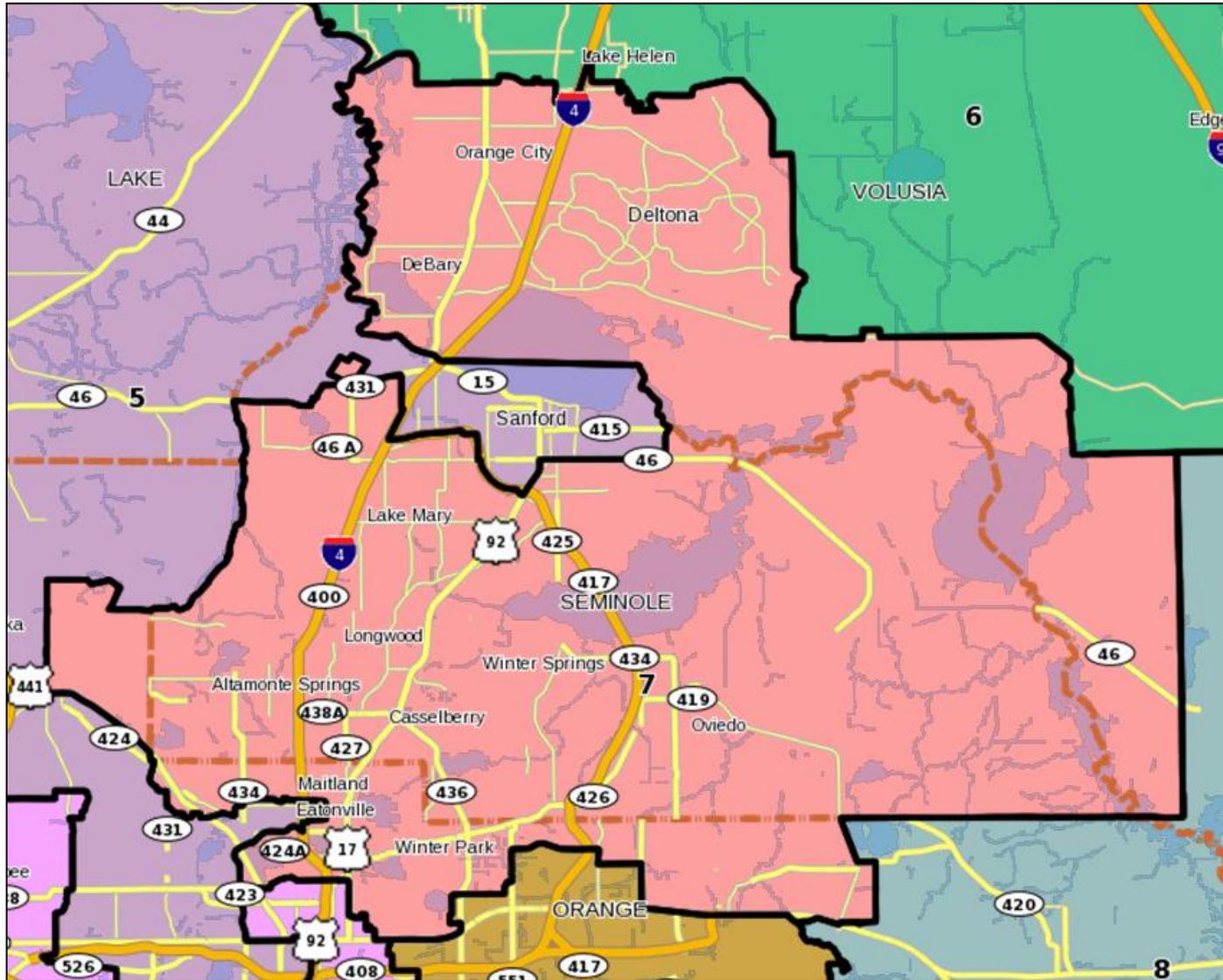
## Congressional District 5

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



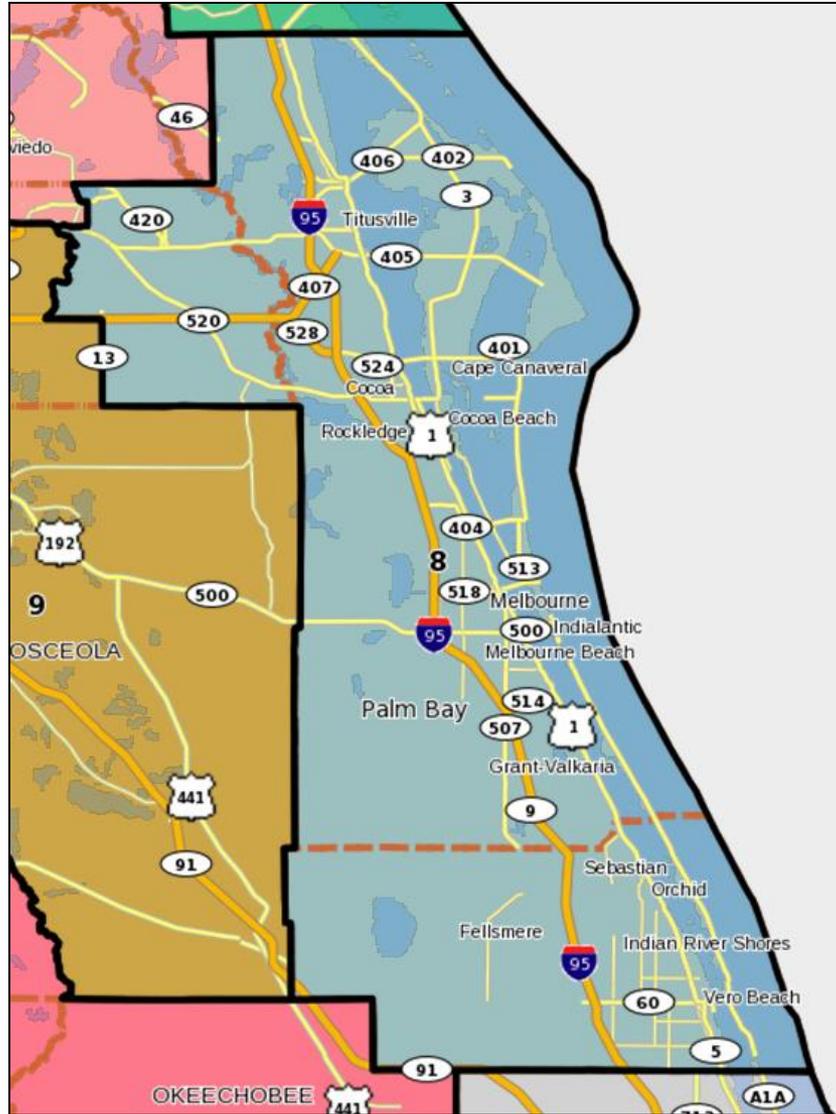
## Congressional District 6

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



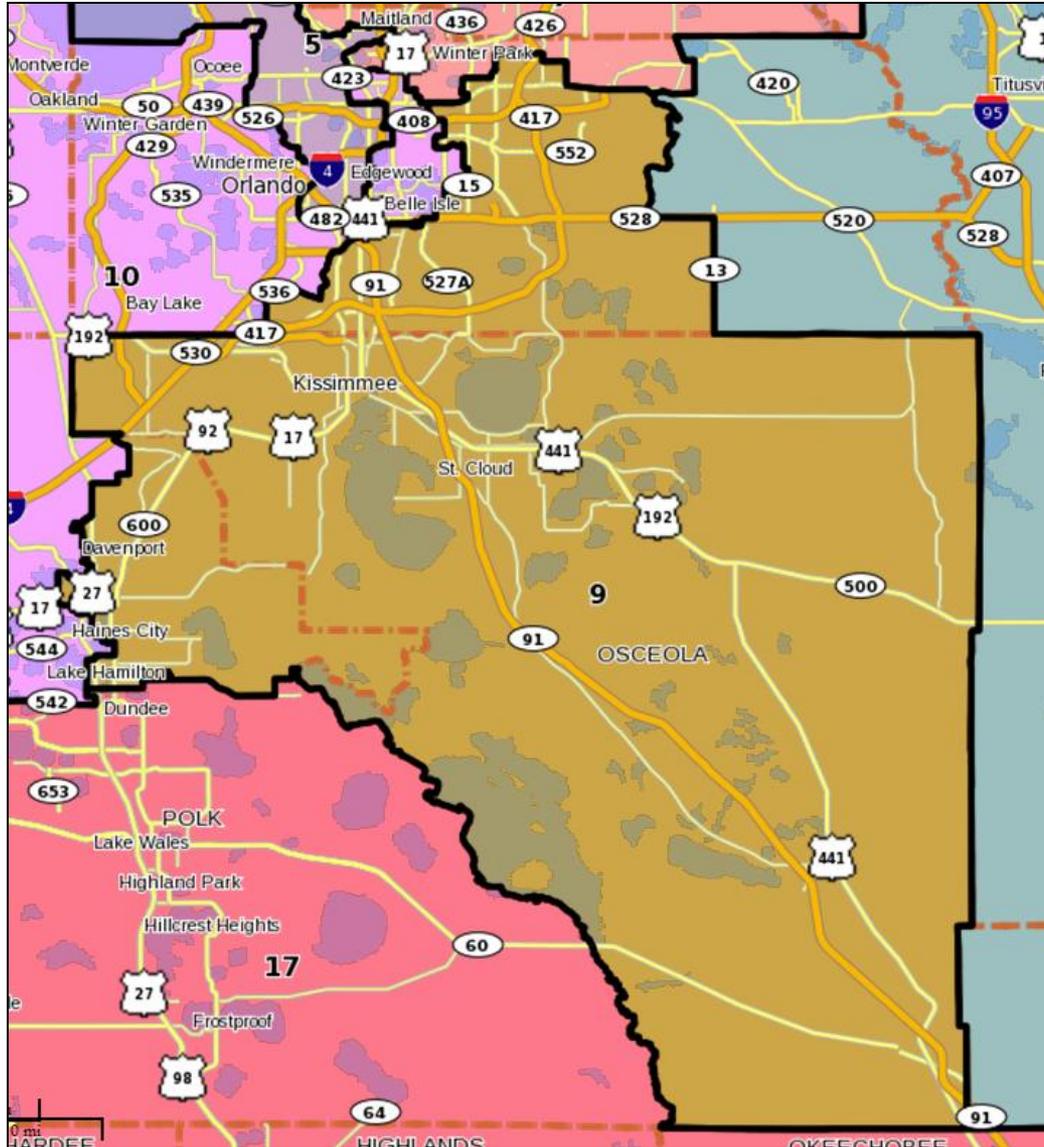
## Congressional District 7

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 8

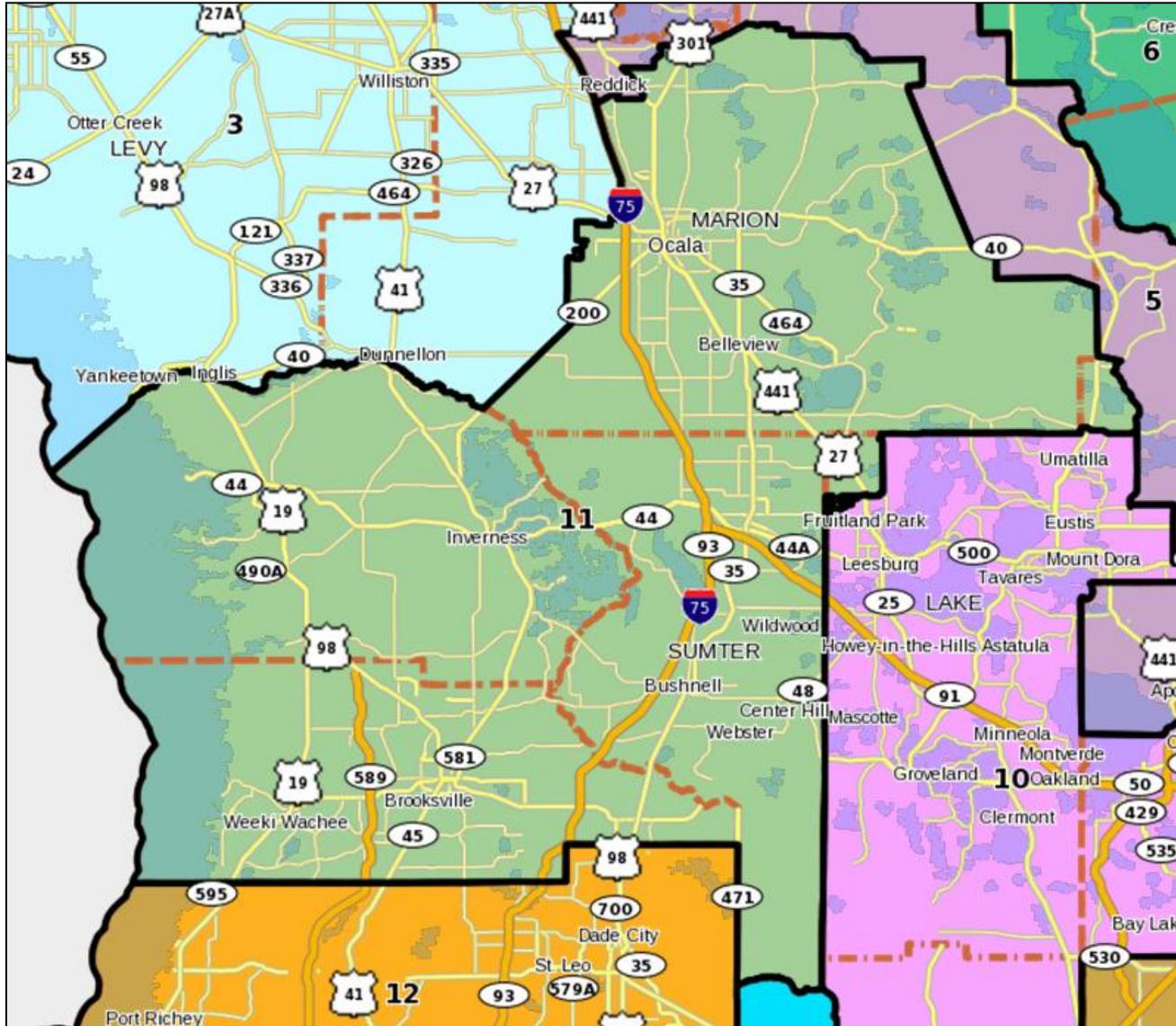
# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 9

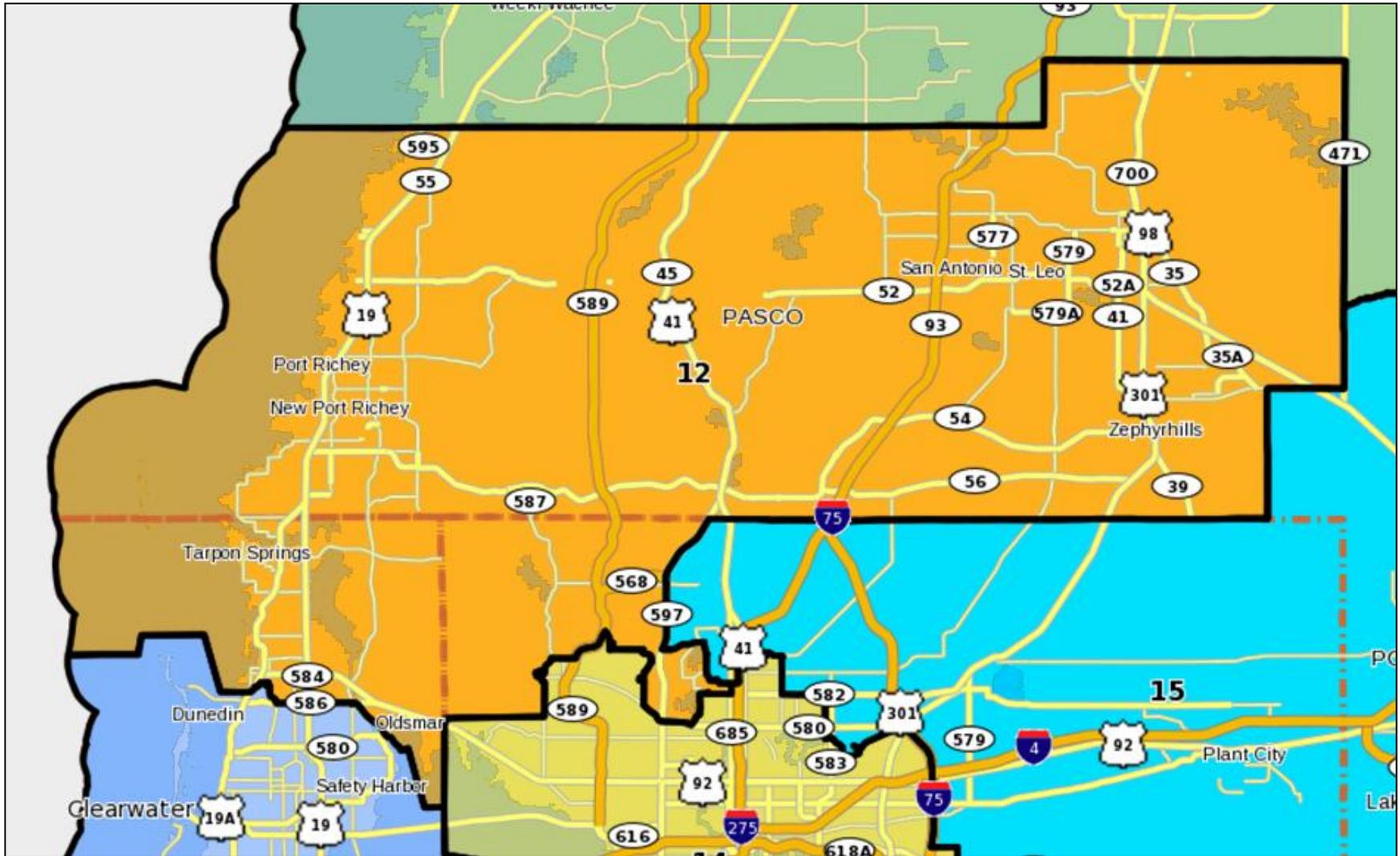


# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



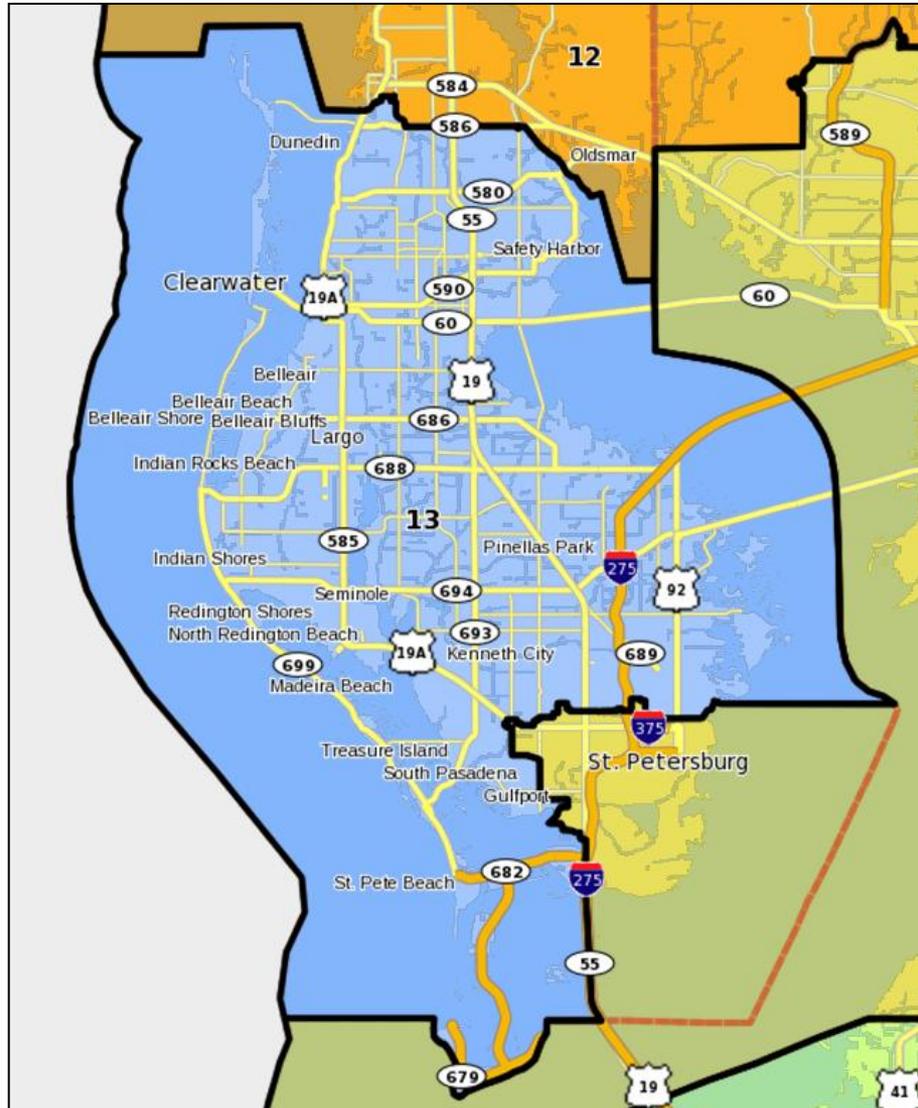
## Congressional District 11

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



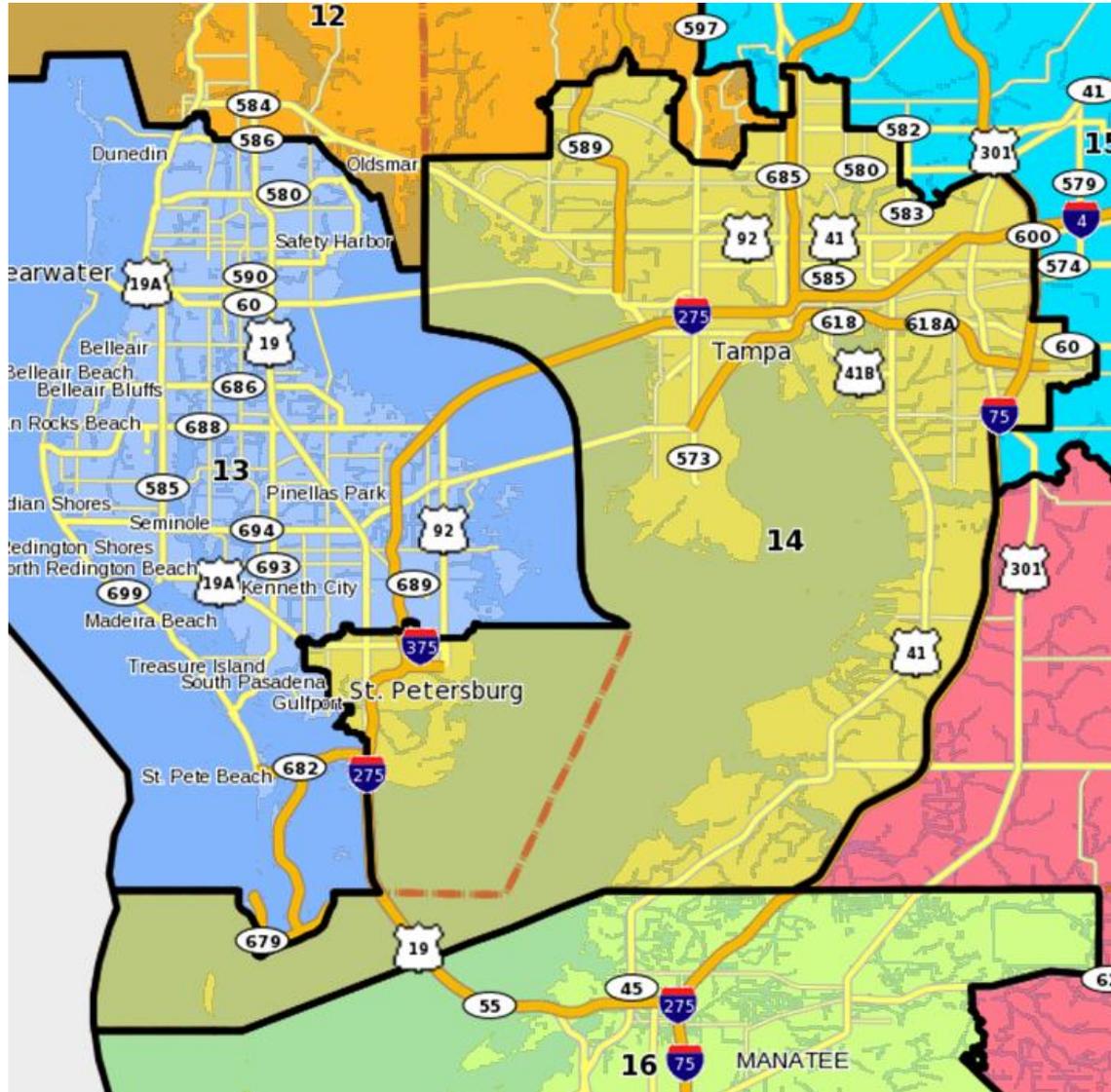
## Congressional District 12

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



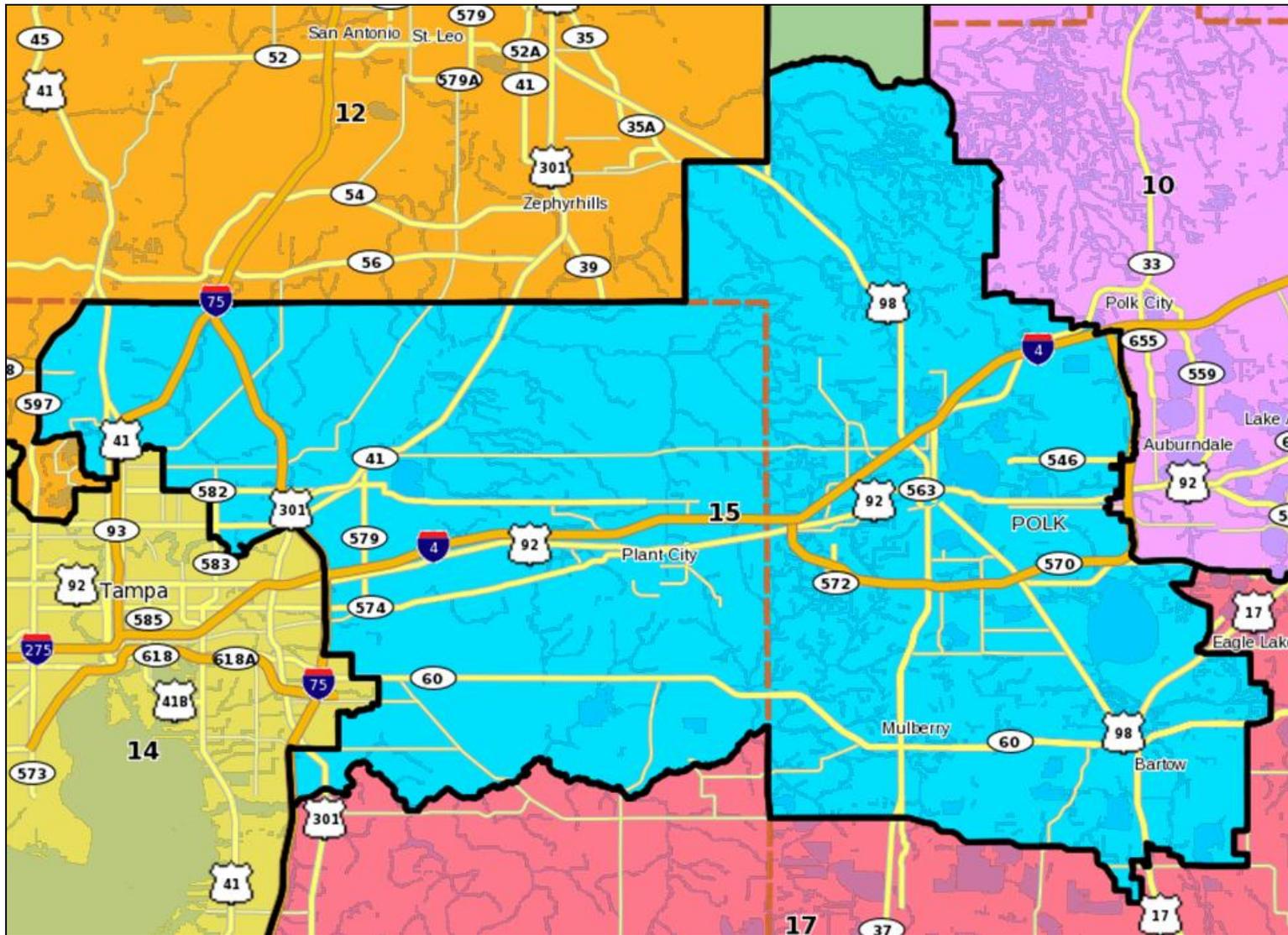
## Congressional District 13

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



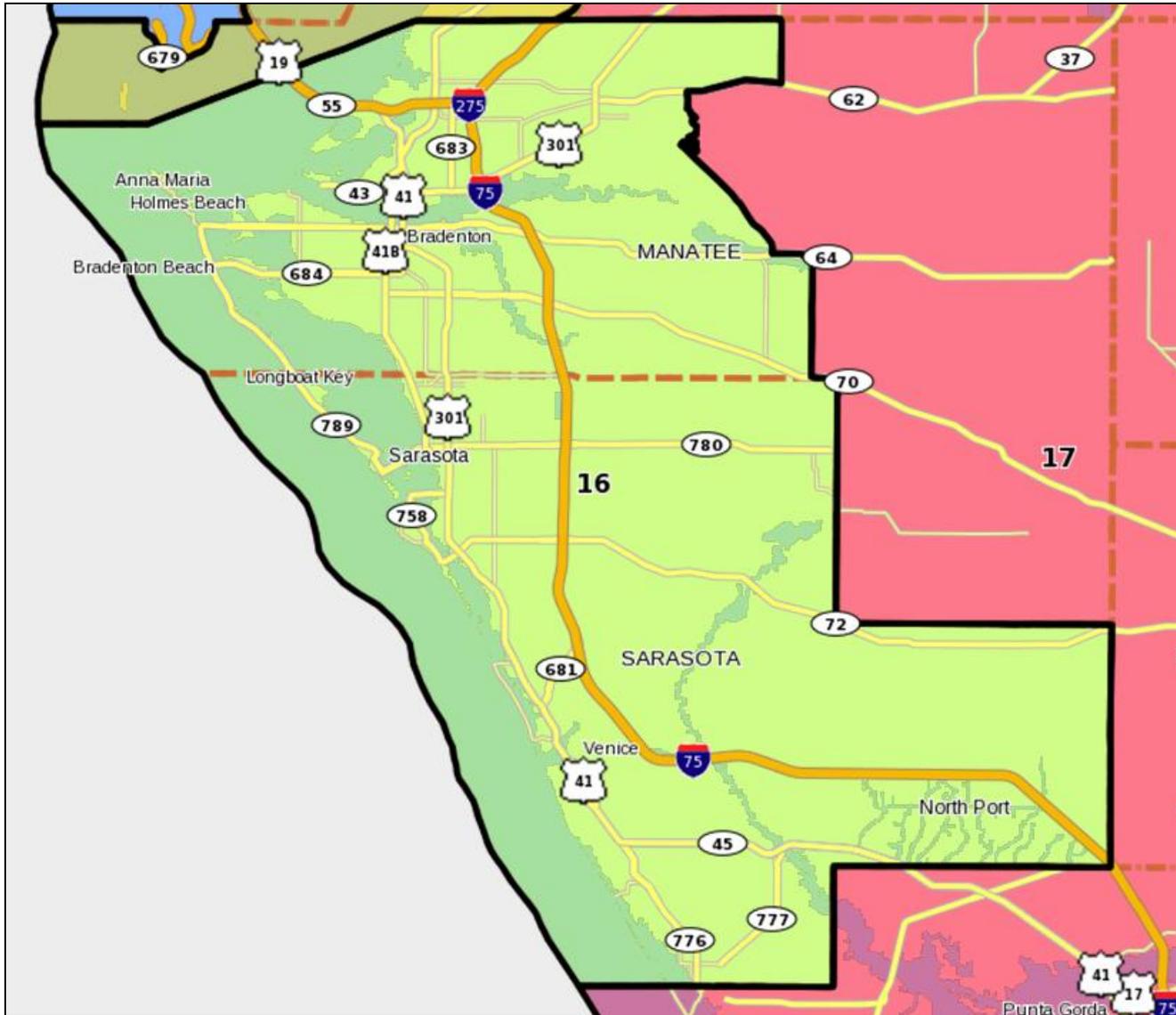
## Congressional District 14

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



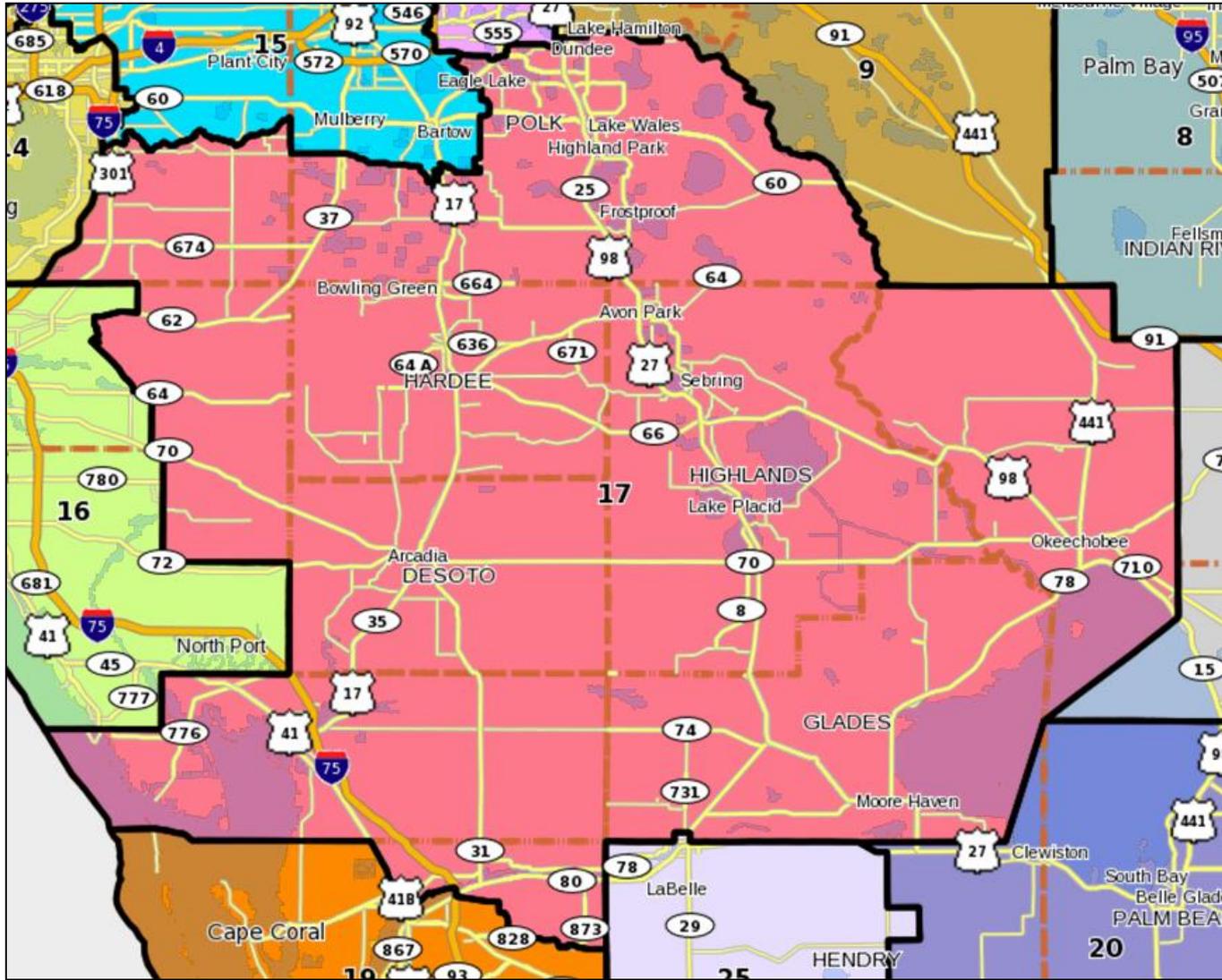
## Congressional District 15

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



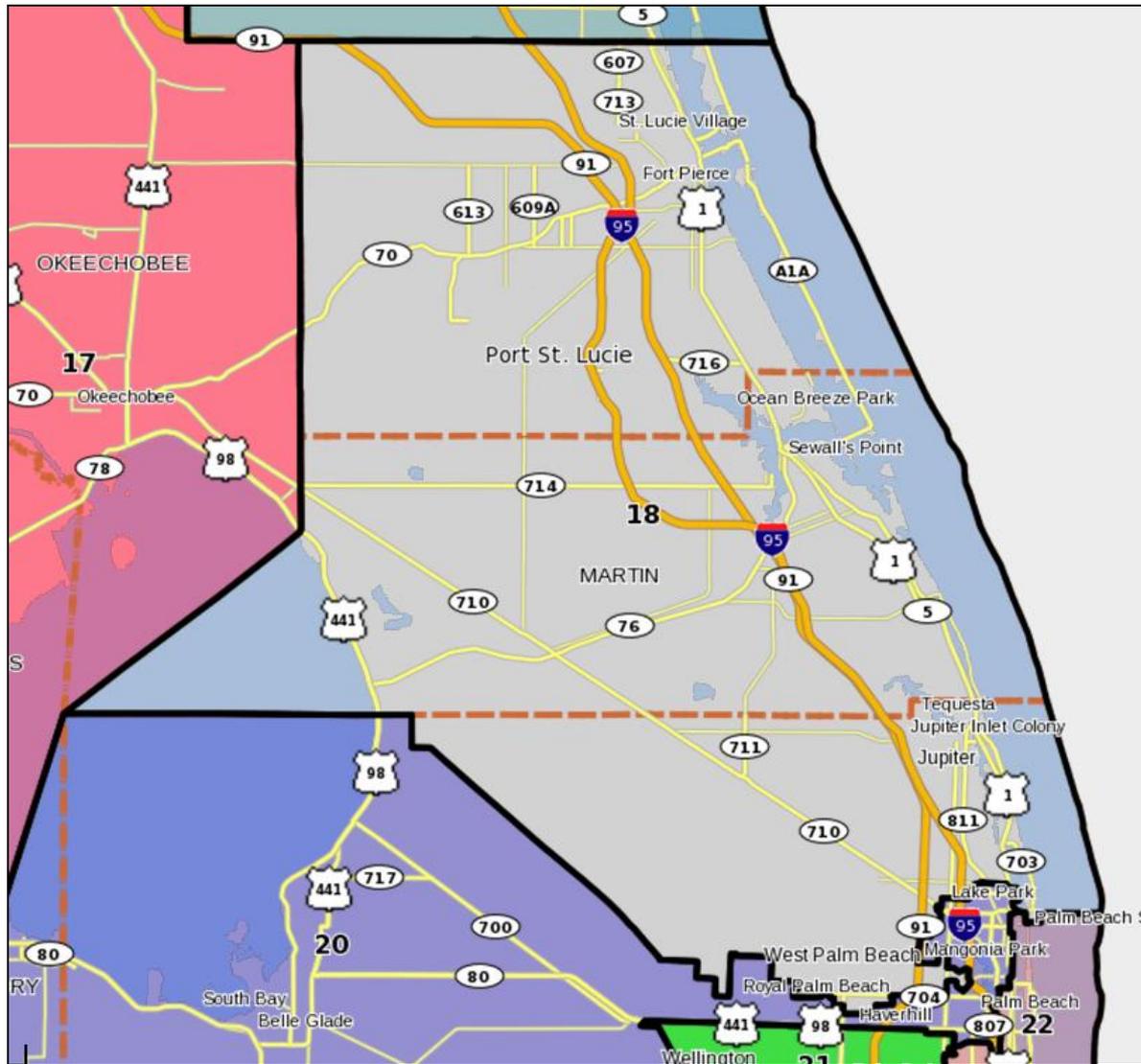
## Congressional District 16

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



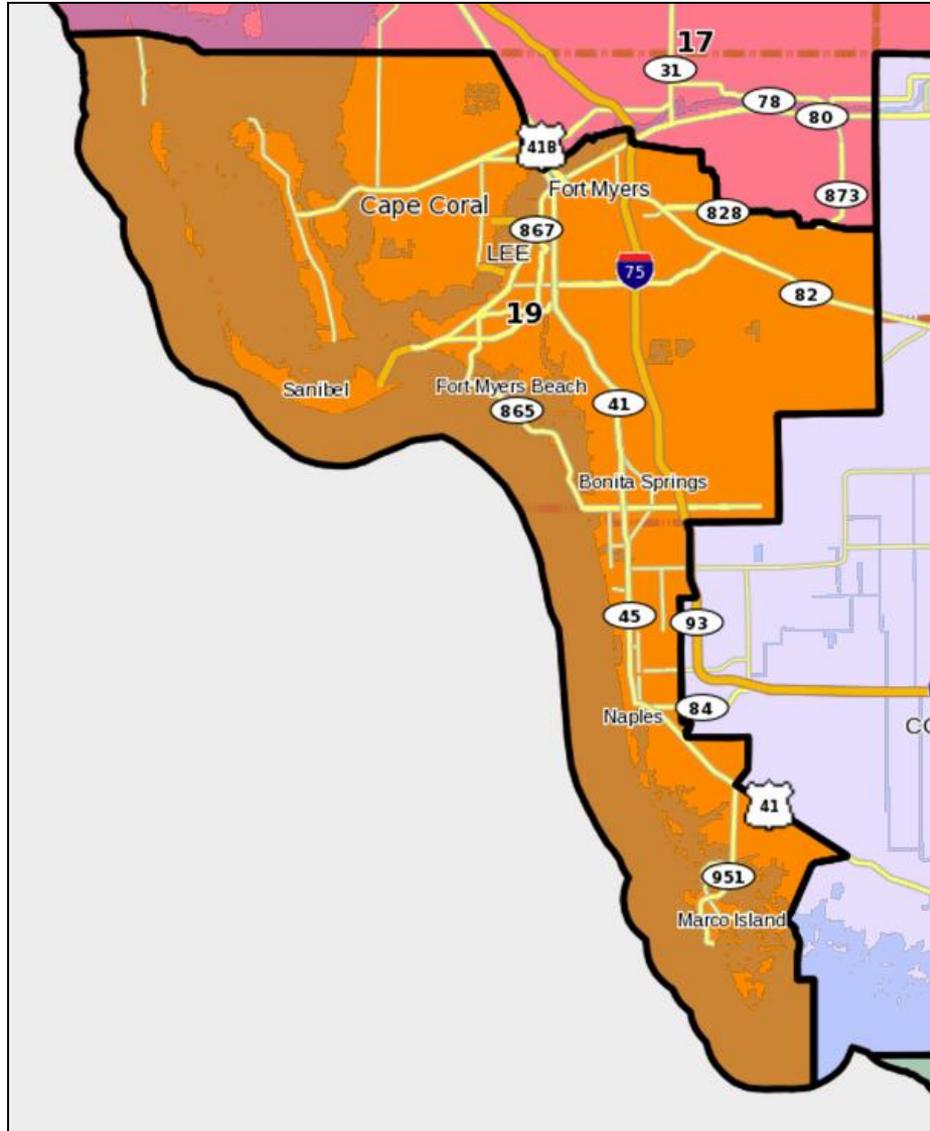
## Congressional District 17

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



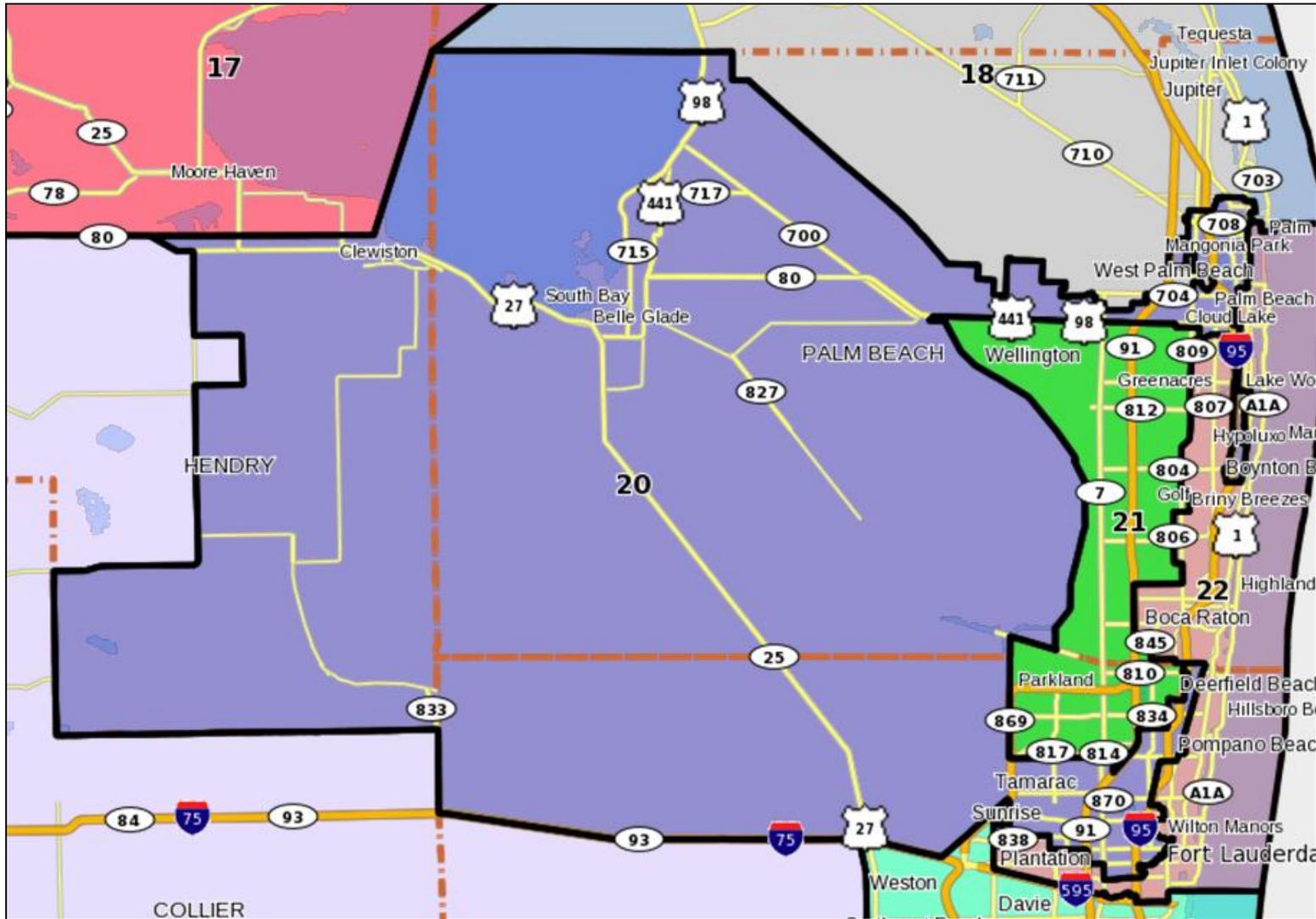
## Congressional District 18

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 19

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



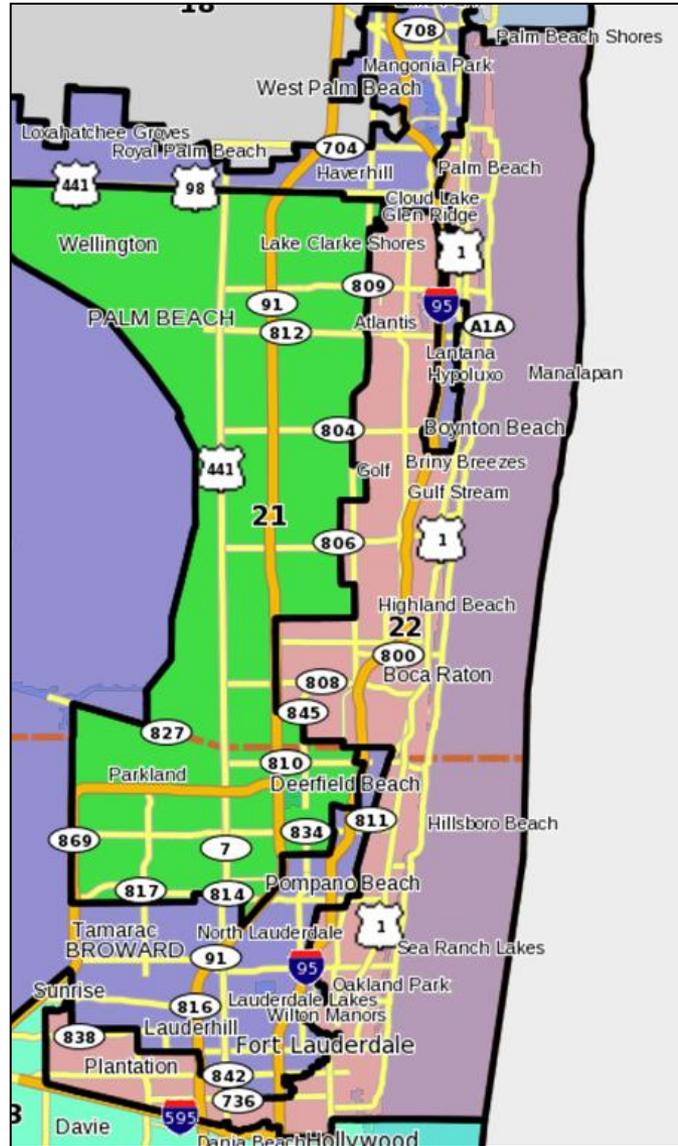
## Congressional District 20

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 21

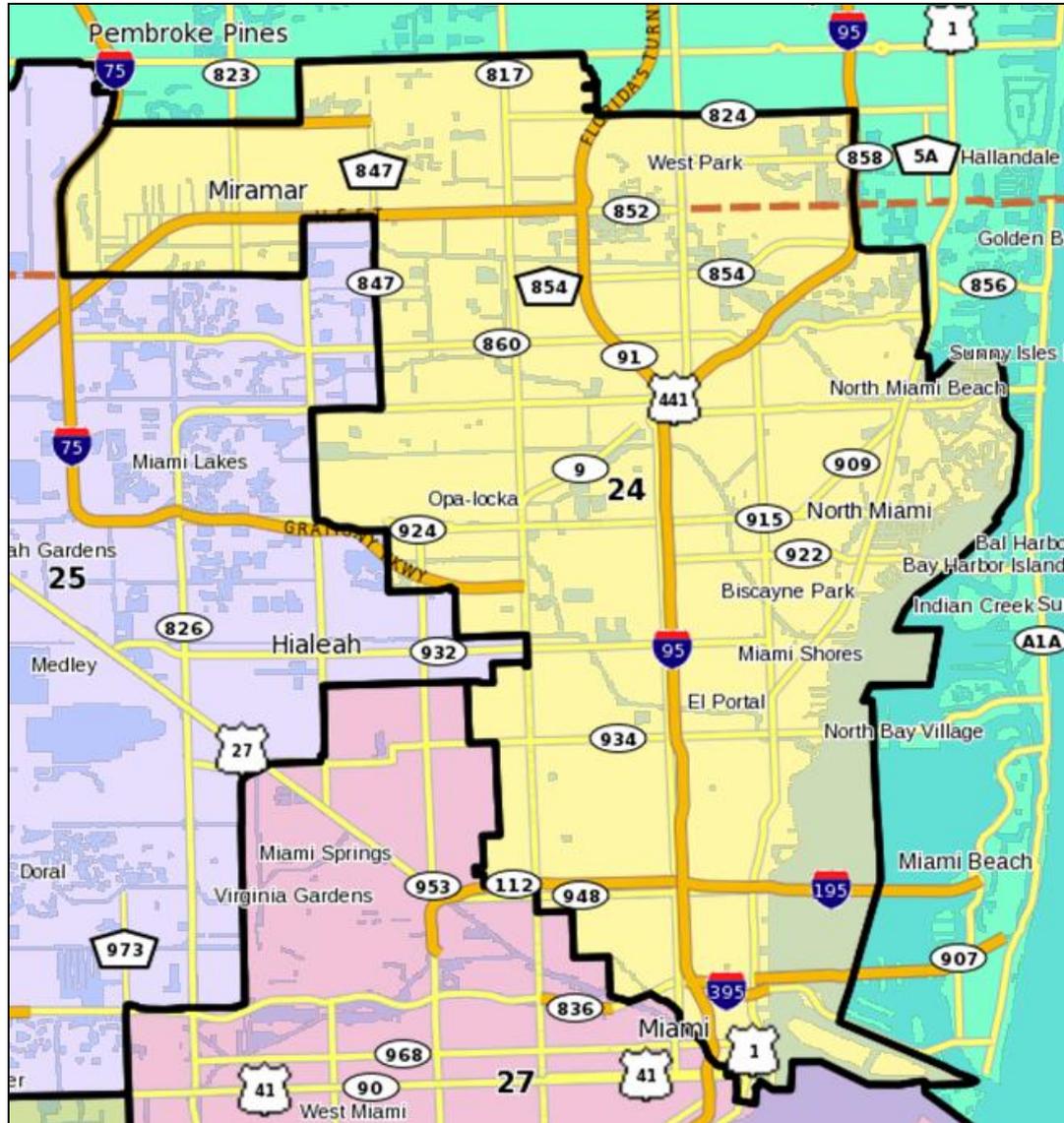
# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 22

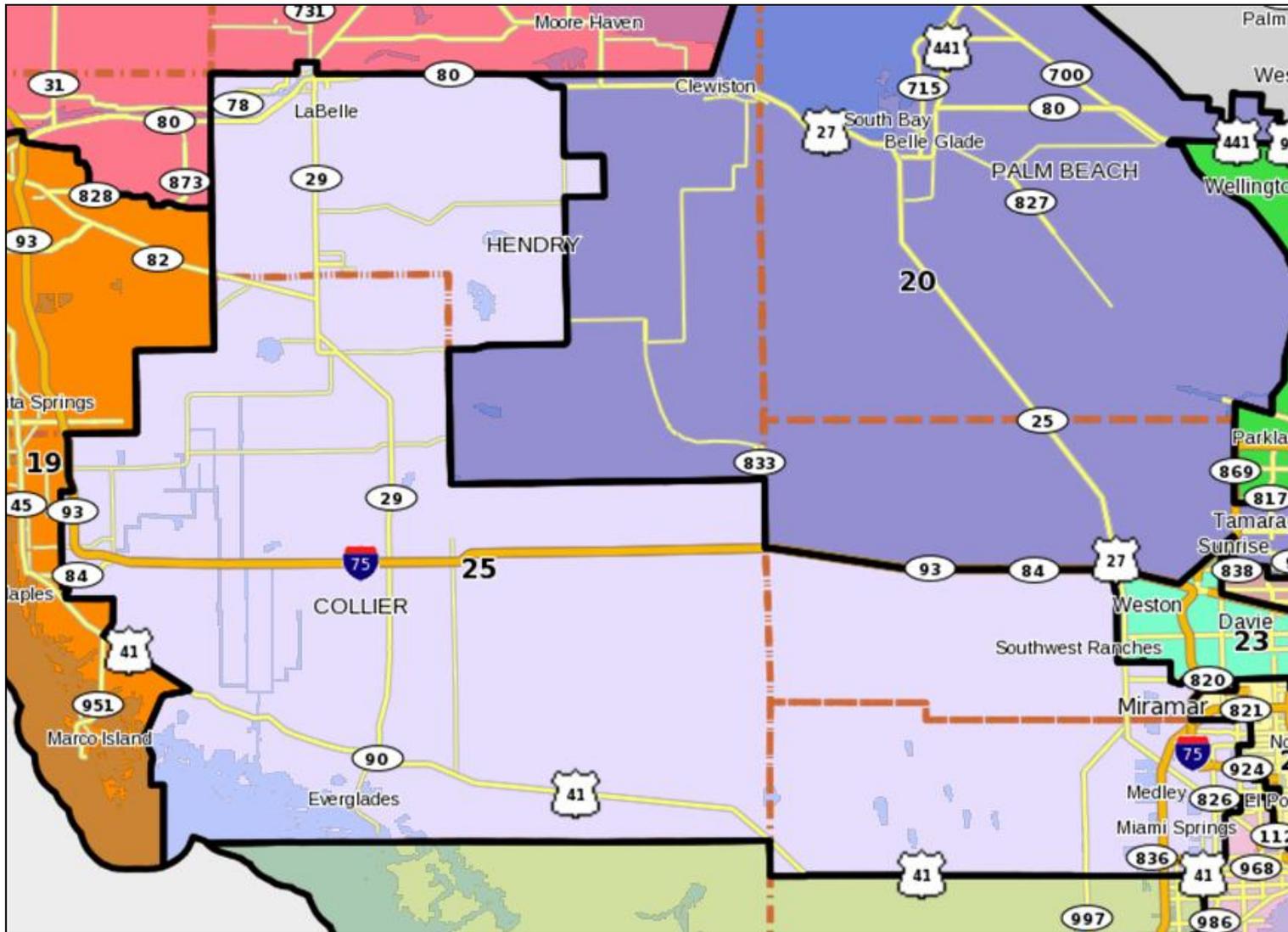


# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



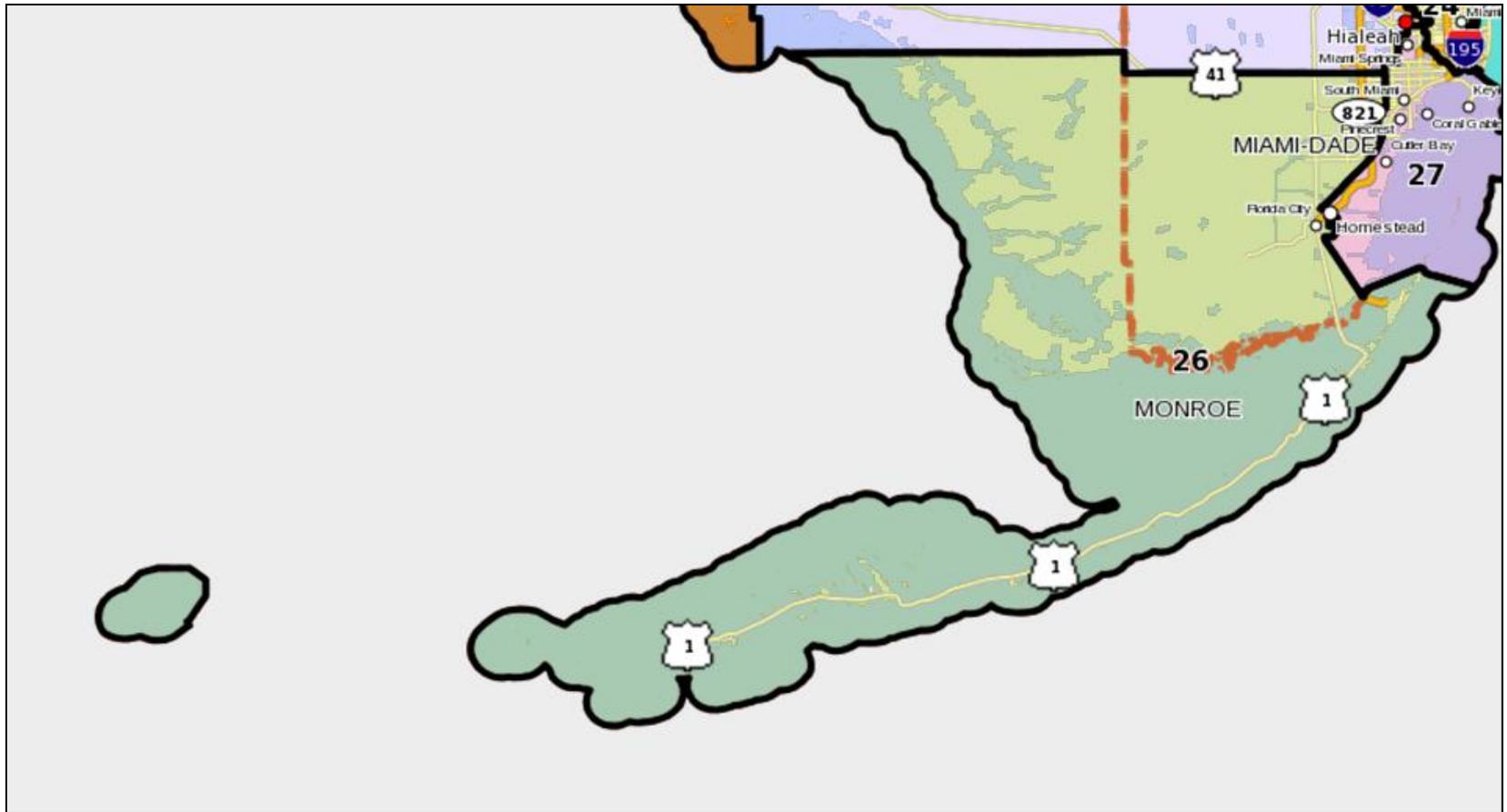
## Congressional District 24

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



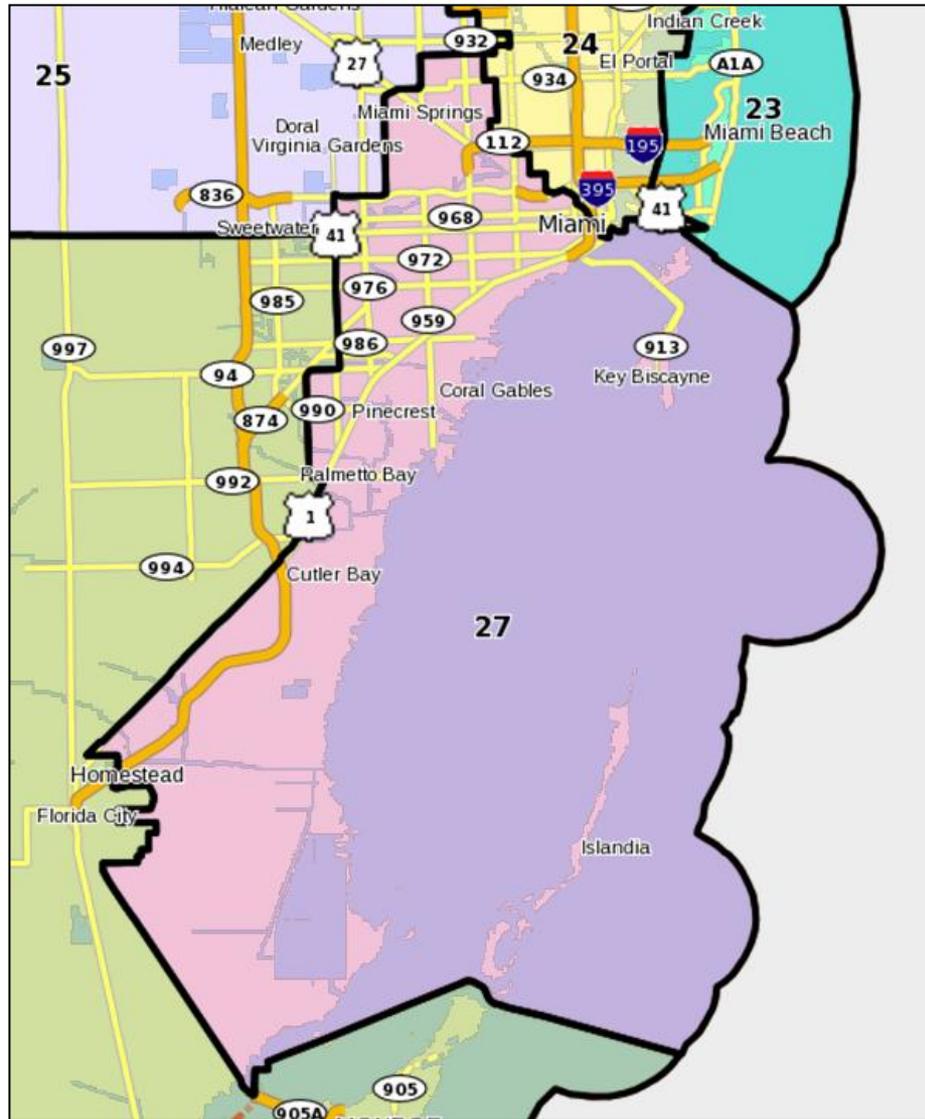
## Congressional District 25

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 26

# CS/HB 6005 (H000C9047)



## Congressional District 27

# **State Senate Map**

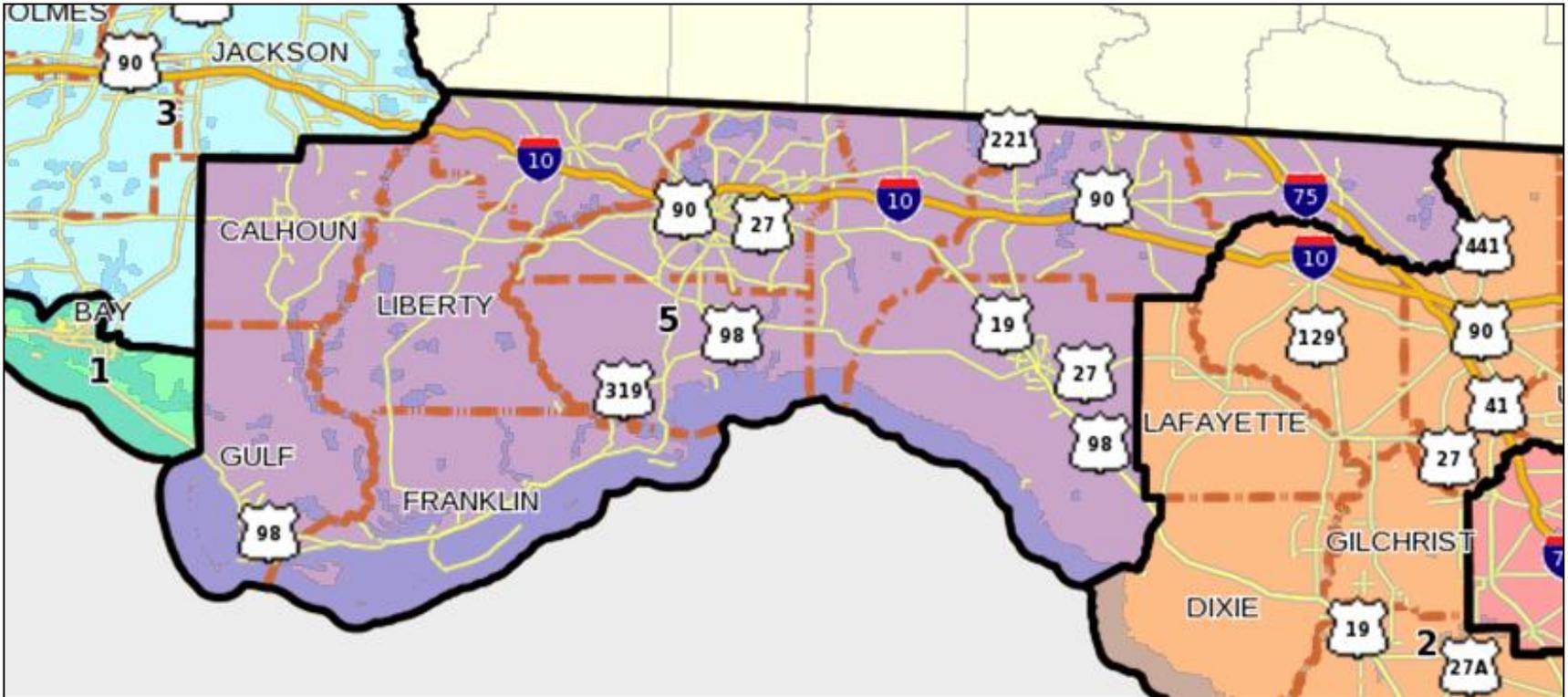
**CS/HJR 6001  
(S000S9008)**

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



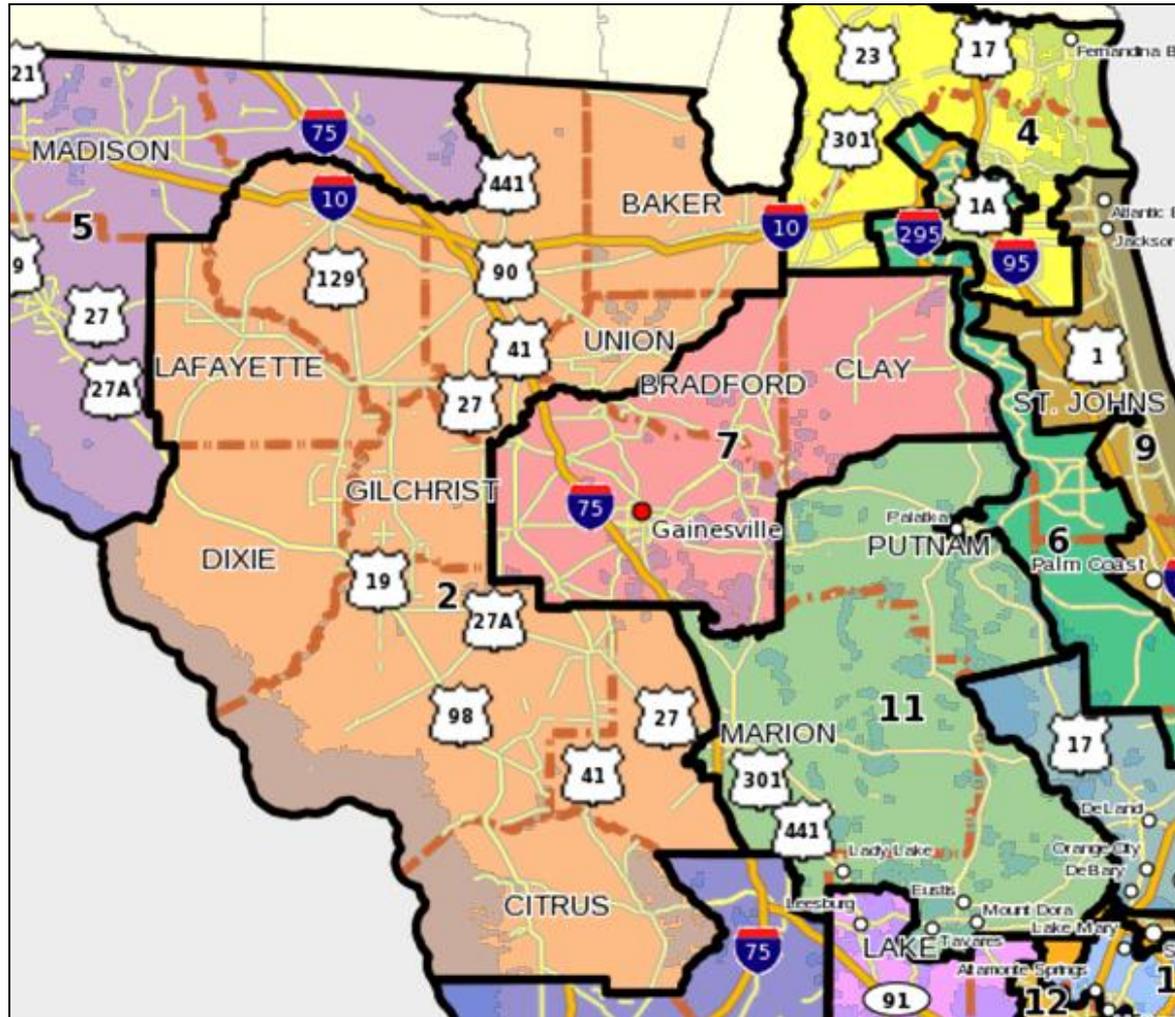
## State Senate Districts 1 and 3

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



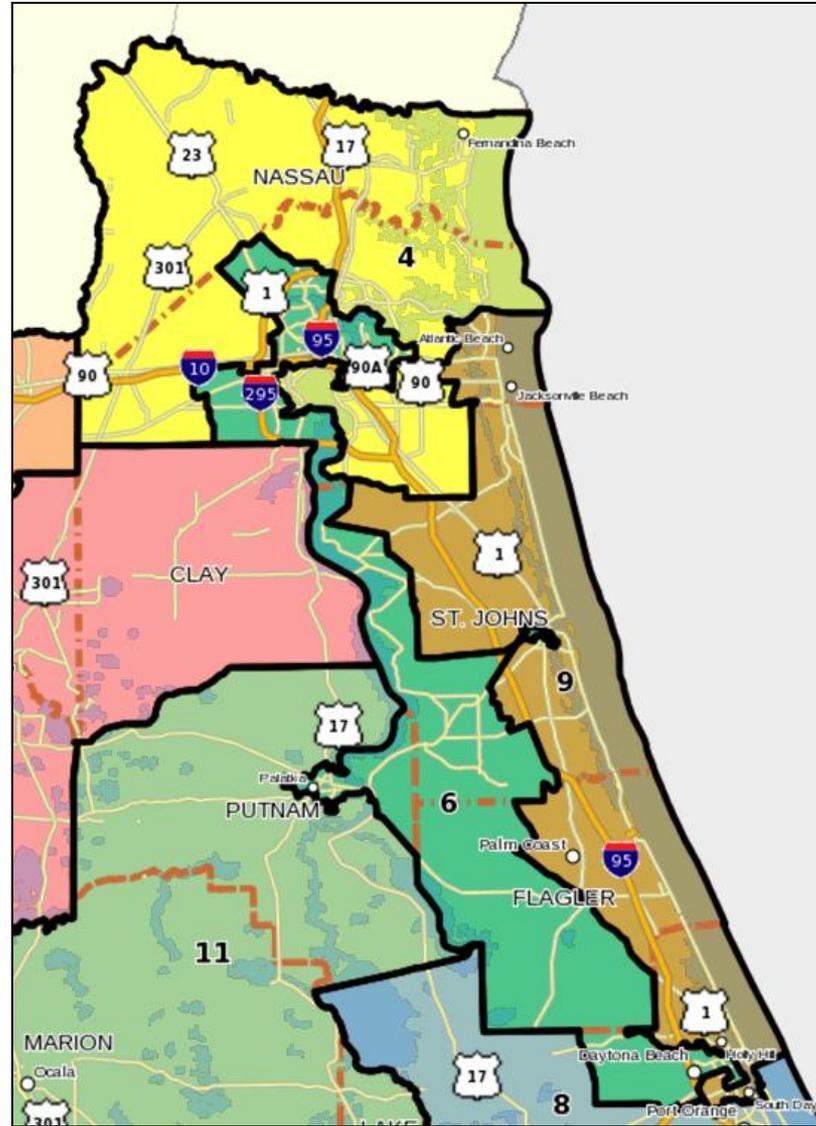
## State Senate District 5

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



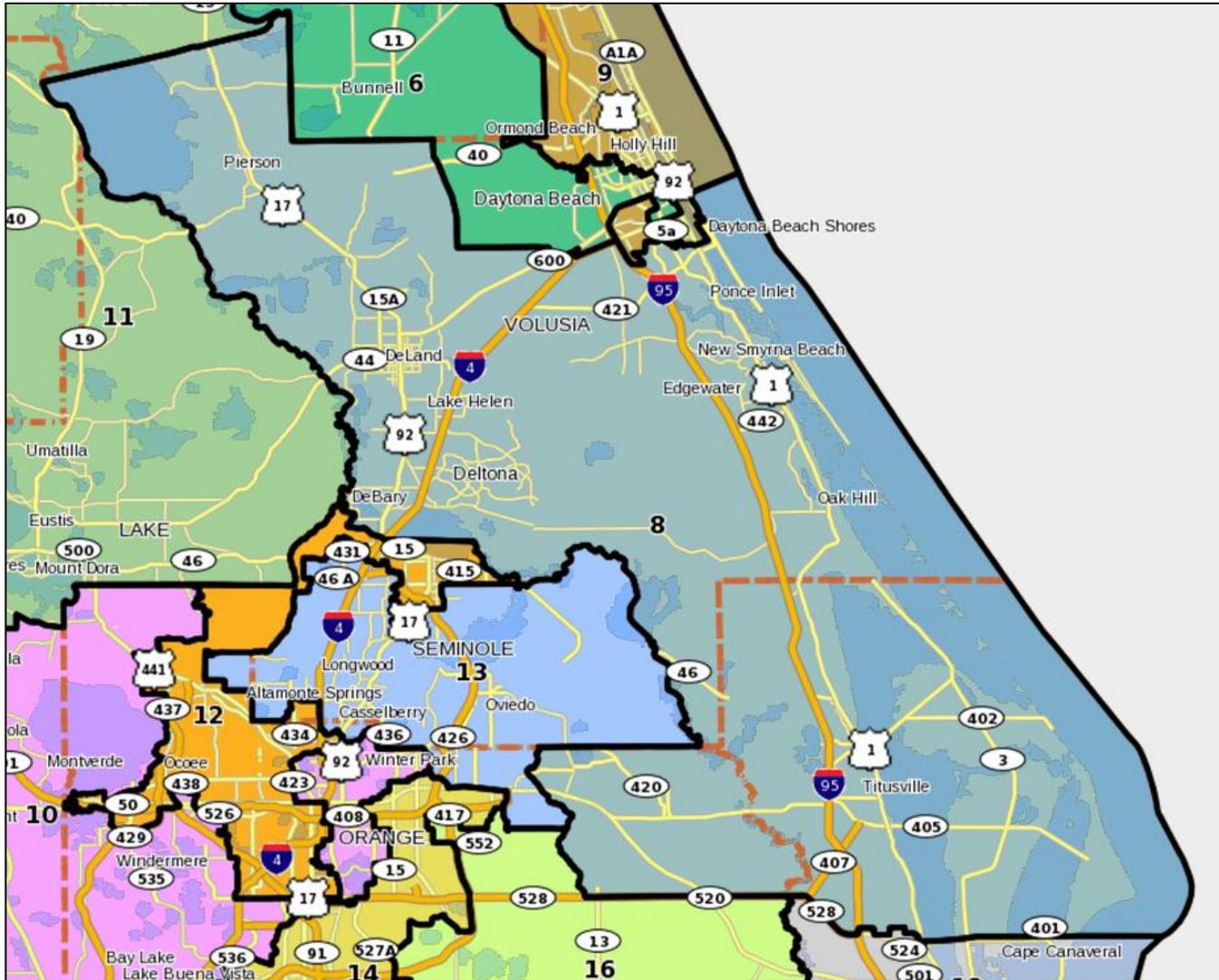
**State Senate Districts 2, 7, and 11**

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



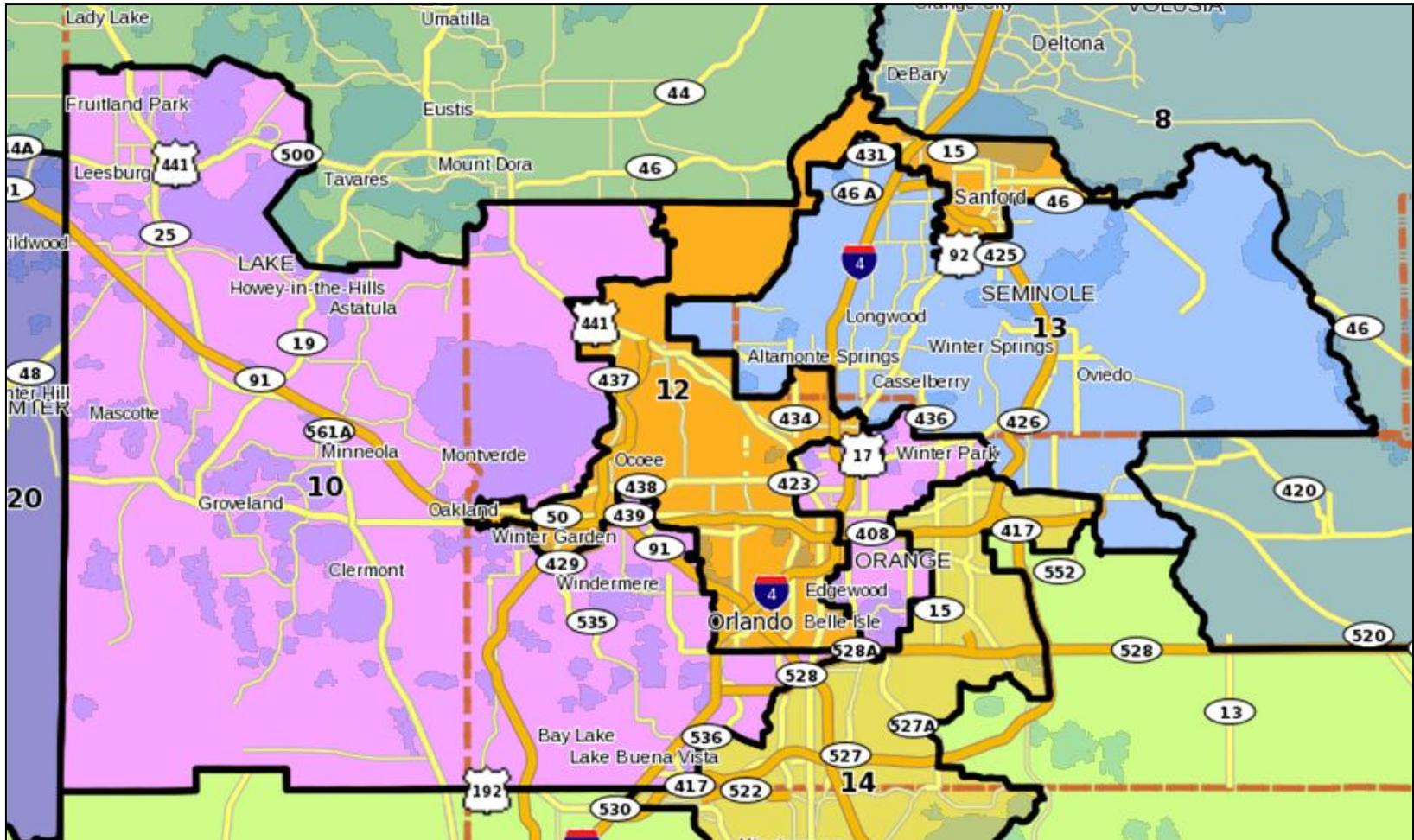
## State Senate Districts 4, 6, and 9

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



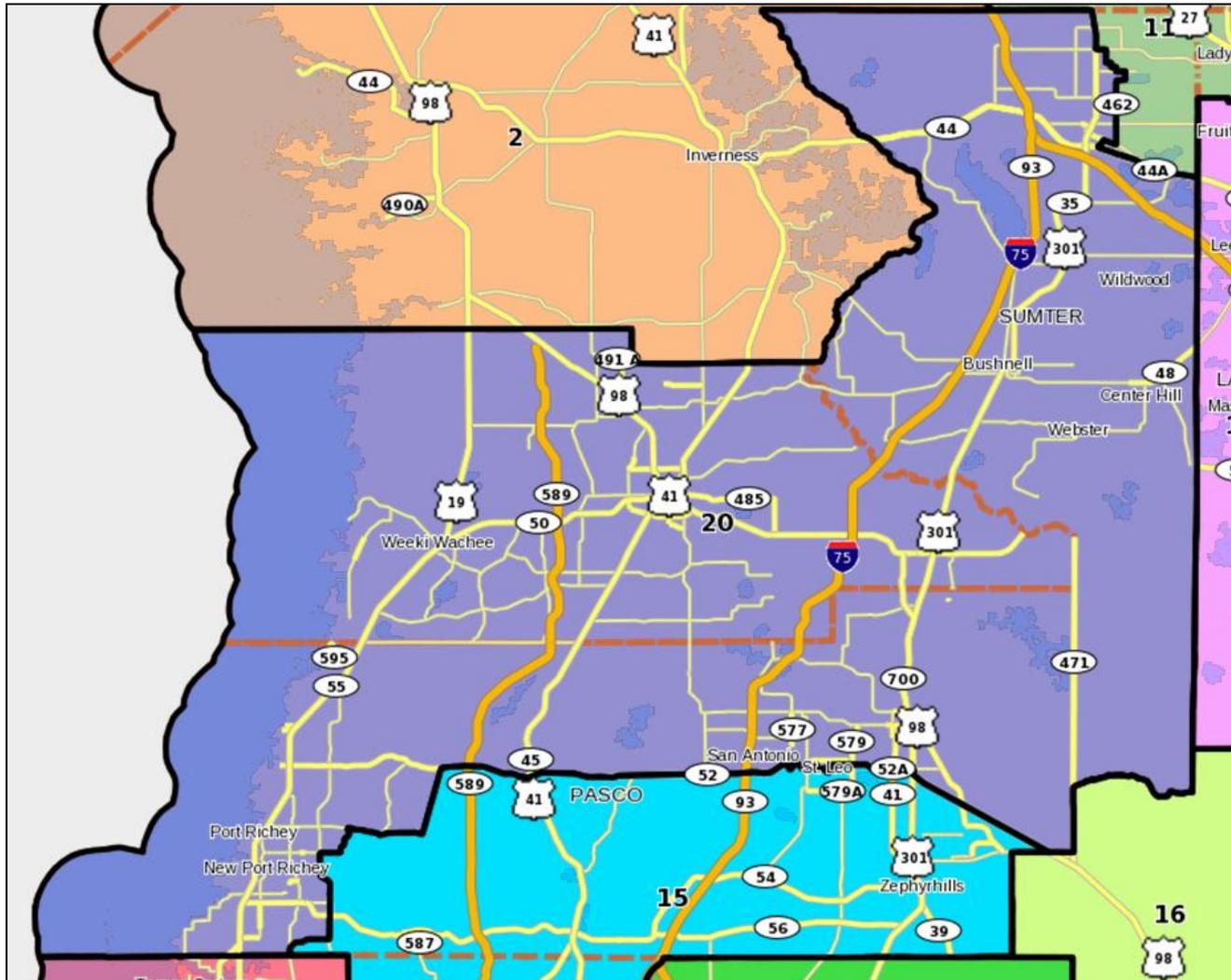
## State Senate District 8

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



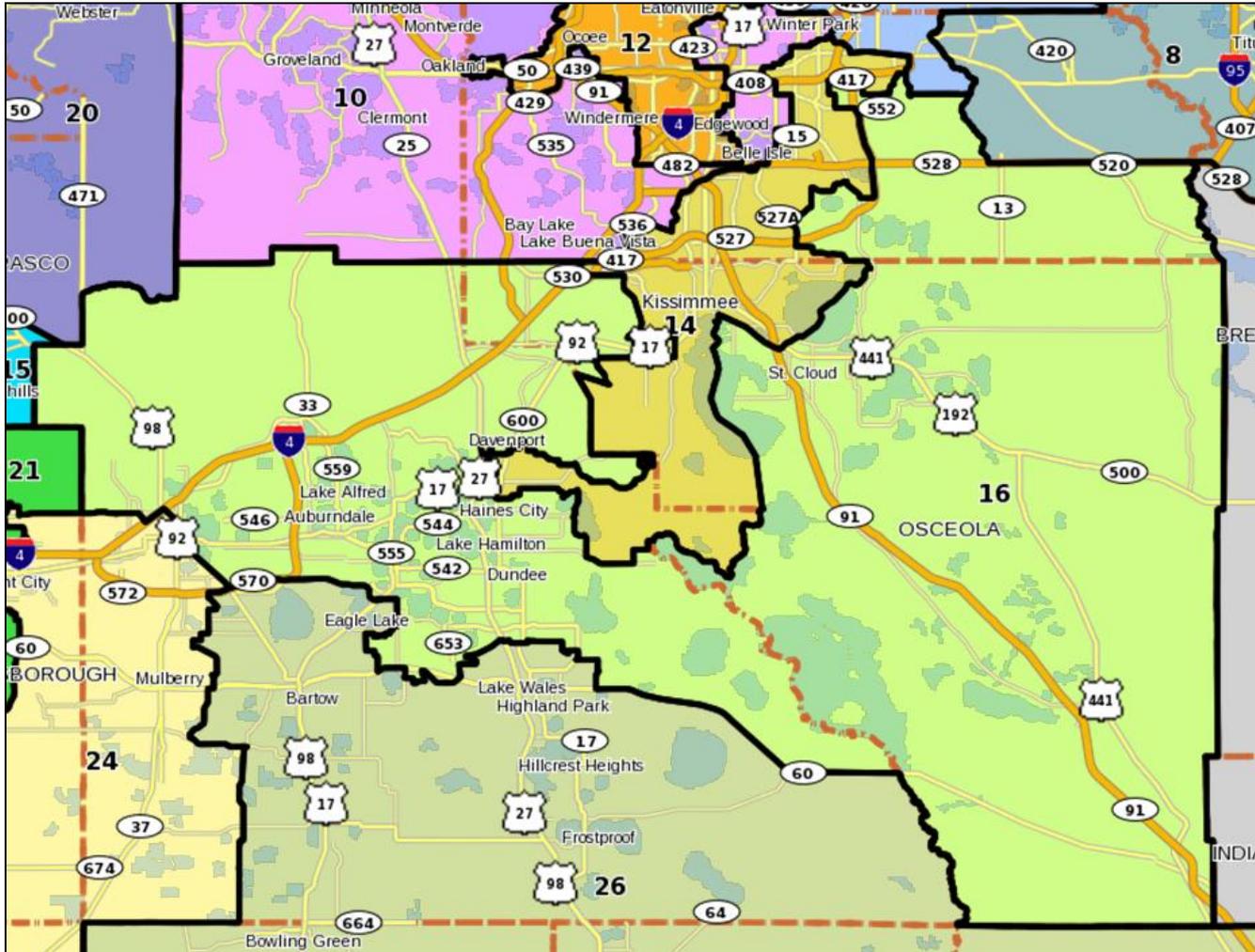
## State Senate Districts 10, 12, and 13

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



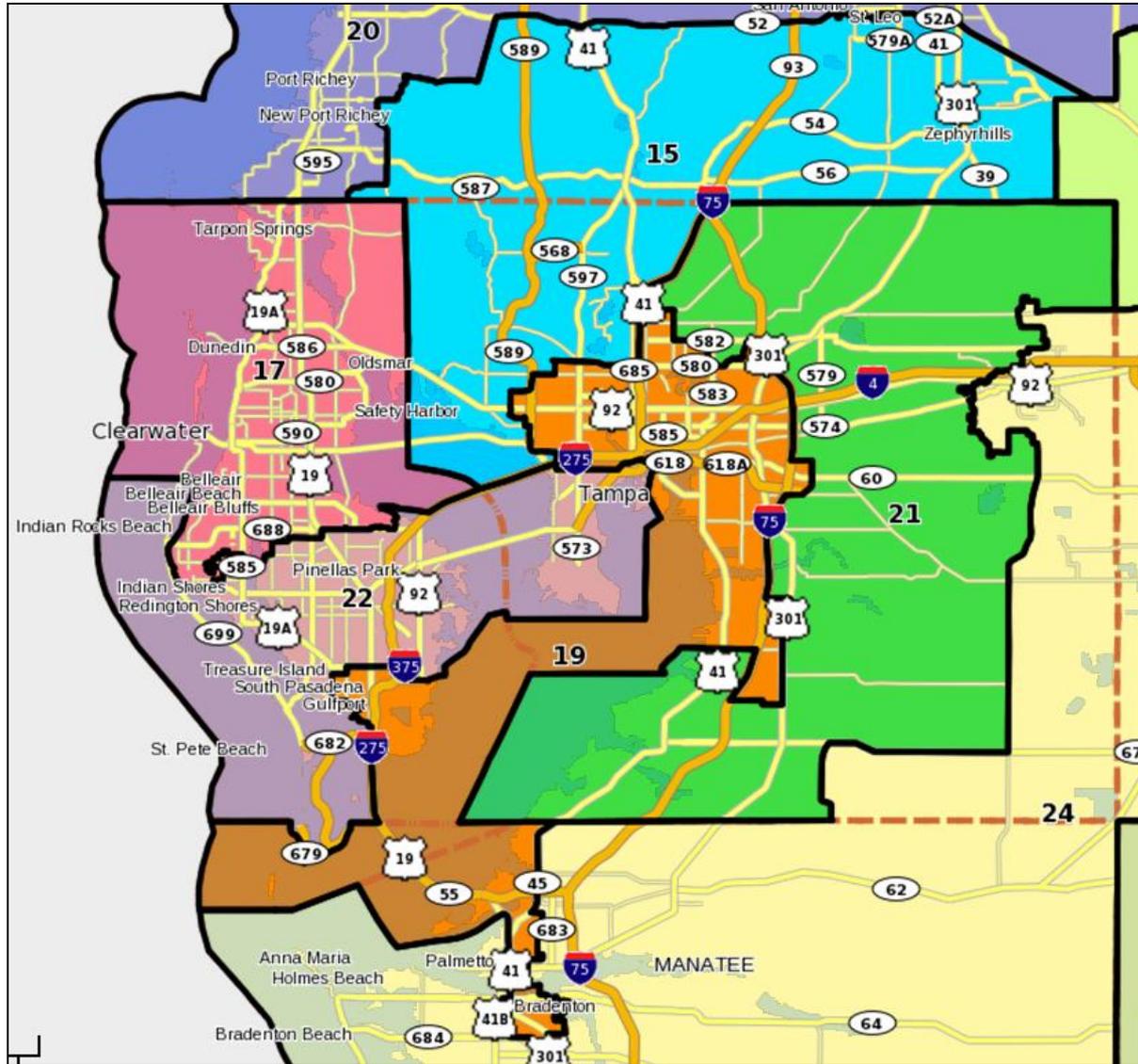
## State Senate District 20

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



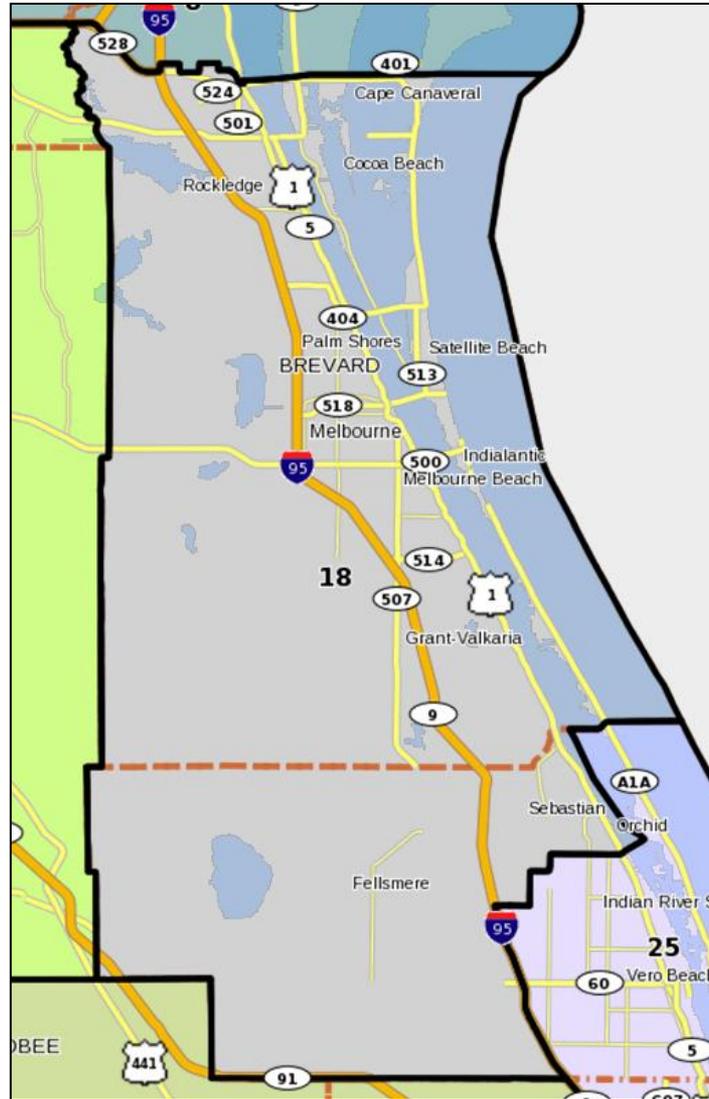
## State Senate Districts 14 and 16

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



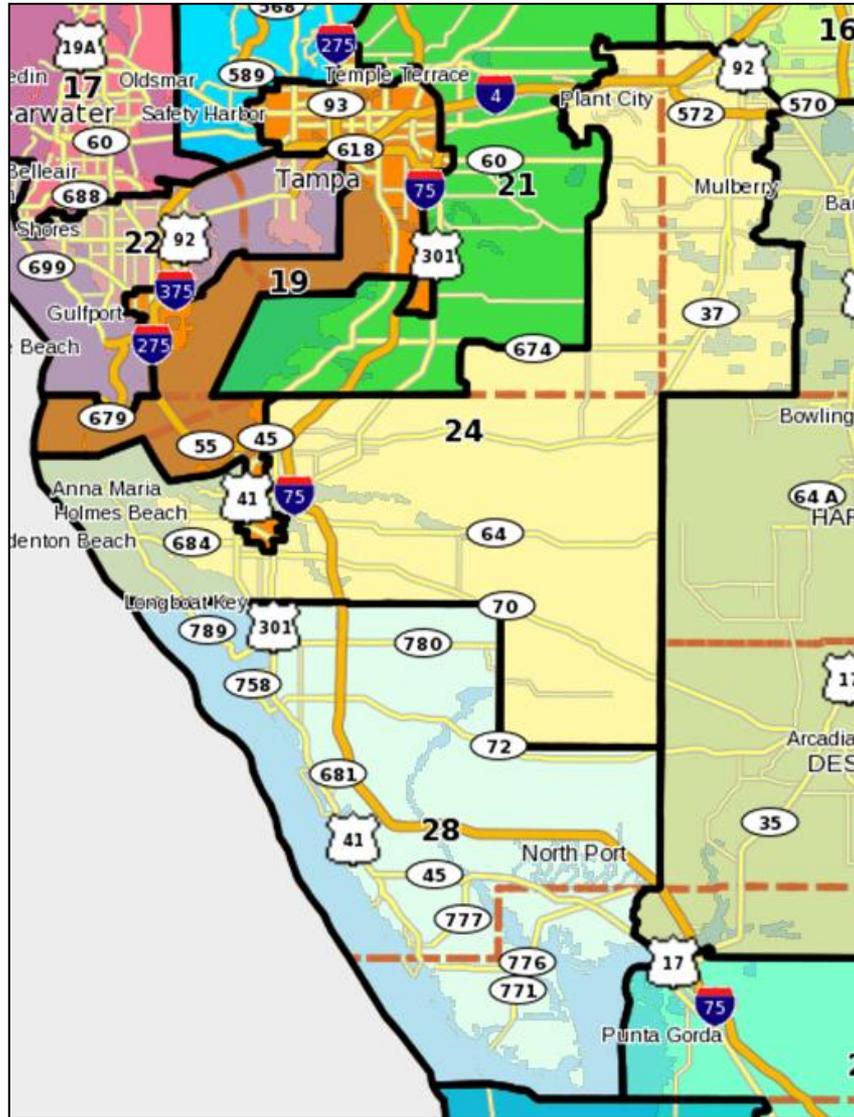
**State Senate Districts 15, 17, 19, 21, and 22**

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



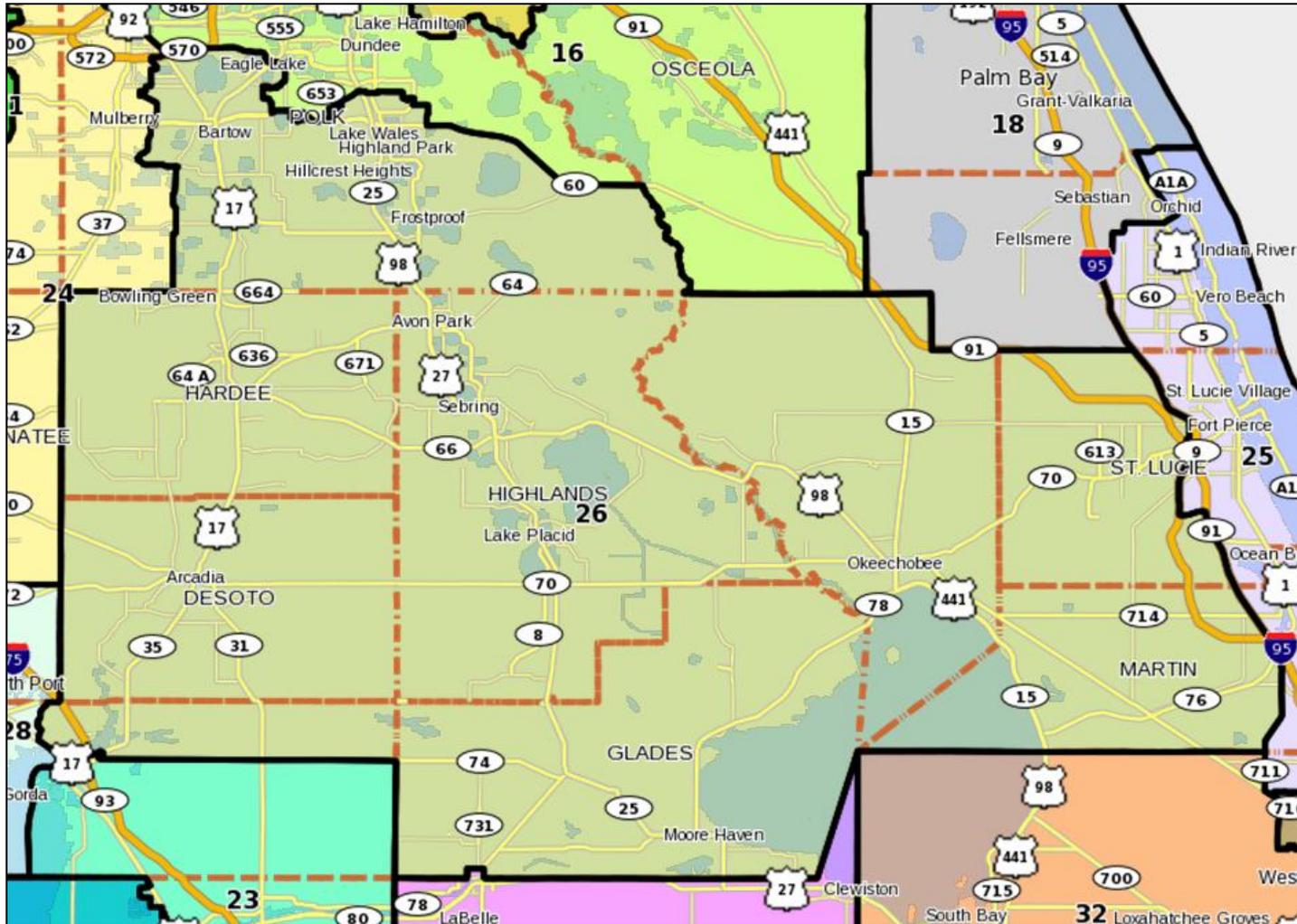
## State Senate District 18

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



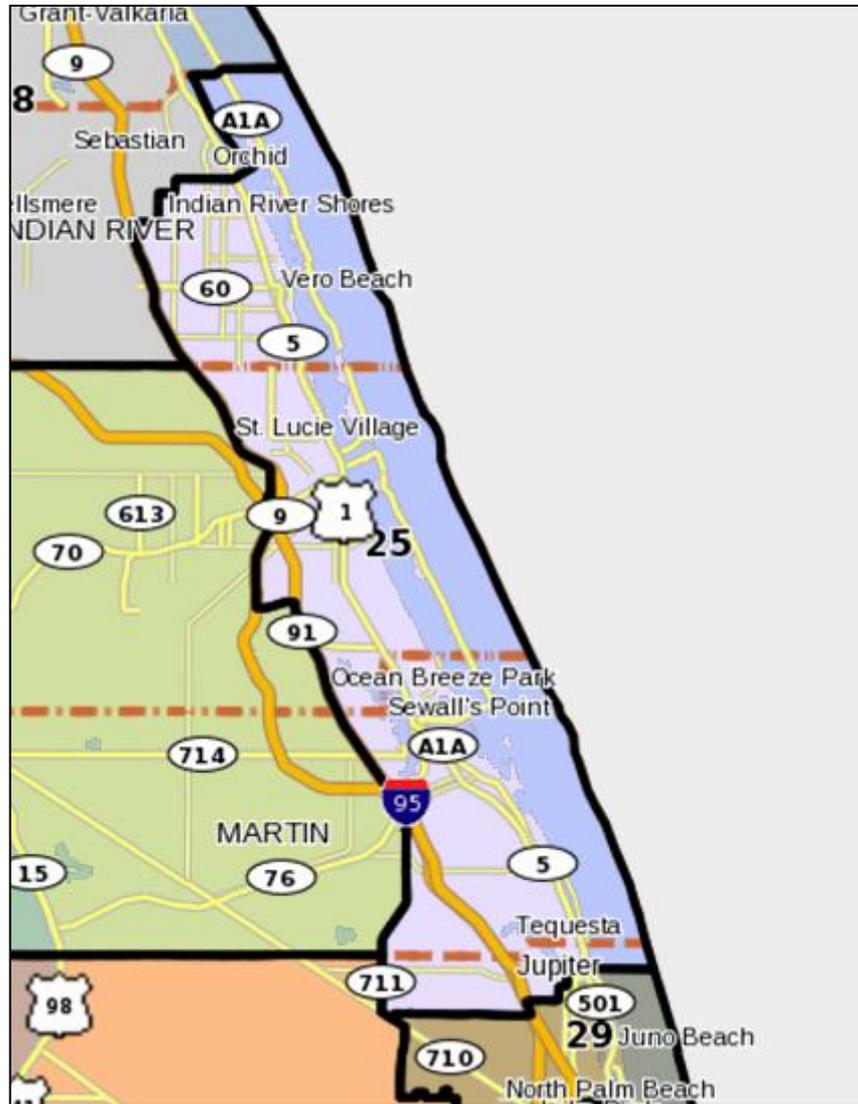
## State Senate Districts 24 and 28

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



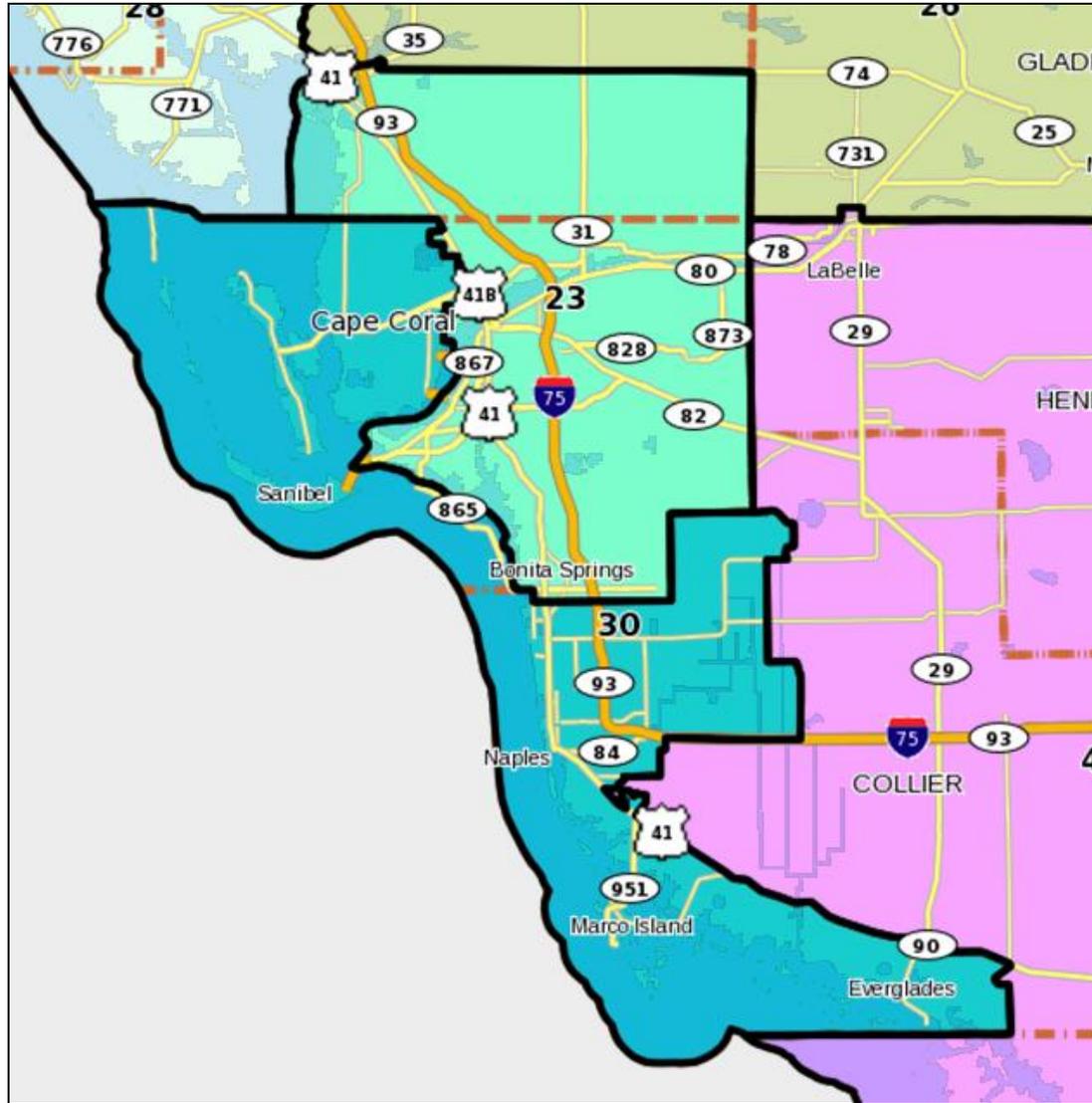
## State Senate District 26

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



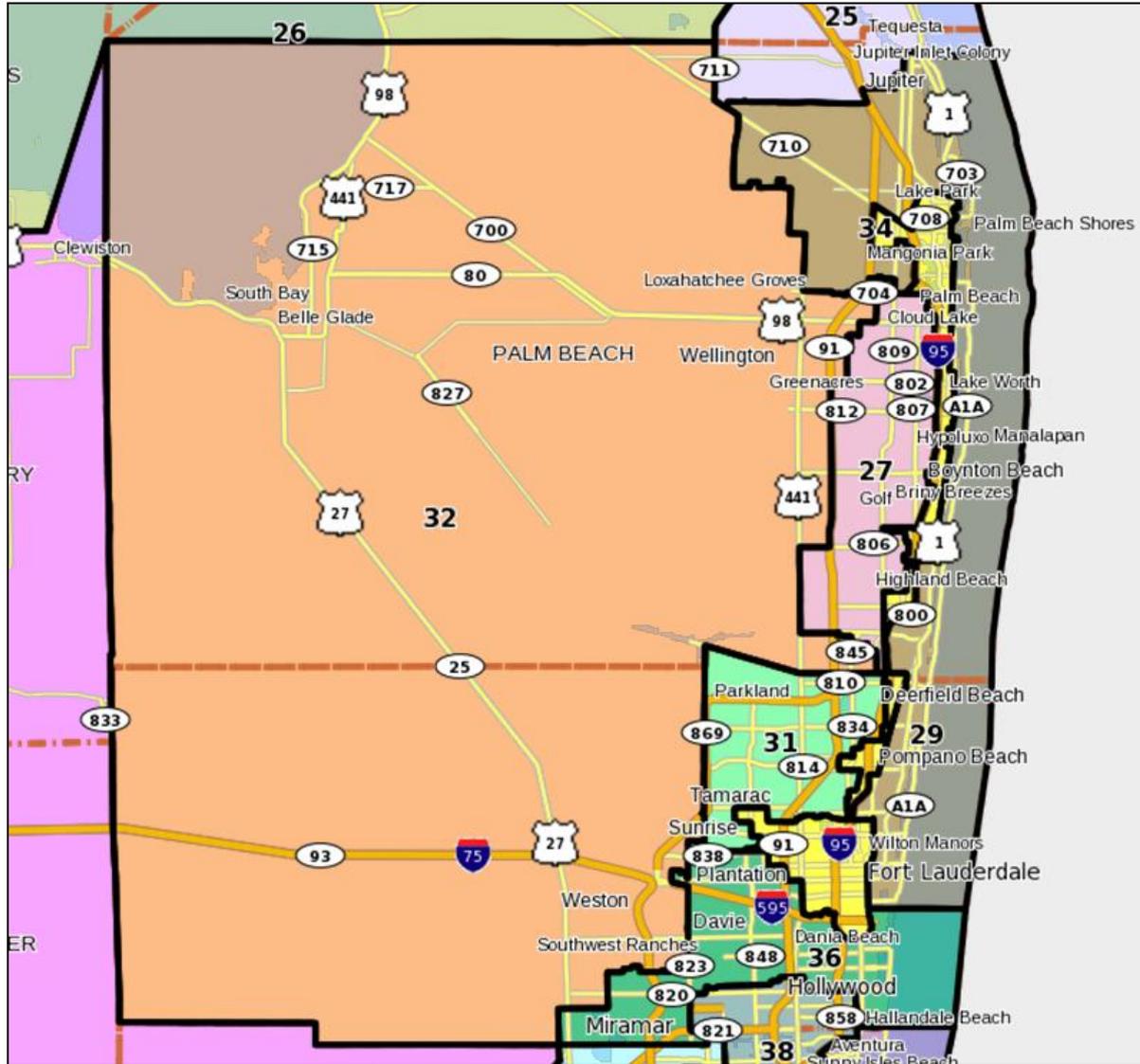
## State Senate District 25

# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



## State Senate Districts 23 and 30

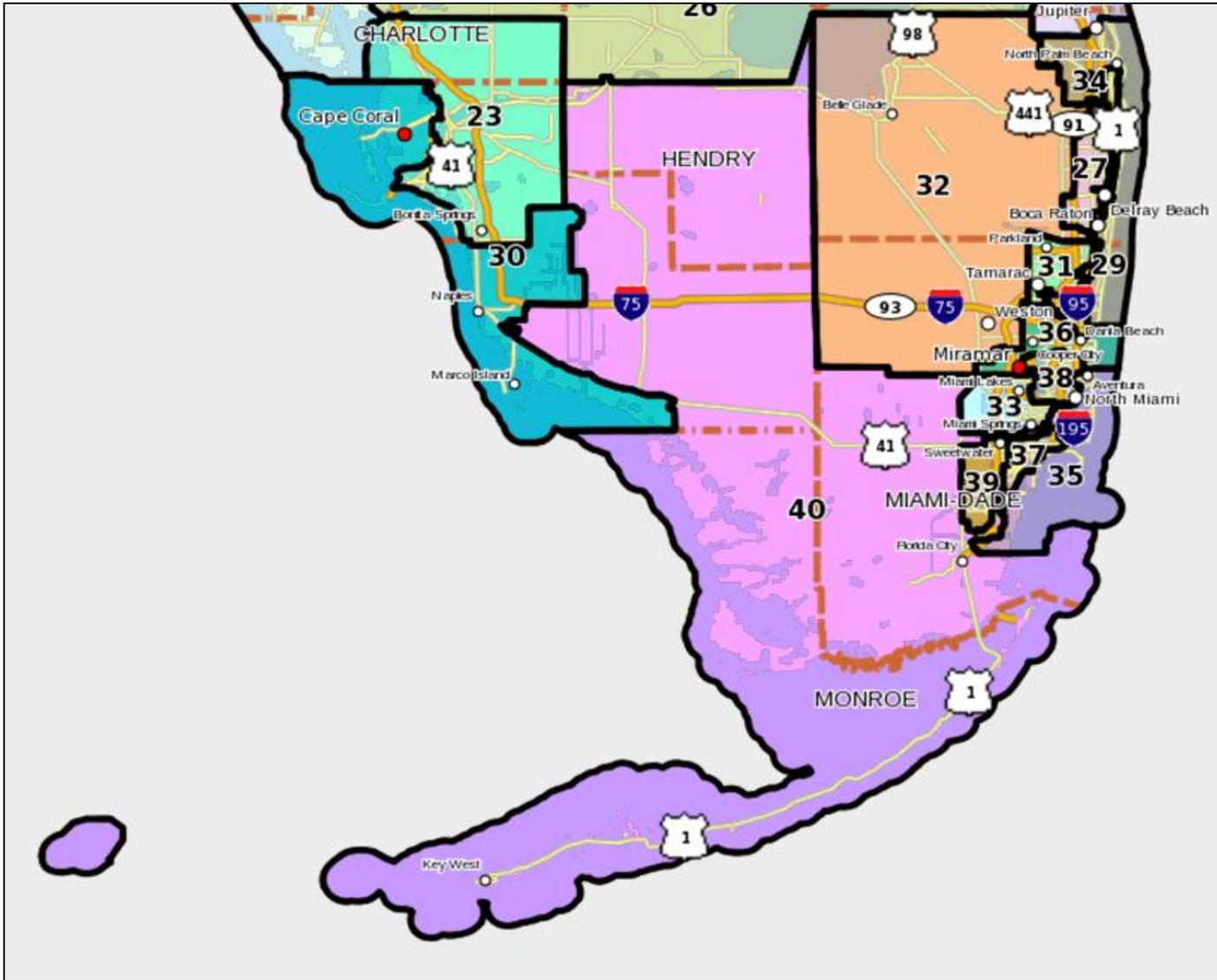
# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



**State Senate Districts 27, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 36**



# CS/HJR 6001 (S000S9008)



## State Senate District 40

### Motion to Adjourn

Rep. Weatherford moved that the House, after receiving reports, adjourn for the purpose of holding committee and subcommittee meetings and conducting other House business, to reconvene at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, February 8, 2012, or upon call of the Chair. The motion was agreed to.

### House Resolutions Adopted by Publication

At the request of Rep. Patronis—

**HR 9041**—A resolution designating February 7, 2012, as "F.S.U. Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, the Tallahassee campus of Florida State University is the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida and chartered the state's first chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, in 1935, and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Florida State University joined an elite group of the country's top research universities, being designated as a "Research I" institution by the Carnegie Foundation, and

WHEREAS, the university offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in 324 programs within 16 independent colleges and schools, taught by 2,306 faculty members, including 12 National Academy of Sciences members and six Nobel Laureates, and

WHEREAS, the freshman class entering Florida State University in the fall of 2011 was one of the most academically accomplished freshman classes in the university's history, with an average high school grade point average of 3.9, an average SAT score of 1850, and an average composite ACT score of 27, and

WHEREAS, Florida State University is the headquarters of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, which designs, builds, and operates the world's most powerful research magnets, attracting more than 700 scientists from across the globe to explore new frontiers of science and engineering, and

WHEREAS, as part of its efforts to become the most veteran-friendly campus in the United States, Florida State University opened the Florida

State Veterans Center, which serves as the focal point for all campus veteran resources, including academic advising, orientation and transition programming, personal and rehabilitative support services, and assistance with veteran educational benefits and certification, and

WHEREAS, the Florida State University College of Medicine's statewide clinical research network, which strives to improve health care outcomes across the state, includes more than 1,900 Florida physicians and 3 million patients, and many of the college's graduates practicing in Florida provide primary care services, including in underserved and needy communities, and

WHEREAS, through its longstanding tradition of promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity, the outstanding academic achievements of its students, the invaluable contributions made by its award-winning faculty, and the remarkable accomplishments of its alumni, Florida State University has distinguished itself as an outstanding institution of higher education, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That February 7, 2012, is designated as "F.S.U. Day" in the State of Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Eric Barron, President of Florida State University, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

—was read and adopted by publication pursuant to Rule 10.17.

### Excused

Rep. Fullwood until 4:08 p.m.; Reps. Kreegel, Sands

### Adjourned

Pursuant to the motion previously agreed to, the House adjourned at 4:21 p.m., to reconvene at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, February 8, 2012, or upon call of the Chair.

## CHAMBER ACTIONS ON BILLS

Friday, February 3, 2012

HB	103 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 115, NAYS 0	HB	4087 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 118, NAYS 0
CS/CS/HB	245 — Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 66, NAYS 48	HB	4091 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 118, NAYS 0
CS/HB	387 — Read 3rd time; CS passed; YEAS 115, NAYS 0	HB	4101 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 117, NAYS 0
CS/HB	483 — Read 3rd time; CS passed; YEAS 116, NAYS 0	HB	4141 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 111, NAYS 5
CS/HB	517 — Read 3rd time; Amendment 769789 adopted; Amendment 791331 adopted; Amendment 769059 adopted; CS passed as amended; YEAS 90, NAYS 26	HB	4143 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 107, NAYS 10
HB	693 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 116, NAYS 0	HB	4145 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 118, NAYS 0
CS for SB	1174 — Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 80, NAYS 37	HB	4149 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 116, NAYS 0
CS/SJR	1176 — Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 80, NAYS 37	HB	4187 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 118, NAYS 0
HB	4055 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 81, NAYS 35	HB	4189 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 117, NAYS 1
HB	4059 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 95, NAYS 21	HB	7013 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 117, NAYS 0
HB	4061 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 114, NAYS 1	CS/HB	7023 — Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 95, NAYS 19
HB	4079 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 117, NAYS 0	CS/HB	7027 — Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 116, NAYS 0
		HB	7051 — Read 3rd time; Passed; YEAS 118, NAYS 0

**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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