



THE FLORIDA SENATE

COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators
From: Ray Rodrigues
Subject: Reapportionment Update for Week #1
Date: January 5, 2022

As we prepare to return to Tallahassee next week, I wanted to further outline the process you can expect in the Senate Committee on Reapportionment and its select subcommittees during the first week of the legislative session.

Timeline

As you are aware, I filed two placeholder bills, SJR 100 – Joint Resolution of Apportionment and SB 102 – Establishing the Congressional Districts of the State, which will ultimately be the vehicles by which the State Senate and Congressional maps approved by the Committee on Reapportionment advance to the Senate floor.

Monday, January 10 – Select Subcommittees on Congressional and State Legislative Reapportionment

On Monday, January 10, both select subcommittees will meet to further review and workshop staff-produced maps, to offer feedback, and to hear additional public testimony before finalizing their recommendations.

As you are aware, based on directives unanimously issued during a public hearing on October 18, followed by feedback and guidance provided by Senators on our select subcommittees during public hearings on November 16, 17, and 29, so far professional staff have produced and presented a total of eight draft congressional maps, and eight draft senate maps. Staff were subsequently directed to continue their work to look for improvements and consistency in the application of the various trade-offs presented in the maps. As a result, four additional senate

maps and four additional congressional maps have now been posted to the joint website, and will be presented in select subcommittees on Monday.

Thursday, January 13 – Committee on Reapportionment

SJR 100 and SB 102 will be listed on the agenda for Thursday's meeting of the Committee on Reapportionment and available for amendment.

Following Monday's select subcommittee meetings, I will review the recommendations and offer my amendments to SJR 100 and SB 102 for review, discussion, and consideration by the full committee on Thursday, January 13. Committee members may also file amendments.

The Committee will take up any timely filed amendments, questions, debate, and public testimony on both the state senate and congressional maps. The congressional map will be considered first, before moving on to consideration of the Senate map.

As you are aware, in the maps produced by our committee staff, districts were numbered to be roughly analogous to their predecessor districts. For the congressional map, I will recommend that we leave the numbers as they are.

For the Senate map, I will propose to the committee that we follow the Supreme Court's precedent by numbering districts in an incumbent neutral manner. The Court has accepted a random-numbering process as compliant with its precedent. Accordingly, once we have concluded our consideration on the geographical makeup of the Senate map, we will randomly number the Senate map.

I have extensively reviewed both the tactile method utilized during the initial remedial phase of 2012 redistricting and the computerized method used during the later portion of the remedial phase. While both are an appropriate means to the same end, I believe a tactile method is more transparent than a single button pushed to create computer-generated results. As such, I have asked staff to prepare a tactile method for random assignment of odd/even district numbers to each Senate district at the Committee meeting on January 13.

After the random numbering has been completed, we will have an informal recess so that committee staff can prepare an amendment overlay of the new district numbers on the finalized map. From a process standpoint, the numbering overlay will take the form of a late-filed amendment. Please be prepared for a recess of approximately one hour before the Committee's final procedural votes on the Senate map as randomly renumbered.

Amendments

As I stated last month, Senators need to finalize and submit any maps they wish to offer. Any alterations that are proposed should adhere to the constitutional principles and apply them consistently throughout the state. Therefore, amendments must be drafted and presented as a

complete map and should be accompanied by the Redistricting Map Submission form available [here](#).

As a reminder, in September, you were each provided with an account that enables you to draw and review maps using the Legislature's joint redistricting software. Should you require any assistance, professional staff are available to help with drafting maps that reflect any amendments you would like to make. Due to the highly technical nature and complex legal requirements, drafting maps can take a considerable amount of time. As such, I am requesting that any Senators in need of assistance reach out to staff as soon as possible to ensure ample time for staff to address your request, draft your map, and post it to the website for review prior to the next committee meeting. I would respectfully ask Senators to follow the example set by committee staff in preparing and publishing their proposed amendments well before the amendment deadline of January 12th to ensure that our colleagues and the public have ample time to review them before the committee meets.

Public Submissions, Testimony, and Comments

Members of the public have been and continue to submit plans and comments to floridaredistricting.gov. If you are interested in reviewing public submissions and comments, these plans can be viewed on the "Submitted Plans" and "Get Involved" pages of the website.

As previously communicated, if you have solicited virtual public testimony from your constituents and wish all or portions of such testimony to be considered by the committee, you must submit the recording of the virtual testimony and the required appearance forms to the committee.

Insulation from Partisan Interests

Senators should continue to insulate themselves from partisan organizations and other interests that may intentionally or unintentionally attempt to inappropriately influence the redistricting process.

Record Retention

Senators should continue to adhere to the records retention policy as directed by Art. I, s. 24 of the Florida Constitution, s. 11.0431, F.S., and Senate Rule 1.48. Senators and staff should also be mindful that correspondence, emails, texts, and other electronic communications related to the enactment of new districts, whether sent or received on official Senate accounts or devices or personal email accounts or devices, may be of permanent or archival value and those records should be preserved accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to these important updates. I look forward to seeing you next week.