

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TALLAHASSEE DIVISION**

COMMON CAUSE FLORIDA, et al.,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

Case No. 4:22-cv-109-AW/MAF

CORD BYRD, in his official capacity as  
Florida Secretary of State, et al.,

*Defendants.*

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**DECLARATION OF RYAN D. NEWMAN**

I, Ryan D. Newman, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and otherwise competent to sign this declaration.

2. I currently serve as the General Counsel to the Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis. I was serving as General Counsel in 2022 when the Legislature debated and enacted the current congressional plan, which Governor DeSantis signed into law.

3. As General Counsel, I hereby invoke the legislative privilege, attorney-client privilege, and any other applicable privileges for myself and on behalf of Governor DeSantis and the Executive Office of the Governor. In making this

declaration, I do not intend to waive any privileges, nor could I waive any such privileges held by Governor DeSantis or others. I will also adhere to my duty of confidentiality.

4. The General Counsel position is an attorney position formally housed within the Executive Office of the Governor.

5. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Florida.

6. In my role as General Counsel, I oversee the Office of General Counsel and act as the chief legal advisor to the Governor and his executive staff. I counsel the Governor on various legal issues that arise in the day-to-day operation and management of the Executive Branch. This includes advising the Governor about the legality of legislation. My office represents, or oversees the representation of, the Governor in suits where he is named in his official capacity. I also advise the Governor on clemency issues, function as the Chief Ethics Officer, assist the Governor with judicial and other appointments, and serve as the liaison to the general counsels of state agencies.

7. In my capacity as General Counsel, I was involved in matters relating to the enacted congressional plan.

8. Without waiving any applicable legislative, attorney-client, or other privileges, and without transgressing my duty of confidentiality, my involvement included advising the Governor and his staff on the legality of draft legislation. I viewed my role as helping ensure that any legislation complied with applicable legal requirements under state and federal law.

9. The memorandum regarding the lawfulness of Congressional District 5's configuration, dated March 29, 2022, is publicly available.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 2, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Newman", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan D. Newman  
General Counsel  
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis