

Congressional Redistricting Day of Action Talking Points

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Talking Points:

Summary:

- 1) DeSantis' rejection of the Florida Legislature drawn political maps is a direct attack on Black representation in our democracy.
- 2) DeSantis' attack on Black representation is driven by his ambition to be President.
- 3) The Florida Legislature must stand up to DeSantis' bullying, uphold the voter-approved Fair Districts Amendments in our state constitution, and reject political games and partisanship in drawing Florida's new congressional districts.

• Overview

- This week's special session has been manipulated by the Governor to support his **national political ambitions**. **Bullying** our elected representatives who fear the governor's vetoes of budget items and endorsements of opponents, the Governor has leveraged Tallahassee politicians into agreeing to a congressional district map that they know **unconstitutionally favors the Republican Party and erases opportunities for Black voters to elect representatives** that will fight for all of us in Washington.
- By bulldozing himself into the redistricting process, the Governor is showing complete **disrespect for the supermajority of Floridians** who voted for the FairDistricts Amendments. He wants to take us back to a time when **rigging districts for political gain and running roughshod over minority voters** were permitted in Florida.
- **Governor DeSantis wants Florida to be a totalitarian state ruled by one man – himself.** Legislators and their leaders know the congressional map the governor wants violates the state constitution. Yet, by agreeing to it, they are **violating their oath to uphold the constitution in order to avoid his wrath.**

• Key messages

- **Attack:** This is a direct attack on democracy and on Black representation. Under the Governor's congressional district plan, **the number of Black held seats in Florida would be slashed in half. And where our statewide elections are decided by fractions of a percent, the governor's plan rigs the 28 districts so that 20 of them would elect Republicans and only 8 would give Democrats a chance.** Our constitution prohibits this sort of district drawing. We cannot allow this manipulation to happen. **We must stand up for fairness, for our democracy and for our Black communities.** We all deserve to have our voices heard on issues that directly affect us.
- **Ambition:** Governor Ron DeSantis' attack on democracy and on Black representation is driven by his ambition to be president. The Governor's plan is a transparent attempt to gain favor with his national party bosses who want to pick up more Republican seats in Congress without regard for fairness. He is **manipulating district lines to favor himself and his party** and is ignoring what's best for the people he was elected to serve.
- **Bullying:** We want to see the Florida Legislature stand up to Governor Ron DeSantis' bullying, uphold the voter-approved Fair Districts Amendments in our state constitution, and reject his partisanship and personal ambition in drawing Florida's new Congressional districts. We voted in 2010 to outlaw this sort of conduct. Floridians are facing a housing crisis with rents going through the roof and skyrocketing property insurance rates, but instead of trying to solve the real issues facing our state, the Governor wants to force the Legislature to pass his unfair and

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unconstitutional Congressional map. The Governor should stop focusing on his own political future outside Florida and instead should concentrate on helping people in need and listening to the voices of our communities. And the legislature should demand nothing less.

- **Deceit:** Throughout the redistricting process both houses of the Legislature consistently said they were following the constitution in drawing the maps. The governor's map, that the legislature is poised to approve, violates the constitution by drawing districts to favor the Republican party and diminishing the ability of Black voters to elect representatives of their choice