

**House State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee
September 23, 2021**

Transcript of excerpt of video recording available at:
<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-23-21-house-state-legislative-redistricting-subcommittee/>

EXHIBIT

J59

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 Rep. Byrd: The State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee will come to order. DJ,
2 please call the roll.

3 DJ: Cord Byrd?

4 Rep. Byrd: Here.

5 DJ: Vice Chair Robinson?

6 Rep. Robinson: Here.

7 DJ: Ranking member Daley?

8 Rep. Daley: Here.

9 DJ: Representative Daley?

10 Rep. Daley: Here.

11 DJ: Representatives Arrington?

12 Rep. Arrington: Here.

13 DJ: Barnaby?

14 Rep. Barnaby: Here.

15 DJ: Bell?

16 Rep. Bell: Here.

17 DJ: Brannan?

18 Rep. Brannan: Here.

19 DJ: Chambliss? Chambliss? Garrison?

20 Rep. Garrison: Here.

21 DJ: Hart?

22 Rep. Hart: Here.

23 DJ: Hawkins has been excused. Maney?

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 Rep. Maney: Here.

2 DJ: McClain?

3 Rep. McClain: Here.

4 DJ: Melo?

5 Rep. Melo: Here.

6 DJ: Mooney?

7 Rep. Mooney: Here.

8 DJ: Persons-Mulicka?

9 Rep. Persons-Mulicka: Here.

10 DJ: Salzman?

11 Rep. Salzman: Here.

12 DJ: Snyder?

13 Rep. Snyder: Here.

14 DJ: Tant has been excused. Valdés?

15 Rep. Valdés: Good morning, present.

16 DJ: Woodson?

17 Rep. Woodson: Here.

18 DJ: Quorum is present, Mr. Chair.

19 Rep. Byrd: Thank you DJ and members welcome on this fine Thursday morning, and a
20 few reminders before begin. Please silence all electronic devices. For any members of the public
21 wishing to make public comment and that did not fill out a form online before the meeting,
22 please fill out a form and turn into the sergeant's staff. Also as a reminder for our members and
23 presenters, please ensure that you turn microphone on when you are speaking and off when you

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 are finished.

2 Members, redistricting is a once in a decade process. I'm honored that Speaker Sprowls
3 and Chair Leek have entrusted with me the responsibility to serve as Chairman of the State
4 Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee, and I look forward to working with each of you
5 throughout this process. I would first and foremost like to introduce Vice Chair Robinson and
6 Ranking Member Daley, who will be my partners in spearheading this process. I would now like
7 to introduce the redistricting staff. Our staff director is Leda Kelly. Policy analyst is Sam Wagner
8 and DJ Ellerkamp is our administrative assistant. Additional team members who are currently in
9 other subcommittee meetings include Jason Poreda, our chief map drawer; Karen Dearden,
10 external affairs chief; and Kyle Langan, policy analyst. As you look around at your fellow
11 committee members and those of the Redistricting Committee and our other subcommittee,
12 you'll realize we have over 50% of the House, 62 members in total involved in this committee
13 process. We also have all corners of the state represented, all the way from the Panhandle to
14 Northeast Florida to the I-4 Corridor to South Florida and the Keys, with urban and rural areas
15 represented.

16 Members, Chair Leek gave a similar educational presentation at yesterday's big
17 Redistricting Committee. I will be presenting some similar information today as we feel it is
18 important to ensure that all of our committees have the same foundational knowledge as we
19 move forward in this process. Education is a key to the success of this committee. The last time
20 we met on the House map was in 2012. Fast forward 10 years and the vast majority of the House
21 is new to redistricting including myself, so I want to start by giving some context. While the
22 House map was constitutionally upheld in 2012, there were successful court challenges to both
23 the congressional and Senate plans throughout the subsequent years. It is important to remember

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 that during the 2012 redistricting cycle, the members and staff were implementing two brand
2 new substantial constitutional amendments. They did not have the benefit of historical reference
3 or court precedents to guide them through their process; however, now we do. The Speaker and
4 Chair Leek have made it consistently and abundantly clear that the House will conduct this
5 process in compliance with the Florida constitution and relevant state and federal legal standards,
6 including relevant court precedent.

7 Now I want to point out only five members in our entire chamber were part of the last
8 redistricting cycle and only three of them were in the House. That creates a noteworthy
9 responsibility for our committees to undertake a thorough educational effort to ensure that
10 everyone has the understanding they need to be able to propose, analyze, and most importantly,
11 vote on legally complaint boundaries. Throughout our initial committee meetings this fall, we are
12 going to build this foundational knowledge for members of the committees, including such
13 things as the methodologies that guide how we can draw and analyze districts, and the related
14 policy decisions that we will face as we draw and debate boundary lines. The committee's first
15 lesson begins today with the explanation of redistricting terminology and an overview of the U.S.
16 Census Bureau. We will also demonstrate for you the newly launched, so just yesterday
17 afternoon, www.floridaredistricting.gov website that contains resources for you and your
18 constituents. In subsequent committee weeks, we will train members in our map drawing
19 software. This training will teach members how to use the software to draw districts, how to use
20 the reporting tools to analyze what you drew, and how to activate advanced tools within the
21 software to make as efficient as possible. We will also provide members with an understanding
22 of the legal landscape surrounding redistricting. This landscape will be true to established law,
23 not third-party interpretation, and then, once that foundational understanding is established

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 across our committees, we will begin workshopping maps. It is crucial for members to
2 understand how these activities and decision points may interact with one another and how they
3 should be weighted when considering where boundary lines were placed. Without the proper
4 context for members to understand the issues and standards, we are not properly preparing
5 ourselves to take votes on compliant district lines. Redistricting is a precise and technical
6 process, and creating this framework is also consistent with Speaker Sprowls' approach of
7 education, training, and preparation.

8 Before we get into the substance of today's meeting, I want to address a couple of
9 additional items. First, let's address records retention. The House continues to urge all members
10 to retain all records relating to redistricting. These records can include documents and
11 correspondence including emails and texts, regardless of whether sent or received on your public
12 or personal devices or accounts. The House also continues to urge all members to avoid private
13 conversations about redistricting with individuals who have a vested interest in the outcome of
14 that process and to keep their comments about the redistricting process in alignment with
15 constitutional standards that apply to redistricting plans. If you have questions regard this
16 guidance, please reach out to the House General Counsel's Office.

17 Next, I want to address committee procedures. While the redistricting subject matter may
18 be new to many of you, the filing of bills and amendments will follow traditional House
19 processes we are all familiar with. If you wish to submit a map as a bill, it will count towards
20 your bill allotment, and you are subject to submission and filing deadlines. If you wish to amend
21 a committee work product or other member's bill, those amendments will be heard through the
22 standard committee process and are subject to the same respective deadlines. As members of our
23 subcommittee, we will propose and analyze maps in our committee jurisdiction and then pass

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 maps to the big Redistricting Committee for consideration.

2 Members, the last thing I will touch is expectations for map submissions. As I've
3 mentioned, the House expects transparency in how input for our product is received, reviewed,
4 and considered. You should not be naive to the fact that external entities and individuals want to
5 influence this process in a way that may not be in compliance with the law. Similar to the
6 House's high standards for lobbyists' disclosures, the goal of transparency is to bring awareness
7 to the process of individuals who may be trying to assert their undue influence into our process.
8 If you chose to submit a map as part of this redistricting process, you should be prepared to
9 disclose any and all individuals who assisted you in creating the map. Similarly, submissions by
10 members of the public will be accompanied by a form inquiring about groups or individuals with
11 whom they collaborated and whether any form of compensation was received and returned for
12 comments or submissions.

13 The work we have ahead of us is exciting, but we cannot overlook the gravity of what we
14 are charged to do. It is quite the undertaking. This important work only occurs every 10 years
15 and it worth noting, the Legislature has only two constitutional requirements: to pass a balanced
16 budget and to redistrict, and we should all be honored to carry out this responsibility. I look
17 forward to working with all of you to produce legally complaint maps that will serve the people
18 of Florida.

19 Before we begin today's presentation, are there any initial questions on what I've already
20 covered? All right, seeing none. We will now launch into 2022 redistricting and U.S. Census
21 Bureau overview. Today has four topics on the agenda: Redistricting Overview, U.S. Census
22 Bureau Overview, Florida Population Overview, and a demonstration of the website. And
23 members just so you know what I'm gonna – I think the way we'll proceed is as we conclude

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 each of the four times on the agenda, we'll take questions at that time, so if you have any
2 question, we'll take them after 1, 2, 3 and 4. Members, what we're covering today are the initial
3 foundations for everything that we will discuss in this committee. During today's presentation,
4 we're going to cover some of the basic terminology you'll hear repeatedly over the next several
5 months, provide everyone background on the U.S. Census Bureau's role in the redistricting
6 process, including where our data comes from, discuss the results of the 2020 census, and what
7 Florida looks like today as well as be able to show you our very recently debuted redistricting
8 website.

9 What is redistricting? Why are we doing it now and what are we required to do?
10 Terminology: To reapportionment and redistricting are different. Reapportionment is the
11 redistribution of seats in the U.S. House of Representative among the 50 states, based on the
12 decennial census. Each state gets at least one seat. Redistricting is the redrawing of congressional
13 and state legislative districts boundaries, usually after a decennial census. Other entities can
14 redistrict such as local governments, courts, and school boards. The two terms are commonly
15 used interchangeably but there is an important distinction.

16 Federal Law: Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution states: The times, places, and
17 manner of holding elections for senators and representative shall be prescribed in each state by
18 the legislature thereof. The relevant portion of the 14th Amendment states that one person, one
19 vote. And Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act states: no voting qualification or prerequisite to
20 voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied in a manner which results
21 in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of
22 race or color.

23 Florida law: Article III, Section 16 of the Florida Constitution states the following: It

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 directs the Legislature at its regular session in the second year following each decennial census,
2 in this case 2022, to conduct redistricting of state legislative boundaries. It identifies that the
3 Senate must be comprised of 30 to 40 senatorial districts, 80 to 120 representative districts.
4 Districts shall be contiguous and consecutively numbered and provides directives and timelines
5 for establishing new districts. This section of law that establishes the overall timeline and gives
6 authority for legislative redistricting in Florida to the Legislature, it also has some very basic
7 standards we must follow. The Florida Constitution does not dictate a timeline for redistricting
8 congressional boundaries. As a matter of tradition and efficiency, the Legislature undertakes both
9 state legislative and congressional redistricting at the same time. State legislative boundaries are
10 passed as joint resolution. Congressional boundaries are passed as a bill. This means
11 congressional maps go directly to the governor for signature like any other bill, whereas House
12 and Senate maps may undergo a Florida Supreme Court review. We'll discuss this process
13 further in a few slides.

14 This slide and the next one, I want to pause on for a minute. Article III, Section 20 and 21
15 were added to the Constitution, that's the Florida Constitution, in 2010, and the bottom line is
16 these are a part of the Florida Constitution. And like with any other part of the Constitution, we
17 have taken an oath to follow them. I want this committee to be fully engaged, aware, and
18 educated. It is important to understand not only redistricting at a conceptual level, but the context
19 of the legal guideposts such as our constitutional standards that we must follow as well. With our
20 first couple of interim committee meetings, we will thoroughly examine these standards. This
21 decade, we have the added benefit of history and court precedent, something the prior decade's
22 members and staff did not. So we have a better understanding than the Legislature did 10 years
23 ago as to how we should implement these amendments.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 So let's take a first look. The Florida Supreme Court has made it clear that these
2 standards have two distinct tiers. Tier One prohibits favoring or disfavoring any political party or
3 incumbent. Tier One also protects racial and language minority groups' ability to elect
4 candidates of their choice, using language to similar to what is in Section 5 of the Voting Rights
5 Act. Tier Two standards: must be nearly as equal in population as practicable, be compact, and
6 follow existing geographical boundaries. As was mentioned on the previous slide, Tier One
7 standards take priority over Tier Two standards in case of conflict. Within each tier, the
8 standards are equal amongst one another.

9 These are other Florida statutes that are relevant to this process. Article III, Section 16 of
10 the Florida Constitution also states reapportionment shall occur following a decennial census,
11 with the implication being the data should be used as most updated.

12 Next the redistricting timeline. What is shown here are important dates for what is
13 already happened in this process where we are now, and the important dates of what is to come
14 in the future. As you can see, we are still in the middle of this process and the bulk of our work is
15 just beginning. Members, what I'm going to ask you to do instead of reading each of the
16 timelines that are indicated on the slide, instead of reading each of those individually, I'll have
17 you take note of when start session on January 11th and when we conclude on sine die and the
18 various time requirements we have in completing the redistricting process.

19 Because Article III, Section 16 of the Florida Constitution states that Florida will approve
20 new districts in the second year after the decennial census, we are still on track to complete this
21 process on time and on schedule. Members, at this time we will take our first pause for questions
22 from the committee members. Are there any questions? Seeing none, we will now continue to
23 Section 2, U.S. Census Bureau.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 In this next section, we'll look at the role of the U.S. Census Bureau plays in this process.
2 The U.S. Census Bureau is charged with conducting the decennial census with the mission
3 statement for the Bureau, "Count everyone once, only once, and in the right place for the
4 decennial census." Decennial census means the enumeration or complete count of every whole
5 person, which is conducted every 10 years. Apportionment counts, the number of seats each of
6 the 50 states receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Redistricting data, this is the P.L.
7 data, referring to Public Law 94-171, which directs the Bureau to deliver to the states the product
8 that contains summary statistics on population, demographics, and housing. Population counts
9 for the total population and for the population 18 years and over are presented by race and by
10 Hispanic or Latino origin, and for the total group quarters population by major group quarters
11 type. We will specifically explore this item further in a couple of slides.

12 Relevant federal law. Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution states – this is the section
13 that requires the decennial census be conducted and that the count of whole persons be an actual
14 enumeration of those people. This means an actual count of every person. Title 13 establishes the
15 U.S. Census Bureau as the agency that is to conduct the decennial census and requires them to
16 provide the data accurately and in a manner that protects the privacy of those being counted.
17 Public Law 94-171 directs the Bureau to deliver to the states the product that contains summary
18 statistics on population, demographics, and housing. Population counts for the total population,
19 and of the population 18 years and over, are presented by race and by Hispanic or Latino origin
20 and for the total group quarters population by major group quarters and type.

21 Alright, how does the U.S. Census Bureau conduct the census? This is a sample image of
22 the 2020 census form that was mailed out at the beginning of 2020. You'll note on the slide that
23 the first census was conduct in 1790 and is conducted every 10 years. The decennial census is the

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 basis for apportionment counts, the federal funding allocation and redistricting. The 2020 census
2 is the 24th decennial census and first ever to be offered online. 2020 presented unique challenges
3 to us all and the U.S. Census Bureau was no exception. You can see here that the whole process
4 to conduct and tabulating the census results were delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19, wildfires,
5 hurricanes, and other factors. I'm not going to walk through every item of this graphic, but we
6 included it to illustrate the timeline challenges the Census Bureau faced last year. Their
7 challenges resulted in the delay of the states receiving apportionment counts and redistricting
8 data, and while that is unfortunate, these delays did not delay our timeline here in Florida. We
9 are still on track and on schedule to complete our redistricting process during the next regular
10 session, which is what our Constitution instructs us to do, despite these delays by the U.S.
11 Census Bureau.

12 Florida's total enumeration was consistent with the national average with 99.9% of the
13 total households for which the Census Bureau has a record for were counted in the 2020 census.
14 As we also saw in the last slide, there are two main phases of data collection during a census,
15 self-response rate and nonresponse follow-up. Self-response is an individual completing the
16 census questionnaire on their own whether by mail, phone, or online. Nonresponse follow-up is
17 the Census Bureau going back into the communities and using administrative records to help
18 complete the outstanding questionnaires. You'll sometimes hear this later process referred to as
19 imputation. What is reassuring is that Florida's total enumeration was 99.9% and this means that
20 the count here in Florida was in line with the national average's completeness. The self-response
21 rate and nonresponse follow-up rates in Florida were consistent with other states and with the
22 overall national average.

23 Next slide is apportionment counts. As we discussed before, Florida will be getting 28

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 congressional districts, one more than Florida had in 2010. This slide also shows you the ideal
2 population for each district within each different type of map. For example, the ideal population
3 is calculated by taking the 2020 population divided by the number of districts in a respective
4 plan. These numbers are guideposts for our districts as we begin drawing maps.

5 So now that we've talked about the Census Bureau's process, let's discuss the types of
6 Census Bureau data we use specifically for redistricting. P.L. 94-171 redistricting data is a
7 detailed population data set and the basis for us to analyze and draw district boundaries. The
8 geography supports products details the geographical landscape of Florida. The two buckets of
9 data and products work together to enable our redistricting process. P.L. 94-171 redistricting data
10 or P.L. data for short is broken down in the different census geography layers, the smallest being
11 called blocks. This is detailed population data that is grouped by total population, voting-age
12 population, and is then grouped by race and ethnic groups. The data set also contains group
13 quarters data. While this data is provided as part of the redistricting data, it has minimal
14 involvement with the redistricting process; however, demographers and statisticians use this data
15 for other analysis. The same data was delivered in a legacy format on August 12th and the same
16 data was then again delivered officially in a more user-friendly format last week on September
17 16th.

18 The census questionnaire asks a variety of questions; however, there are two that are
19 specifically important for redistricting purposes. The first is question 8, shown on the screen,
20 which asks respondents to identify their ethnicity. This results in two categories, Hispanic or
21 Latino and not Hispanics or Latino. Question 9 as shown asks a respondent to identify their race,
22 resulting in 6 categories. Those categories are American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black
23 or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, White, or Other Race. If you

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 look closely at the census questionnaire, you can see how the Census Bureau has provided some
2 examples of what is contained within each of those racial categories. If a respondent selects
3 multiple categories, using guidance from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, they are
4 counted in each racial category as they selected. You will see these categories again from
5 questions 8 and 9 as we go through the software and understand the legal requirements,
6 especially surrounding protecting benchmark minority districts.

7 Geography support products. Now that we've talked about the population data collected
8 and how people can identify themselves, let's talk about geography. The geography support
9 products are produced by the Census Bureau and essentially break down the landscape of Florida
10 into different graphical units. These units are then used to draw districts. Census blocks are the
11 smallest unit of geography defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. They range in size from
12 individual parcels of land to city blocks to larger areas. Regardless of geographic size or
13 population, they serve as the building blocks for all other units of geography. We'll take a closer
14 look at this as this committee through the map drawing application, you will be able to see
15 firsthand how these units of geography and the associated population counts give us a detailed
16 picture of Florida's population. Before moving on, do we want any questions on where we are so
17 far? Alright.

18 Next, Florida population's overview. Now that we've covered a lot of the terminology
19 and baseline details, let's actually take a look at some of Florida's topline results from the 2020
20 census. Here you can see Florida's 67 counties and which ones grew in population. The darker
21 the green indicates a greater percentage of change. The dark green doesn't mean they're the
22 largest counties. It means they had the largest percentage of change. The light-colored counties
23 lost population when compared to the 2012 population counties. The counties with the biggest

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 increases were mostly in the Central Florida area. Many of the more rural counties in Florida lost
2 population, which was consistent with national trends.

3 The next slide shows the counties with over 20% growth that we saw on the previous
4 slide. Those would include Osceola, St. Johns, Sumter, Walton, Lake, Orange, Santa Rosa,
5 Manatee, Lee, Pasco, Flagler, and Polk. The next slide contains counties that lost population that
6 we saw on the previous slides. Those are Gulf, Hardee, Lafayette, Calhoun, Madison, Glades,
7 Gadsden, Hamilton, Jackson, Liberty, Taylor, DeSoto, Jefferson, Putnam, Holmes, Okeechobee,
8 and Bradford. The next slide contains Florida's top 10 largest counties. These are the top 10
9 largest counties. They are the same 10 counties as in 2010; however, Duval overtook Pinellas for
10 the number 6 spot this last decade and so, the top 10 largest counties are Miami-Dade, Broward,
11 Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Orange, Duval, Pinellas, Lee, Polk, and Brevard. These are the
12 smallest counties in the state and they also are comprised of the same 10 counties as in 2020:
13 Liberty, Lafayette, Glades, Franklin, Calhoun, Hamilton, Gulf, Jefferson, Union, and Dixie.

14 The Florida municipalities. As of April 1, 2020, Florida has 412 incorporated
15 municipalities, compared to the 411 in the last decade. During the decade, Estero, Indiantown,
16 and Westlake became incorporated. Hastings and Islandia became unincorporated. Although
17 currently unincorporated, Weeki Wachee was still an incorporated area in January 2020 when the
18 U.S. Census Bureau finalized their geography support products, as well as on April 1, 2020 when
19 the 2020 census was conducted. Therefore, it appears in this decade's census data set as an
20 incorporated city. This slide shows the 10 largest cities in Florida. This decade, Cape Coral
21 jumps into the top 10 after being ranked 11th in 2020. So our largest municipalities are
22 Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Hialeah, Port St. Lucie, Tallahassee, Cape
23 Coral, and Fort Lauderdale.

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 This is a similar slide to the county slide that shows how each House district changed in
2 population, the darker green indicates larger percentage growth. Again, seeing notable growth
3 depicted along the I-4 corridor. Florida Senate districts. Moving onto the State Senate graphic,
4 similar patterns as the State House slide, but obviously at a less granular level, and once again
5 we see the growth throughout the I-4 corridor. Florida congressional districts. Once again, you
6 can see the darker green is the areas of growth. The lighter areas of depopulation. Once again,
7 we're gonna pause for any questions at this time. Any questions? Everybody's lively on a
8 Thursday morning. Everybody's ready to get home. Alright.

9 Now we are going to go the redistricting website demonstration and for that I am going to
10 turn it over to our staff director, Leda Kelly. Leda, take it away.

11 Ms. Kelly: Thank you Mr. Chair. DJ's gonna assist me with this, so while she flips over
12 to our website, we are very excited. Yesterday we were able to launch a joint House and Senate
13 product. We have a public website available as well as our public map drawing application. The
14 Florida House and the Florida Senate elected to use Esri Redistricting Online Application for the
15 2022 redistricting cycle. This application is web-based, which means you don't have to have any
16 software downloaded onto your computer or tablet. It's accessible from anywhere by anyone,
17 and it uses the latest census data so that everyone has the most updated data and the most
18 updated technology to draw maps as we go throughout this process.

19 Here, as you can see up on this screen, is our homepage for floridaredistricting.gov. We
20 have a little intro note here and DJ if you'd scroll down to the bottom of the screen. What's
21 really great about this website is we have a lot of interactivity. So DJ if you'd click on that blue
22 Explore button. The maps that are shown here on the homepage are similar to what Chair Byrd
23 just walked through. They're House, Senate, congressional maps as well as counties and cities,

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 and DJ if you'd just click on a district there, any district. Whenever you click on it, it actually
2 pulls up the current numbers associated with that district, the ideal population, the total
3 population that it currently sits at, and the difference between those numbers. So again, trying to
4 make this information very readily accessible for folks.

5 DJ let's move on to the About tab. So here's some more, just some of the information we
6 just walked through with committee, in this committee. We wanted to make sure everyone has a
7 foundational knowledge what Florida's charged to do. Every state has very unique requirements
8 for redistricting as well as their timeline and so we wanted to make this accessible. You saw at
9 the top, the population chart that we walked through as well as some of the legal references for
10 the Voting Rights Act, as well as obviously our Florida constitutional standards. DJ as you
11 continue to scroll down the page, we also included similar graphics that you saw about process
12 and timelines.

13 Let's go to the House Committee page. Obviously this website is external to
14 myfloridahouse.gov, so we wanted to be able to have a way that everyone could still access
15 relevant information to this committee process. So as you can see, DJ scrolling through here, we
16 have our lovely committee leadership displayed on the page, and all of those icons right below
17 them lead back to existing resources on myfloridahouse.gov. Additionally, as you do those drop
18 down menus right below there, they have access to any press release or memos that are put about
19 redistricting as well as accessibility to appear in committee, track bills. Then also find their
20 representatives as well. The bottom section rounds it out with other important calendar dates and
21 overall House procedural dates as well.

22 DJ would you flip over to myfloridahouse.gov right now? So we also wanted to point out,
23 we placed a link to floridaredistricting.gov on the homepage of myfloridahouse.gov. So again, if

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 your constituents or yourselves or your staff find they can't remember the website or looking
2 where to go, we have it prominently displayed there so that they're interlinkable and again trying
3 to make it as user friendly as possible.

4 Go back to Florida Redistricting. Thank you. Let's go the Resources tab please. I'll note
5 the Senate Committee also has a similar page too, to myfloridahouse with their chamber's
6 respective resources. This is a pretty cool feature. This top section right here, we've taken a
7 historical look at the congressional, House, and Senate maps. So DJ, if you'll flip over to that
8 other tab,. Just – you preloaded it. This is what's called the Story Map. And so as you scroll
9 throughout, the map itself actually updates with the districts that were drawn for that respective
10 decade. There's a little synopsis about what new process took place during that decade, and then
11 as you go, you can actually see how the map evolved. We take this all the way back to the 1980
12 redistricting cycle. DJ, you can go back to website.

13 Just continuing to scroll down on this page, Additional Resources, a redistricting
14 glossary. We've gone through several terms today but there are more out there, and you will
15 come to know the one that we've covered today quite well. We also link back to direct Census
16 Bureau products so that those people looking for our source data or source terminology,
17 whatever the case may be, they have easy access to that as well.

18 The Get Involved tab, please. I think this is a tab all of you will become very familiar
19 with. So for constituents and members of the public who are looking to get involved by drawing
20 maps, this is the page you'll direct them to. As you can see here, very prominently displayed,
21 click here to draw and submit maps is where any member of the public can go and create a
22 profile and access our Esri Redistricting Online Application. They can draw, submit map, submit
23 maps to committees through that process. So again, this is a page I'm sure you'll become quite

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 familiar with. Along those lines as you continue to scroll the page, we've included a variety of
2 help tutorials. So, we have a quick start guide here, which is kind of again a fast how do I get
3 started with the software, how do I log in, create a profile, as well as help manual that goes into
4 much more detail, step-by-step functionality of how you use each individual tool within the
5 drawing application. We've also taken and created some of those materials into videos, which do
6 have closed captioning enabled as well.

7 Then DJ just to round it out on the left page. This again, is just a contact us page. Again,
8 this product as well as our software is a joint effort by the House and the Senate, so we have a
9 help@floridaredistricting.gov email address for individuals that are looking for help specifically
10 with software or additional questions that they may have. They can email us and both committee
11 staffs to get back to constituents in a timely manner. Mr. Chair that concludes my presentation.
12 Thank you.

13 Rep. Byrd: So members at this time, the presentation is concluded. Are there any
14 questions about anything that we discussed today? Ranking Member Daley, you're recognized.

15 Rep. Daley: Thanks Mr. Chair. It's not a question. If I may I'd just like to make a few
16 quick remarks and I know that you, Chairman Leek, and the Speaker are honorable and men of
17 your word and with that in mind, I look forward to and as I know we all do, an open and
18 transparent process where we want to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members, as
19 you already know and as the Chairman already touched on, what we're about to do is one of the
20 most important things we do as a body and is actually a pillar of our democracy. So I look
21 forward to working with the Chair and the Committee to draw fair maps that comport with the
22 Florida Constitution. With that, thank you for the presentation, Mr. Chair.

23 Rep. Byrd: Thank you, Ranking Member Daley. Representative Snyder, do you have a

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 question? You're recognized.

2 Rep. Snyder: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about members of the public
3 drawing and submitting maps, can you explain a little bit about what does that mean, where does
4 it go, what is that?

5 Rep. Byrd: Leda, I'm going to ask you to answer that question. Thank you.

6 Ms. Kelly: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you Representative for that question.
7 So members, once they go into the application, they'll have created their profile and constructed
8 whatever map they'd like to share. There's an actual submit button within the application. So,
9 they'll submit that. In turn, that comes to the committee. It actually comes through the joint
10 email account that we have. We get a notification. From there, we work with them to fill out
11 their submission form that accompanies it, and then on the back end, we're actually able to pull
12 that map. So it's an image of the map as well as a what's called a shapefile. It's the actual
13 drawing file for it, and all the associated reports with that map. Those in turn will be posted on a
14 new tab that will be debuting in the future available on the website. So everything that the public
15 submits for map purposes, drawing purposes in the reports will be hosted there in a sortable
16 format so everyone can go and see what the public's posted. Thank you.

17 Rep. Byrd: Representative Woodson, you're recognized.

18 Rep. Woodson: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member. My question has to
19 do with, with us being in the committee, we are going to be bombarded with questions from
20 other people who would want to know are there any specific questions that we are forbidden
21 from answering or not?

22 Rep. Byrd: Leda, I'll let you take that one as well.

23 Ms. Kelly: Thank you, Chair. Thank you Representative. As far as forbidden from

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 answering I'd say no. I think one word of caution that Chair Byrd touched on is being able to
2 make sure that conversations are in alignment with the constitutional standards. I think that
3 especially – the responsibility – the not favor or disfavor political parties or incumbents weighs
4 very heavily as we kind of move forward. So I would keep your conversations in alignment with
5 that but obviously you guys have a responsibility to help and instruct your constituents as well.
6 Thank you.

7 Rep. Woodson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page – where, oh 16 I believe. It's listing
8 nonresponse follow-up which is 36.1% and that's for the Florida average. For the national
9 average is 32.9%, which shows a closeness between the two percentages. Are those the one who
10 were not – did we do a follow-up on those or what was the conclusion based on those people
11 who did not respond, and also do we have anything in there to do better in the next 10 years or
12 put some recommendations on as to how we going to reach those people in order to make sure
13 our response rates is a little bit higher?

14 Ms. Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you Representative. So this is part of the
15 process that the U.S. Census Bureau conducts. So this is outside the scope of this committee or
16 even the Florida Legislature. I do want to put two puzzle pieces together. So the first step of the
17 Census Bureau's collection process is a self-response rate. So this is when they mail out the
18 census questionnaire. As Chair Byrd mentioned this is the first time it was ever offered online
19 and so individuals have the ability to fill out their questionnaire, complete the census online.
20 That's the self-response portion. The Census Bureau then looks at who didn't respond to it, and
21 they say hey, we have to make sure these folks are counted. So they'll sometimes send census
22 takers back into the field or use administrative records to kind of help piece together the puzzle
23 pieces. So when we're looking at that nonresponse follow-up rate, that's in coordination with the

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 self-response follow-up rate. That's what leads us to that 99.9% of Floridians were counted,
2 which is extraordinarily high. Thank you.

3 Rep. Woodson: Right. Yeah, so I was referring to the Florida one being so close
4 compared to the national average. So I wanted to know is there anything in place to address the
5 Florida piece, census response rate. That's what I was talking about.

6 Rep. Byrd: So Representative Woodson, it's the Census Bureau, the federal government
7 that does this, so that's not something that we as the state conduct. They do that. But once again,
8 that 99.9% accuracy, so those people are not being missed and I don't know what the historical
9 nonresponse rate on the first request is. I mean we could probably get that, but I think the
10 takeaway is that 99.9% of the people in Florida at the time the census was taken were included,
11 and we didn't miss anybody, and that follows the national average.

12 Rep. Woodson: Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

13 Rep. Byrd: Representative Chambliss, you're recognized for a question.

14 Rep. Chambliss: Yes, sir thank you. Again as people do present us with different things
15 whether it be email, text, phone, mail and we're maybe unsure of whether or not we should even
16 acknowledge receipt of it, like for example something like ethics with our bills or things like
17 that. Is there an – who should we contact? Who's our clearinghouse before we entertain the
18 conversation, just to make sure that we're safe?

19 Rep. Byrd: Sure, absolutely great question. Once again, records retention is critical, so
20 retain everything that you get. We have an outstanding staff. They are here to serve you if you
21 have any questions on how to respond to any given inquiry. Contact them and they will be more
22 than happy to either help craft your response or help you in how to respond. I know none of us
23 want to ignore a constituent. We also are mindful of the ethical considerations. I don't want to

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 say something incorrect, so that's what staff is here to help you with. Anything else? Alright,
2 Representative Salzman, you're recognized

3 Rep. Salzman: Thank you Mr. Chair. I was just going to follow up on a comment from
4 Representative Woodson. I'm a former census enumerator, and I just was going to say that that
5 percentage of people that where we have to do the follow-up, I would argue that that's the more
6 accurate number than the initial response rate because they actually send people door-to-door to
7 the field and gather that information and verify. So if you have questions about the process, not
8 related to here, but that and I'm happy to answer anybody's questions if they're wondering how
9 that works.

10 Rep Byrd: Thank you Representative Saltzman. I never cease to be amazed at the
11 experience of the members of the Florida House. Thank you for that offer of help. Anyone else
12 with any questions? Anyone else. Alright, now we'll move to public comment and I would
13 remind the public keep comments on the presentation and overview today and please address
14 your questions through the Chair. First we have Jonathan Webber, Florida Conservation Voters,
15 Inc. Mr. Webber, you are recognized.

16 Mr. Webber: Good morning. Thank you so much. My name is Jonathan Webber, I'm the
17 Deputy Director of Florida Conservation Voters. You should be delighted to know that many of
18 your fellow Floridians are excited for the work you have ahead of you. There are many people
19 who are looking forward to meaningful engagement with this process in the weeks and months
20 ahead. We, of course, believe in maximum public participation in their government.
21 Unfortunately, true meaningful engagement is hard when two of their redistricting committees
22 meet at the exact same time. I do respectfully request that you please ask the Speaker or whoever
23 is in charge of setting the committee times, to please schedule the State Leg and Congressional

House Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee - Sep. 23, 2021

1 Redistricting meetings at separate times so that Floridians can fully engage in this process. The
2 people of Florida deserve the opportunity to weigh in on both meetings in real time, and
3 shouldn't have to pick and choose which meeting to attend. Obviously I like you all better cause
4 I picked you guys first, so please don't tell the Congregational members, but I don't want to have
5 to make that choice again. Thank you so much. That's all I have.

6 Rep Byrd: Thank you Mr. Webber and next we Richard Templin, Florida AFL-CIO. I do
7 not see Mr. Templin. He may have gone to the Congressional Redistricting Committee, but we
8 will note his submission of a comment card. Is there anyone else from the public wishing to
9 comment? Alright, seeing none, Mr. Webber once again, thank you for your comments, and
10 members thank you for your questions and input. I hope you found today's materials educational
11 and a solid first step in this journey. A quick housekeeping note regarding the map drawing
12 application that was launched yesterday. Committee staff will be reaching out over the next
13 couple of days to provide you with your preregistered login credentials. I encourage you to take
14 time to explore our new website and familiarize yourself with our map drawing application. And
15 one word on the committee, in the short time that I've gotten to work with them, they are all
16 outstanding, highly educated, knowledgeable individuals on this process. Use them, reach out to
17 them, and there are no bad questions. Make sure that, as this is one of the most important things
18 that you will do in your time in the Legislature, make sure that as you move through this process,
19 that you are fully informed and don't hesitate to utilize the staff that the Speaker has given us.

20 And also keep your eyes open for an email about an upcoming Legislature University for
21 additional training on the map drawing application. For those of you traveling home, safe travels,
22 and thank you. This concludes our committee agenda for today, and a Representative Maney
23 moves we rise. We are concluded.



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