

**Florida Senate Select Subcommittee on
Congressional Reapportionment
November 29, 2021**

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EXHIBIT

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11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 Jennifer Bradley: Alright members, the Select Subcommittee on Congressional
2 Reapportionment will now come to order. Dana, please call the roll.

3 Dana: Chair Bradley.

4 Jennifer Bradley: Here.

5 Dana: Senator Bean.

6 Aaron Bean: Here.

7 Dana: Senator Harrell. Senator Rouson. Senator Stewart. A quorum is present, Madam
8 Chair.

9 Jennifer Bradley: Thank you. Please silence all electronic devices. Anyone wishing to
10 speak before the subcommittee must fill out an appearance card and hand to a member of the
11 sergeant's office. If you select to waive your speaking time, your position will be read into the
12 record. Members, based on the feedback and guidance we gave staff at our last meeting, we have
13 four additional staff-produced maps on the workshop agenda today. Our feedback should
14 continue to conform to the directives issued unanimously by the full committee. You will find a
15 copy of the directives in your meeting materials. Our feedback and guidance to staff should also
16 continue to be consistent with the cautions expressed in the memorandum we received from
17 President Simpson, President-Designate Passidomo, and Leader Book. I would caution members
18 in their questions, feedback, or guidance to staff today to express themselves carefully so that
19 nothing said in this meeting is misperceived that's motivated by any impermissible purpose.

20 At our next meeting in January, I expect we will submit a recommendation which will
21 include a map or set of maps to the full committee. When Chair Rodrigues reconvenes the full
22 committee to consider our recommendations, members may offer amendments. As a reminder,
23 the maps that we will be workshopping today are not final. Any alterations that are proposed,

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 whether as guidance and feedback to the staff or as an amendment offered in the future, should
2 adhere to the constitutional principles and apply them consistently throughout the state. I've been
3 advised by counsel that these additional plans brought forward by staff today comply with the
4 complex layering of federal and state standards and contain various tradeoffs within the co-equal
5 Tier Two standards presented in each plan. I would also remind you that members of the public
6 have been continuing to submit plans and comments to floridaredistricting.gov. If you're
7 interested in reviewing them, these plans can be viewed on the Submitted Plans and Get Involved
8 pages of the website. Are there any questions before we proceed to the presentation? Alright, Mr.
9 Ferrin, you are recognized for a walkthrough of the staff-prepared plans.

10 Jay Ferrin: Thank you Madam Chair. So, since our last meeting we've been working with
11 the drafts that were published on November 10th and presented on November 16th. Specifically,
12 the staff was looking for improvements and consistency in the application of the various trade-
13 offs that were presented in the maps. As with the first set of drafts, we set an ambitious goal to
14 produce the maps several – or, publish the maps several days ahead of the Senate's traditional
15 deadline for publication of meeting materials. And so the maps that we have to workshop today
16 were made publicly available on November 24th. That really meant that we only had about a
17 week or so to look for areas of the map to adjust and improve upon. So we took that time to
18 closely review the district boundaries within each redistricting plan, and discovered that by
19 making some very minor adjustments, we were able to achieve some measurable improvements.
20 Although not visible from space, changes were made to most of the districts in each plan.

21 And you can see on this slide here where we used plan 8002, changed 26 districts, and
22 that became 8018, and so on and so forth. So when we're doing that, we were ensuring that there
23 was consistent boundary usage, and that included placing district boundaries consistently on a

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 median or specific lane of a primary or secondary road, in the middle of a river instead of using
2 one bank or the other, and correcting areas where a boundary inadvertently fell on [inaudible
3 00:03:46] select areas where the population was zeroed out.

4 The next few slides will contain some of these examples. So this is an example of an
5 adjustment that was made along a roadway in Duval County. In all the previous plans, the
6 boundary between Districts 4 and 5 follow different sides of I-95, but on the Fuller Warren
7 Bridge in Jacksonville. It also came off the road a little bit there. And then in the revised plans,
8 we improved on the consistency where the boundary was placed on the roadway and overall the
9 boundary usage increased for both Districts in 4 and 5.

10 This one's a little difficult to see, but in all the previous plans, the westbound lane of US
11 Highway 441 was used as part of the boundary between Districts 20 and 21. The city boundary
12 of Loxahatchee Groves actually crosses this median and ends on the eastbound lane with US
13 Highway 441. It resulted in the City of Loxahatchee Groves being split three times between
14 Districts 18, 20, and 21. When we moved that boundary south to the eastbound lane, all the
15 revised plan took Loxahatchee Groves out of District 21, which is the green district there, and
16 meaning that it remains split but only between Districts 18 and 20. The unpopulated split is
17 removed and the boundary consistently follows the eastbound of US 441, which is also Southern
18 Boulevard.

19 Here's an example of adjusting the boundary along a primary or secondary road to keep
20 another city whole. In all the previous plans that we workshopped a couple weeks ago, the cities
21 of Pembroke Park and West Park were split between Districts 23 and 24. In all of the revised
22 plans that we're workshopped today, the cities of Pembroke and West Park are fully within
23 District 24, and we were able to achieve that by shifting the boundary north to follow the west-

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 bound lane of State Road 824, which is Pembroke Road.

2 Here's another example that involves Districts 20 and 21. In the plans that we
3 workshopped previously, the boundary between Districts 20 and 21 was the canal that ran
4 parallel to the city boundary of Coral Springs and the Sawgrass Expressway. And although it's a
5 waterway, it did not meet our objectively defined criteria as a contiguous water body of greater
6 than ten acres and so, in revising it, we followed the city boundary of Coral Springs, which
7 improves the boundary usage rate for both Districts 20 and 21.

8 This slide shows an example of an adjustment that was made to where the population was
9 balanced down to plus or minus one person. In all the previous plans, District 11 extended south
10 of State Route 50 to pick up 45 people in that little blip there. All the revised plans visibly
11 improved the boundary between Districts 11 and 28 to keep it on State Road 50 and equalize the
12 population in a neighboring area to the east.

13 This is another example of a change that was made to improve the utilization of existing
14 geographic boundaries while balancing population. In all the plans that were previously
15 workshopped, or excuse me, in just two of the plans that were previously workshopped, which
16 were 8002 and 8006, District 1 came off State Road 83 in order to achieve the plus or minus one
17 person deviation. In the revised plans, 8018 and 8022, it visually improved the boundary usage
18 between Districts 1 and 2 while zeroing the population, keeping more of the boundary on State
19 Road 83.

20 This slide shows an example of a change that was made to improve the compactness and
21 utilization of political and geographic boundaries. In all previous plans, the boundary between
22 District 8 and 18 followed State Road 60 east, zeroed the population near Florida Ridge in Indian
23 River County. And in revising this configuration, the boundary now adheres to the Indian River

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 County line and follows more qualifying boundaries, which results in a more visually compact
 2 and improved boundary usage score for Districts 8 and 18.

3 The changes from 8002 to 8018 are shown in this slide. Overall, we see a 2% decrease in
 4 the use of non-political and geographic boundaries, so we go from 11% on the right there down
 5 to 9. The plan also keeps five additional cities whole with all geography and population in one
 6 district, bringing that total count from 351 to 356. We also see here, where we've got the use of
 7 geographic or political and geographic boundaries and particularly the non-political geographic
 8 boundary score, listed for all the districts. So you can see the improvements for the specific
 9 districts, and overall we were able to improve that score for 13 of the 28 districts in the plan.

10 This slide has the similar changes to 8004 and 8020. So here again, we see a 2% decrease
 11 in the use of non-political and geographic boundaries. We go from 9 to 11% – or 11 to 9%. We
 12 keep another five cities whole with all geography and population in one district. So we go from
 13 352 whole cities to 357. And again we see that there was – the district specific statistics for the
 14 use of non-political and geographic boundaries is improved for 13 of the 28 districts here on this
 15 slide.

16 Next, we'll look at the changes overall between plan 8006 and plan 8022. Sure.

17 Jennifer Bradley: Just take a brief pause. Are there any questions? Okay, carry on.

18 Jay Ferrin: Thank you Madam Chair. So 8022 also sees a 1% decrease in the use of non-
 19 political and geographic boundaries, so this one was one in which plan 8006 had a 10% non-
 20 political geographic boundary use, and that's now down to 9 on the average. So we also are able
 21 to keep another five cities whole, which brings the total from 350 to 355.

22 And then this slide also chose the district-specific boundary usage scores for not – the use
 23 of non-political and geographic boundaries. We were able to overall decrease that score for 12

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 districts in plan 8022.

2 This one shows the comparison between 8008 and 8024. We see a 1% decrease again in
3 the use of non-political and geographic boundaries and an additional five cities kept whole, and
4 in this plan that brings the total from 351 to 356.

5 And again, we have the district-specific non-political and geographic boundary usage
6 scores presented here. And once again, we were able to improve that score for 12 of the
7 congressional districts in the plan. Madam Chair, that's what we have.

8 Jennifer Bradley: Thank you for that. Having heard the changes in the new draft plans,
9 are there any questions, any comments, Senator Stewart?

10 Linda Stewart: Thank you Madam Chair. It, visually, looking at the 20 and even the 18,
11 the District 20 sorta has a wrap-around looking thing where the north and the south part have
12 encompassed some, I don't know what those neighborhoods are, but if the explanation is in order
13 to make them – I don't know what would be the explanation of why you would divide them like
14 that. And over there – cause all the rest of 'em look pretty compact. This one there kind of stands
15 out. And then in District 9 you've got that little finger and I don't know what that little finger
16 does, but – in District 9.

17 Jay Ferrin: Senator Stewart, so let's address District 20 first. So in the benchmark plan,
18 District 20 is a majority-minority African American district. So in order to protect against
19 diminishment and retrogression, we redrew that to be over 50% African American voting-age
20 population and so that is a part of the reason why that district is configured the way it is, is in
21 order to get that population it had to be draw in a slightly less-compact manner. But as far as
22 District 9 goes, I think you're talking about the county boundary there. So you're looking at the
23 boundary between Districts 28 and District 9. That is actually the Polk and Osceola County

11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 boundary. So we're following the county boundary the whole way. I believe that it's actually a
2 lake.

3 Linda Stewart: That little finger is a lake?

4 Jay Ferrin: I believe that's the case, yes.

5 Linda Stewart: Okay.

6 Jay Ferrin: And so our intention there was to keep all of Osceola County whole. In order
7 to do that, we had to keep that little finger in there.

8 Linda Stewart: Those were my only two observations, so thank you for the explanation,
9 and I haven't heard any negative feedback on that. It was just my observation, but thank you.

10 Jennifer Bradley: Anything additional? All right, I would encourage – first of all, thank
11 you, staff. In a very short period of time, Mr. Ferrin and your team have done, in a short period
12 of time, it's very meticulous work and I think that it reinforced this process that we're in. It's
13 very – we're going to continue to improve and make refinements to the maps and I think we see
14 that today. To the members on the committee, if there are amendments or if there is a vision you
15 have for a certain part of the state, you don't need to wait until the final map is brought to the full
16 committee. You can begin working with staff and working to let them know what your thoughts
17 are, and let them get started working on that. We don't need to wait. It would be helpful for staff
18 if they had that ability to do that as we go forward through the month of December. So keep that
19 in mind. If there is something that you want to see or area of concern, please get with staff early.
20 They're here for you. They wanna help and they will do that. Senator Harrell.

21 Gayle Harrell: I do have one question, and I know to submit a map, you have to submit a
22 completed map, but if we have specific suggestions, say on that –questions or suggestions on the
23 little finger of the lake, that there was a distortion at least appeared to be. Do we just talk directly

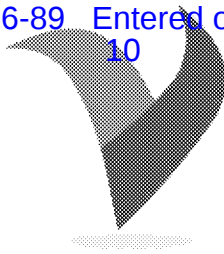
11-29-21 Florida Senate Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment

1 to staff on that and then they might incorporate our particular ideas within a next version? Or do
2 we have to really produce a map and submit the map?

3 Jennifer Bradley: Thank you, Senator Harrell. And yes, I would get with staff. And just a
4 reminder, when you tweak one part of the map with an amendment, it really becomes a new map.
5 So every amendment is itself a new map. So get with staff and they will be more than happy to
6 step you through and help guide you and see your suggestions become a submitted plan or an
7 amendment if that's your desire.

8 Gayle Harrell: Thank you. And I also want to say I'm very pleased to see the effort put
9 into really making sure that we look at cities. I know we – there is real improvement in the cities,
10 although we do know city lines do change. It's good at least to start with what is the existing
11 city. So I'm just very pleased to see some of that as well. Thank you very much. We appreciate
12 it.

13 Jennifer Bradley: Okay. Alright, well members we have extraordinarily far in what has
14 been an extremely condensed amount of time. I believe we are on the right track for success. We
15 have six weeks until our next meeting. I would propose that we have staff consider the feedback
16 and guidance we have given them here today, ask them to consider it through the lens of the
17 overall directives as well as applicable federal and state legal standards. I would also propose
18 that staff continue to spend time looking for improvements and consistency in the application of
19 the various trade-offs presented in the maps. Is there any other business before the committee?
20 Seeing none, Senator Harrell moves we adjourn. Is there objection? Show the motion adopted.
21 We are adjourned.



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