

Draft Constituent Response on the 2022 Redistricting Process

I received your email regarding the 2022 redistricting process. As a State Senator, I swore an oath to uphold Florida's Constitution, which includes strict guidelines for what information the Legislature can and cannot consider when drawing new state legislative and congressional districts.

Specifically, Article III, Sections 20 (Congressional Districts) and 21 (State Legislative Districts) state that (a) no apportionment plan or individual district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory. (b) Unless compliance with the standards in this subsection conflicts with the standards in subsection (a) or with federal law, districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

The Senate will be providing more information on opportunities for public participation in the coming weeks. If you feel that your thoughts and feedback are in keeping with the constitutional standards I noted above, I encourage you to share that information with the Senate as we move forward.

Please note that all correspondence related to the enactment of new districts, whether received on official Senate accounts or personal accounts and devices, may be of permanent archival value and pursuant to Article 1, Section 24 of Florida's Constitution, Section 11.0431 Florida Statutes, and Senate Rule 1.48, will be preserved as applicable.