



The Florida House of Representatives

Select Committee on Redistricting

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Richard Corcoran
Chair

MEMORANDUM

To: Speaker Will Weatherford, All Representatives
From: Representative Richard Corcoran, Chair of the Select Committee on Redistricting
Subject: Procedure for Special Session on Congressional Reapportionment
Date: August 5, 2014

On Thursday, August 7, the House Select Committee on Redistricting will hold a concurrent meeting with the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. This meeting will provide an opportunity for committee members to receive a legal briefing from House and Senate redistricting counsel regarding the recent judicial determination that two of Florida's 27 Congressional districts must be revised by the Legislature. Counsel will also be available to address questions from committee members. It is anticipated that the House and Senate Committees will then meet separately on Friday to consider the adoption of a remedial map that addresses the court's concerns.

In preparation for the House's important work during an abbreviated special session, I have instructed House Redistricting Committee staff to work collaboratively with their counterparts in the Senate to develop a recommended remedial map that complies with all of the relevant legal standards and with the court's ruling on Congressional Districts 5 and 10.

I have specifically instructed staff to avoid any assessment of political implications in the preparation of a recommended remedial map, except where consideration of political data is legally required to assess whether a particular district would deny or abridge the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice. House Redistricting Committee staff have been informed that they are to have no interactions with any member of Congress, Congressional staffer or aide, or with any political consultant. If any member of the House suggests to Redistricting Committee staff that a plan be changed with an intent to favor or disfavor any incumbent or political party, staff should disregard the suggestion entirely and report the conversation directly to me.

Any member wishing to offer a redistricting bill or amendment should recall the technical specifications used during the 2012 Regular Session. Any bill or amendment should be a complete redistricting, such that the entirety of the State is assigned to Congressional districts consisting of population as nearly equal as practicable. The plan files for the bill or amendment should be submitted on a CD or DVD to the House Select Committee on Redistricting. Committee staff will review proposed bills or amendments to ensure that each plan satisfies the constitutional standards of contiguity and equal population and will communicate with House Bill Drafting to place compliant proposals in the proper legislative format.

Finally, given the courts' concerns about external partisan influence, and their determination that the legislative privilege must yield to the constitutional prohibitions against partisan political gerrymandering and improper discriminatory intent, any member wishing to offer a plan or amendment should be prepared to explain in committee or on the House floor the identity of every person involved in drawing, reviewing, directing, or approving the proposal; the criteria used by the map drawers; and the sources of any data used in the creation of the map other than the data contained in MyDistrictBuilder. The member should also be able to explain the nature of any functional analysis performed to ensure that the ability of minorities to elect the candidates of their choice is not diminished, and how the proposal satisfies all of the constitutional and statutory criteria applicable to a Congressional redistricting plan.