

Takacs, Jeff

From: Marg Chauvin <margchauvin@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 7:44 AM
To: House Select Committee on Redistricting
Subject: Please complete your work Fairly and Expediently

Committee for Redistricting,

As a Florida native, retired teacher (FRS), volunteer for the Florida Park System, and long time resident I demand you complete the redistricting during this special session. I am tired of you wasting our tax funds, which you seem to do in many ways but this is more flagrant than others.

Please redistrict fairly, forget about trying to keep 'your party' or 'your seat' *safe*. If you do a good job your seat is safe, if you do a poor job you should not be re-elected. It is that simple. As a body you seem to feel teachers must be productive and their pay and job security is tied to student progress. How about determining your worth as a legislator based on your productivity and the number of times bills must be re-written, voter districts re-drawn? I would also include the number of citizens harmed by your thoughtless bills or lack of passage.

So, get it right this time and quit wasting my money. Get it right this time so we can move on to important issues such as Medicare, Medicaid, immigration, pharmacy pricing, and funding the Florida State Parks which are among the best in the country due to a huge volunteer staff.

Sincerely,
Marg Chauvin
Citra, FL 32112
561-308-0118

Volunteering at Florida State Parks 2013-2016
Follow our adventures at <http://margchauvin.blogspot.com/>

October 22, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Select Committee on Redistricting
418 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: State Senate Redistricting and Impact on Hispanic Voters

Dear Committee Members:

LatinoJustice PRLDEF is one of the country's leading nonprofit civil rights public interest law organizations. We work to advance, promote and protect the constitutional rights of Latinos throughout the nation. Our work is focused on addressing systemic discrimination and ensuring equal access to justice in the advancement of voting rights and civil rights, seeking to address all forms of discrimination. Our past work in Florida has included successfully terminating the Secretary of State's systemic voter purges in 2012 resulting in naturalized U.S. Citizens from being removed from the voting rolls; and bringing a successful voting rights lawsuit against Volusia County in 2008 which resulted in the County providing Spanish Language voting materials and assistance. Additionally, we have advocated for fair redistricting to include and protect Hispanic voting power throughout Florida.

As you undoubtedly are aware, the Central Florida Hispanic population increased significantly between 2000 and 2010. For instance, in 2000, the total Hispanic population in this region was 36.3% with a Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP) of 33.8%.¹ Under the currently enacted Senate Plan (9030), Central Florida's District 14's total Hispanic population is 52.6% with a 50% HVAP.² As a result of this growth and concerted advocacy by numerous community members and groups, a Hispanic dominant state senate seat was created in Central Florida which elected its first Hispanic representative in the region during the past state elections. However, these long fought for gains by the Latino community are now at serious risk of voter dilution since most of the proposed maps currently before the committee seek to reduce the HVAP in Central Florida, particularly in District 14, by more than 10%. Only two maps, H079S9073 and S000S9080 reduce District 14's HVAP by less than 10%.

As you should know, minority voters are protected under both Federal



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¹http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Session/Redistricting/Plans/s016s9030/s016s9030_district_details.pdf (last visited Oct. 21, 2015)

² *Id.*

and State law. The Florida Constitution specifically prohibits drawing districts with the intent to deny or abridge racial or language minorities' equal opportunity to participate in the political process.³ Further, districts cannot diminish the ability for minorities to elect representatives of choice.⁴ Tier one requirements under Florida's Constitution protect minority voting strength against dilution and retrogressions and is of utmost importance; the legislature is obligated to adhere to its requirements.⁵ A state legislature can take into account the impact that new districts will have on language minorities. *Brown v. Secretary of State*, 668 F.3d 1271, 1283 (11th Cir. 2012). Florida's Fair Districts Amendments, and racial and language minority voting rights protection provisions ensure equality among all voters by "leveling the playing field" and increasing opportunities for all candidates. *Id.* at 1281.

While compactness is important, it should not take precedence over a minority groups' ability to elect candidates of their choice. Your obligations to draw constitutionally compliant district boundaries can be achieved without dismantling a block of racially cohesive, like-minded active voters. We urge you to protect Hispanic voters in Central Florida when redrawing the district boundaries.

Respectfully,



Juan Cartagena
President and General Counsel
LatinoJustice PRLDEF



Martha A. Pardo
Associate Counsel
LatinoJustice PRLDEF

³ Art. III, § 21(a), Fla. Const.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *In re Senate Joint Resolution of Legislative Apportionment*, 83 So.3d 597, 615 (Fla. 2012)



"City on the Gulf"

CITY OF VENICE

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Office of the Mayor

October 29, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker
State Representative, District #51
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Crisafulli,

Venice City Council has been following the ongoing conversations of redistricting of Sarasota County.

As trusted officials of our community, we believe it is very important to weigh in on this conversation. Our community is *strongly* opposed to the division of Sarasota County's Senate representation. Our legislators in the House and Senate serve, communicate and interact in this community on a daily basis. They are truly our representatives in every sense of the word.

While we understand the importance of drawing compact districts, separating Sarasota County into seven districts is destructive to our representation and lacks any semblance of common sense.

Consequently, the City of Venice requests the legislature leave Sarasota County's representation in its current, compact form.

Thank you for your time in this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice

- cc: Representative Jim Boyd, District 71 (via email)
- Representative Julio Gonzalez, District 74 (via email)
- Representative W. Gregory Steube, District 73 (via email)
- Representative Ray Pilon, District 73 (via email)
- Venice City Council (via email)
- City Attorney Dave Persson
- City Manager Ed Lavallee

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