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VIA EMAIL ONLY

Chairman William Galvano
c/o George Levesque, Esq.
The Florida Senate
Committee on Reapportionment
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chairman Jose Oliva
c/o Matthew Carson, Esq.
The Florida House of Representatives
Select Committee on Redistricting
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Alternatives to Plans 9124 and 9079

Dear Chairman Galvano and Chairman Oliva,

The League of Women Voters of Florida and Common Cause (the "Coalition") continue to watch developments in the special session with great interest. In light of the House Redistricting Committee's passage of Plan 9079, the Coalition is concerned that the Legislature's proposals continue to reflect constitutional infirmities and evidently fail to take into account ongoing developments in minority voting in certain communities.

As previewed in the October 27, 2015 letter submitting the Coalition's first alternative map, the Coalition has continued working to develop alternative Florida Senate plans that are based in part on updated 2012 and 2014 voter data. On behalf of the Coalition, we offer two additional alternative plans, CPS-2.doj and CPS-3.doj, both of which reflect substantially superior, constitutionally compliant alternatives to the plans adopted by the Senate (Plan 9124) and House Redistricting Committee (Plan 9079).

As compared with Plans 9124 and 9079, enclosed alternative plan CPS-2 has significantly lower population deviation; better respects political and geographic boundaries, with only 9 split cities (and only 20 aggregate city splits) and only 14 split counties; and has superior average compactness, with an average .49 Reock score and average .81 Convex-Hull score. In addition, CPS-2 demonstrates that a district in which African Americans can elect candidates of their choice

can be drawn entirely within Hillsborough County, without crossing Tampa Bay. It also shows that a fourth district in which Hispanics can elect candidates of their choice can be drawn in South Florida.

As compared to Plans 9124 and 9079, enclosed alternative plan CPS-3 is also a superior, constitutionally compliant alternative that has significantly lower population deviation; better respects political and geographic boundaries, with only 10 split cities (and only 23 aggregate city splits) and only 15 split counties; and has superior average compactness, with an average .50 Reock score and .81 Convex-Hull score. CPS-3 demonstrates that a fourth district in which Hispanics can elect candidates of their choice can be drawn in South Florida, with changes limited to Miami-Dade County.

CPS-2 and CPS-3, like the Coalition's previous submission, are the direct result of considering only constitutional compliance in light of objective criteria. The Coalition's map drawer, John O'Neill, consistently drew the proposed plans in compliance with tier-one requirements and to maximize tier-two compliance. In contrast, Plan 9079, while better than Plan 9124, retains features that appear intended to create a more favorable map for Republicans at the expense of equality of population, compactness, and respect for geographic and political boundaries. Moreover, the Coalition believes the Legislature may violate the Florida Constitution if the Legislature neglects to create a fourth majority-minority Hispanic district in South Florida, in light of the evident ability to draw such a district.

The Coalition is disappointed that neither the Senate nor the House appears to have made any effort to take updated 2012 and 2014 voter data into account. Now that a week has passed since the Coalition provided such data to the Legislature, the Coalition must ask why the Legislature has failed to use that data or produce updated 2012 and 2014 data of its own. Again, it only took the Coalition a matter of days to compile and validate the data. We note that CPS-2 and CPS-3 fare well even using the older MyDistrictBuilder data. But the Legislature's unreasonable excuses, failure to use updated data, and refusal to even try to generate updated data (notwithstanding its purported interest in protecting minority voter rights) suggest that the Legislature is intent on limiting its consideration to stale data that it considers more favorable to its partisan goals. The Florida Constitution does not afford the Legislature that luxury.

There is still time to draw and enact a remedial Senate map that is constitutionally compliant, rather than perpetuate an unconstitutional status quo under the guise of attempted compliance. CPS-2 and CPS-3 demonstrate that the Legislature can (and must) do better than Plans 9124 and 9079. We sincerely hope that the Legislature will consider CPS-2 and CPS-3 in good faith, which is the spirit in which they are being offered. The citizens of Florida deserve what the Florida Constitution requires - the opportunity to vote for candidates in non-partisan, constitutionally compliant districts in 2016.

Chairman Galvano and Chairman Oliva
November 2, 2015
Page 3 of 3

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. King', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David B. King

DBK/ap
enclosures

cc: Pam Goodman, President of the LOWV of Florida
Peter Butzin, Volunteer State Chair of Common Cause/Florida