



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff. or
Email to: redistricting@myfloridahouse.gov
Mail to: Select Committee on Redistricting
418 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

**Florida State Senate Redistricting
Suggestion Form**

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature.

Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix _____ *First Name James *Last Name Riley Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) individual

*Your Address 744 International #E68 *City Houston *State TX *Zip 77024

Your County Harris, TX Your Email jimrtex@pipeline.com

*May we follow up with you if we have questions about your suggestion? *NOTE: In accordance with the Florida Supreme Court's ruling regarding political intent, answering NO may prevent your suggestion from being considered by the Florida House of Representatives.*

Yes No

*Are you a part of any groups or organizations that have interest in redistricting?

Yes No

*If Yes, Please list them below:

*If you are submitting a comment, is your suggestion solely your own?

Yes No

*If you are submitting a map, was the map drawn solely by you?

Yes No

*If you answered NO to either of the previous two questions, Please list the name of every person you collaborated with on your suggestion or submitted map below:

Please provide detailed comments regarding your suggestion, including why you feel your suggestion is a lawful change to the Florida State Senate District Map. Comments should be able to provide a non-partisan and incumbent-neutral justification for the proposed configuration of each district and how the proposal satisfies all of the constitutional and statutory criteria applicable to a State Senate redistricting plan.

The legislature has set an impractical and unnecessarily low maximum population deviation range of 4%. By doing so, they have greatly increased the number of county splits beyond what is needed.

See attached file `floridasenate.doc` for a more complete discussion.

My proposed plan is: `jimrsenate10270239.kmz`

Please use the map below to demonstrate what your comments reflect. (Optional)



State of Florida

The legislature has set an artificially low 4% range for population equality. The US Supreme Court has set a 10% range to accommodate legitimate State goals, such as a respect for county boundaries.

What the legislature has done is the equivalent of a boy wearing pants three sizes too small to a dance and claiming that he can't dance, saying, "it is not *feasible*". If he were to wear practical clothes, then it would be feasible for him to dance.

If the legislature were to use a practical threshold, then they would be able to follow county boundaries to a much greater extent. My proposed plan cuts eight counties: Broward, Hillsborough, Manatee, Marion, Okaloosa, Pinellas, Polk, and Volusia into fewer pieces than legislative base map 9072. It does add splits of two counties: Alachua and Sarasota.

Note: my plan also splits Dixie, because Dixie is apparently not self-contiguous. It is conceivable that a court would determine that counties are contiguous, but I played it safe and split the tiny area where the Suwanee River drops below the Lafayette County line, and then swings west and north and touches Lafayette County from the rest of the county.

I divided the state into regions comprised of whole counties, whose population was approximately equivalent to a whole number of ideal senate districts (see map on next page). Further, the regions were drawn so that as many whole senate districts as possible could be drawn in larger counties (Duval(1), Volusia(1), Brevard(1), Orange(2), Polk(1), Hillsborough(2), Pasco(1), Pinellas(2), Lee(1), Palm Beach(2), Broward(3), and Miami-Dade(5), with any surplus population in a single fragment in a single district comprised of other such fragments or whole smaller counties:

Duval (1 whole) + fragment with Nassau.

Volusia (1 whole) + fragment with Seminole.

Brevard (1 whole) + fragment with Indian River and Osceola.

Orange (2 whole) + fragment with Lake.

Polk (1 whole) + Hillsborough (2 whole) + fragments + Highlands.

Pasco (1 whole).

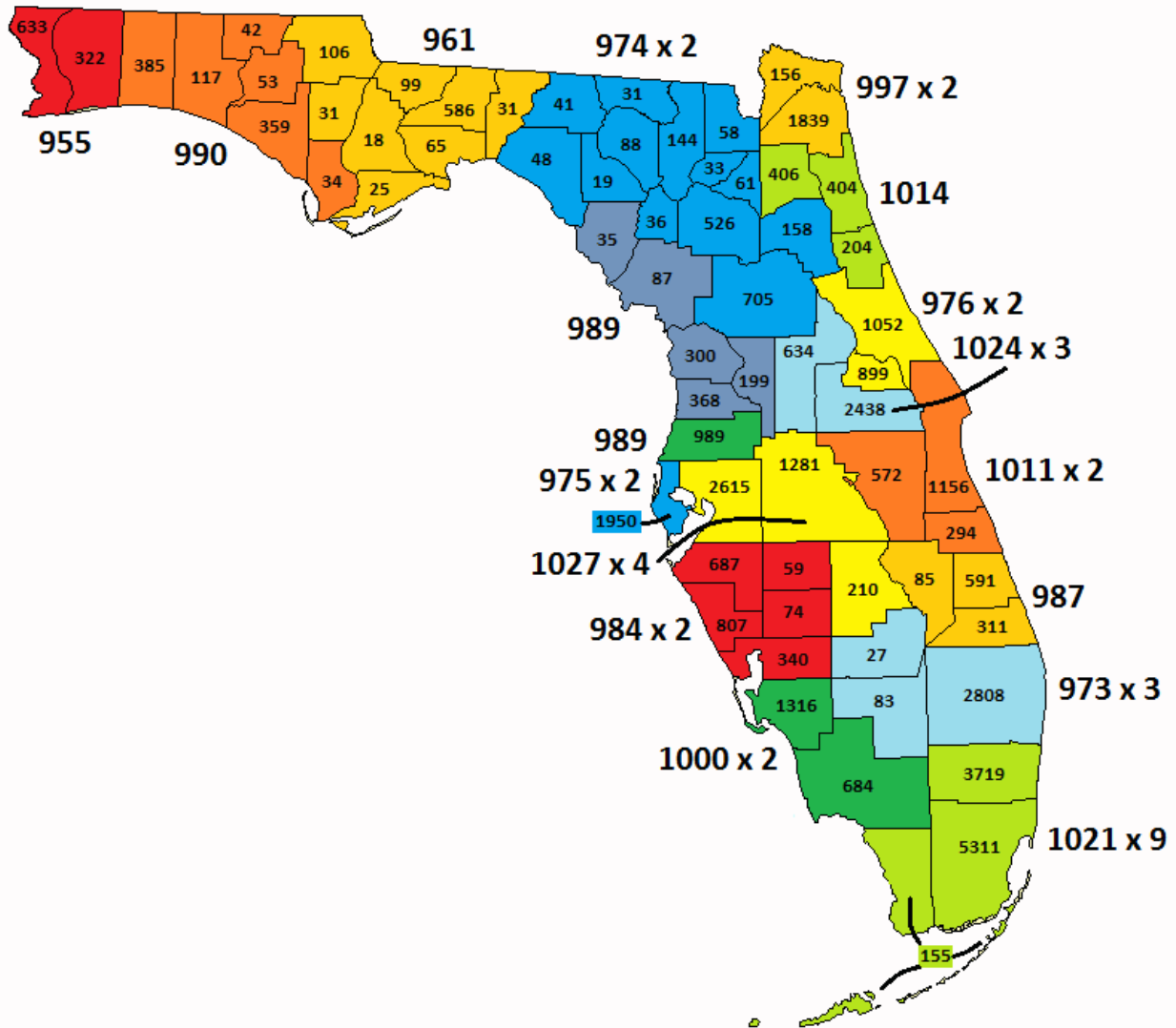
Pinellas (2 whole).

Lee (1 whole) + fragment with Collier.

Palm Beach (2 whole) + fragment with Glades and Hendry.

Broward (3 whole) + Miami-Dade (5 whole) + fragments.

This leaves two exceptional regions comprised of smaller counties and a population equivalent to two senate districts. One is in the north, and requires a split of Alachua; and the other is in the southwest, and requires a split of Sarasota. In addition, Miami-Dade requires an additional fragment because of Monroe County. It is logical to treat Monroe County as an extension to the south of Miami-Dade.



Units in this map represent 1/1000 of the ideal senate district population. For example the population of Collier County is 684/1000 of the target population.

Creation of these regions simplifies drawing of districts, and would permit an alternative for a particular region to be easily slipped into the map.

While increasing the maximum threshold would appear to add a significant level of inequality, it really doesn't. If a map had districts with identical populations, it would require senators representing 52.50% of the population to achieve a 21:19 majority. Under base map 9072, the senators from the 21 smallest districts would represent 52.17% of the population. Under my map, the 21 smallest districts would represent 51.51% of the population. Under any of these plans, a motion that passes on a bare 21:19 majority, would have the support of senators who represent the majority of the population.

The level of variation can be controlled. In my plan it is only used to reduce the number of county splits. Under the pre-2010 standards in which districts had no standards, it would be possible to use large deviations to protect incumbents or favor the Gator Party over the Seminole Party, or vice versa.

So prior to 2010, it made sense to treat a larger deviation with suspicion. In addition, the deviation within regions can be limited. For example, in my map, the average intraregional absolute deviation for the 33 districts that are not composed of whole counties is 0.19%, and the standard deviation is 0.25%.

Despite these looser limits, I had substantially fewer city splits than the base maps (9072 pulverizes Pompano Beach into four pieces!). I split Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa. The first was necessary because of Jacksonville's size, and Orlando and Tampa have quite irregular boundaries that sprawl across the countryside. I also divided Palm Bay because it was impractical to split Brevard County at another location.

If I have split any other cities, it was either a mistake on my part, or I was trying to deal with irregularities of city boundaries. Some cities have exclaves that are surrounded by other cities, and some cities cross each other at a point.

Tour of Regions and Districts

The following gives my thinking in dividing each of my regions.

The first three regions are made of whole counties with a population equivalent to a single senate district:

Region (SD-1) Escambia and Santa Rosa. One district. (deviation from ideal -4.5%)

Region (SD-2) Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Okaloosa, Walton, and Washington. One district. (-1.0%)

Region (SD-3) Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla. One district. (-3.9%)

Region (4, 5) Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie(*), Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union. Two districts. (-2.6%)

This required a split of Alachua County, with the larger portion in the northern district (SD-4). I therefore assumed that Gainesville would be in that portion. I started adding to the southern district (SD-5), and then snapped the boundary to the Gainesville city limits. To get sufficient population requires wrapping around Gainesville on both the east and west. Including Newberry in SD-5, reduces the wrap around effect a bit, and allows for a more relaxed following of the irregular Gainesville city limits.

(SD-4) Alachua (part, 78% of county), Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie(*), Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union. (-3.0%)

(SD-5) Alachua (part 22%), Marion, and Putnam. (-2.2%)

(*) Dixie is technically not self-contiguous. As the Suwanee River goes south of Lafayette County, it meanders to the west and north to touch the Lafayette County line, before heading south. This isolates a tiny corner of Dixie from the bulk of the county. To maintain district contiguity, this sliver has been placed in District 4.

Region (6, 7) Duval and Nassau. Two districts. (-0.3%)

I started by adding the parts of Duval County that aren't in Jacksonville to Nassau County in SD-6. I then began adding in areas to make the district contiguous. To get to near the ideal population I added in

larger VTD's (presumably less dense). As I got near the target population I noticed that the inner border was close to I-295. I started placing the boundary on I-295 and found that it was very close to the correct population. I-295 dips into Clay County, and then when it emerges to the east leaves a relatively small strip south of I-295. I shifted off of I-295 to provide better connectivity. This explains why the portion of I-295 not used is on the southeast quadrant.

(SD-6) Duval (part, 46%) and Nassau. (-0.1%)

The Duval portion is mainly outside I-295.

(SD-7) Duval (part, 54%). (-0.4%)

The BVAP for my FL-7 is 37.9% vs. 42.7% for the comparable district in base map 9072. The base map does a better job of race sorting: 43%:11% for the two Duval districts in the base map, against 38%:14% for my map, albeit with more irregular borders.

The next two regions are comprised of whole counties with a population equivalent to a single senate district.

Region (SD-8) Clay, Flagler, and St. Johns. One district. (+1.4%)

Region (SD-9) Citrus, Dixie(*), Hernando, Levy, and Sumter. One district. (-1.1%)

(*) The tiny discontinuous portion of Dixie is in SD-4.

Region (10, 11) Seminole and Volusia. Two Districts. (-2.4%)

Both counties are near the ideal population size, with only a small transfer from Volusia needed to equalize the two. The cities of DeBary and Orange City, just north of the county line, and to the west side of I-4 were added to the Seminole-based FL-11.

(SD-10) Volusia (part, 93%). (-2.6%)

(SD-11) Seminole and Volusia (part, 7%). (-2.3%)

Includes DeBary and Orange City from Volusia County.

Region (12, 13, 14) Lake and Orange. Three districts. (+2.4%)

The intent was to create one district (SD-12) in Lake County, plus a portion of Orange County, and two districts (SD-13, 14) wholly in Orange County. I initially tried to come into Orange County from the northwest, filling in the inner corner of Lake County. This worked out OK for SD-12, but removed too much of the black population. The black population in Orange County is not monolithic, and there are pockets in cities like Apopka and Ocoee.

So I extended SD-14 into the black areas of Apopka and Ocoee, and then included the entirety of those cities. To make up for the population loss in SD-12, I came into Orange County in the southwest, below Lake Apopka. It might be possible to get the black population of SD-14 higher by having SD-12 come into Orange County in two or three places, but that offends my sensibilities of compactness.

No effort was made to place all of Orlando in one district, though I did keep it out of SD-12. Winter

Garden is wholly in SD-12; Apopka, Ocoee, and Maitland in SD-14, and Winter Park in SD-13.

After drawing SD-12 and SD-14, SD-13 is simply the remaining eastern part of the county.

(SD-12) Lake and Orange. (part, 16%) (+2.2%)

This includes the southwest part of Orange County.

(SD-13) Orange (part, 42%) (+2.6%)

This is the eastern part of Orange County.

(SD-14) Orange (part, 42%) (+2.2%)

This is northwestern and north central Orange County. My version has a 34.4% BVAP and 18.9% HVAP. The equivalent version in base map 9072 is 35/9% BVAP and 18.9% HVAP.

Region (15, 16) Brevard, Indian River, and Osceola. Two districts. (+1.1%)

To place one district wholly in Brevard requires a split of Palm Bay. Rather than a north-south split, I have opted to include the western part of the city, as part of a fill-in of the Indian River-Osceola inner corner.

(SD-15) Brevard (part, 88%) (+1.3%)

(SD-16) Brevard (part, 12%), Indian River, and Osceola (+0.8%)

The portion from Brevard is in the southwestern corner and includes part of Palm Bay.

Region (SD-17) Pasco. One District. (-1.1%)

SD-17 is the entirety of Pasco County.

Region (18, 19) Pinellas. Two districts (-2.5%)

A simple split to equalize population and avoiding city splits. FL-18 on the north includes Largo, while FL-19 on the south includes Seminole and Pinellas Park.

(SD-18) Pinellas (part, 50%). (-2.2%)

The southern tip of the peninsula including St. Petersburg.

(SD-19) Pinellas (part, 50%). (-2.8%)

The northern part of the county, beginning with Largo.

Region (20, 21, 22, 23) Highlands, Hillsborough, and Polk. Four Districts. (+2.7%)

I tried to create a black opportunity district in Hillsborough County, but failed. It was made harder by the need to create another district to the west of it. All base maps maintain the cross-bay district, which can only be justified on the basis of race. The bridges into St. Petersburg are from the Interbay Peninsula, which a black district must skip along with St. Petersburg. If a map were drawn with dots representing where people lived, it would be obvious what was being done. The base map is 34% BVAP and 24%

HVAP. My district is 29% BVAP and 20% HVAP.

After drawing FL-20 and FL-21, the two districts entirely in Hillsborough County, I drew FL-23 which begins with Highlands plus an eastern chunk of Polk. There are a number of cities along the eastern boundary of the county, which I eventually followed to the northern end of the county. I then started working along the southern part of the county. This leaves the area around Lakeland in FL-22 with the eastern part of Hillsborough.

I have just realized that a full district could be drawn in Polk, with a connector in the southern part of the county between Hillsborough and Highlands. It would be ugly, but would create the maximum whole districts in every large county (if we consider Monroe to be an extension of Miami-Dade).

It would also be possible to rearrange the regions, with Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota in one region, and the other from Polk to Charlotte. This would move a split from Sarasota north to Manatee.

(SD-20) Hillsborough (part, 39%). (+2.6%)

The district includes northwest Hillsborough, the Interbay Peninsula, and a strip along the eastern edge of the bay to get enough population. Hillsborough only has three cities, and I made no attempt to keep Tampa whole.

(SD-21) Hillsborough (part, 39%). (+2.7%)

The district includes most of the northern part of Tampa, and the city of Temple Terrace. It has a BVAP of 29.1%, and HVAP of 20.1%.

(SD-22) Hillsborough (part, 21%), and Polk (part, 36%). (+2.5%)

The district includes the eastern remainder of Hillsborough County, including Plant City, and the northwestern part of Polk County, around Lakeland.

(SD-23) Highlands and Polk (part, 64%). (+2.8%)

SD-23 is the eastern and southern part of Polk County, plus Highland County.

Region (24, 25) Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota. Two districts. (-1.6%)

It is conceivable to put Manatee and Charlotte in the same district, with Sarasota taking a portion of Manatee or Charlotte, but I used the simpler solution of extending from Manatee south into Sarasota. I split the two eastern counties of Hardee and DeSoto, because that gave me a little wider berth around the city of Sarasota in SD-24.

(SD-24) Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota (part, 30%). (-1.6%)

SD-24 includes Manatee, Hardee, and the city of Sarasota in Sarasota County.

(SD-25) Charlotte, DeSoto, and Sarasota (part, 70%) (-1.7%)

SD-25 consists of Charlotte, DeSoto and the major portion of Sarasota County, including North Port.

Region (26, 27) Collier and Lee. Two districts. (+0.0%)

Cape Coral and Fort Myers were placed in SD-26, with Bonita Springs and the southern part of the county in SD-27.

(SD-26) Lee (part, 76%). (+0.1%)

SD-26 includes Cape Coral and Fort Myers.

(SD-27) Collier and Lee (part, 24%). (-0.0%)

SD-27 includes Collier County and the southeastern part of Lee County.

Region (SD-28) Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie. One District. (-1.3%)

Region (29, 30, 31) Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach. Three districts. (-2.7%)

I began with SD-30 drawing northward in the built-up area including Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and areas to the west. I had initially intended to build the second district in the county from the Martin County line towards the south. This would have left the district including Glades, Hendry, and western Palm Beach County, with a peninsula through to the central coast. This was not working out well, so I slid SD-31 down to include West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Greenacres, and Lake Worth in the north central part of the county. SD-29 includes Glades and Hendry counties, the west central part of the built-up area including Wellington and Royal Palm Beach, and an area in the north including Jupiter and Palm Beach Gardens. These areas are not directly linked, but are reasonably geographically compact.

By accident, SD-31 has a higher minority concentration than the base map, at BVAP 24% and HVAP 27%.

(SD-29) Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach (part, 31%). (-2.5%)

SD-29 includes the central part of Palm Beach County around Wellington and Royal Palm Beach, the northern area including Jupiter and Palm Beach Gardens, as well as Glades and Hendry counties.

(SD-30) Palm Beach (part, 35%). (-2.6%)

SD-30 includes Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach.

(SD-31) Palm Beach (part, 35%). (-2.9%)

SD-31 includes West Palm Beach, Greenacres, Lake Worth, and Riviera Beach. It is 24% BVAP, and 27% HVAP.

Region (32 through 40) Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe. 9 districts. (+2.1%)

In Broward County, I was mainly trying to make a stack of SD-32 through SD-34, respecting city boundaries, with SD-35 being the start of black opportunity district crossing into Miami-Dade.

(SD-32) Broward (part, 27%). (+2.0%)

SD-32 is Broward County north of Fort Lauderdale, including Coconut Creek, Deerfield Beach, Coral Springs, Margate, Pompano Beach, and North Lauderdale. The district also includes the virtually unpopulated inland area of the county.

(SD-33) Broward (part, 27%). (+2.2%)

SD-33 includes Fort Lauderdale, and cities to the west, including Tamarac, Lauderhill, Sunrise, Oakland Park, and Lauderdale Lakes. The hook on the western end is formed by Sunrise as it wraps around Plantation. SD-33 is 36.2% BVAP and 16.4% HVAP. The base map 9072 has a Broward district that is 50.3% BVAP and 17.0% HVAP, but which ignores city limits. In that map Pompano Beach is diced between four senate districts, and Fort Lauderdale is also divided.

(34) Broward (part, 27%). (+1.1%)

SD-34 includes areas south of Fort Lauderdale, including Hollywood, Dania Beach and Hallandale Beach, and areas to the west, including Plantation, Davie, and Weston. Its somewhat irregular shape is to permit creation of the black opportunity SD-35 which straddles the Broward-Miami-Dade county line. The dangles that hang down from the western part of the district are part of Davie and unincorporated areas. SD-34 is the least populated of the districts in the Miami-Dade-Broward area. Since the overall deviation for the area is a bit high (+1.9%), I tried to keep the populations of the individual districts about equal, while still respecting city limits.

(SD-35) Broward (part, 27%) and Miami-Dade (part, 7%). (+2.3%)

The Broward County portion of SD-35 includes Pembroke Pines, Miramar, Southwest Ranches and Cooper City. The Dade County portion includes Miami Gardens and Opa-locka, and unincorporated areas to the west. The district has a BVAP of 41.0% and HVAP of 35.3%. The comparable district in base map 9072 is BVAP of 42.3% and HVAP of 35.0%.

In Miami-Dade, after completing SD_35, I drew in SD-40 coming in from the south, until I had sufficient population. SD-40 also includes Monroe County and the barely populated western part of Miami-Dade. Population-wise it is a north-south district, with a long tail down the Florida Keys. At this point, it appeared that the remainder of the county might be divided into four quadrants. Miami and Coral Gables almost made up the perfect population for a district, and in effect delimited the other three districts. Note, the districts should probably be renumbered into a greater north-south order.

(SD-36) Miami-Dade (part, 19%). (+2.4%)

SD-36 is west of Coral Gables and is mostly comprised of unincorporated areas. The largest cities are Pinecrest and South Miami. The HVAP is 80.4%.

(SD-37) Miami-Dade (part, 19%). (+2.0%)

SD-37 is in the northeast corner of the county. The somewhat irregular shape is because of the district being comprised of whole cities, and wrapping around Miami (which is entirely in SD-38), and squeezing between Hialeah and Miami in order to pick up enough population. It includes Aventura, North Miami Beach, North Miami, and Miami Beach. It has a BVAP of 32.1% and HVAP 41.3%.

(SD-38) Miami-Dade (part, 19%). (+2.1%)

SD-38 is Miami and Coral Gable and a bit more to get it up to the ideal population. It has an HVAP of 69.8%.

(SD-39) Miami-Dade (part, 19%). (+2.4%)

SD-39 is northwestward from Miami. It includes Hialeah (almost half the district), Miami Lakes, and Doral, and a lot of unincorporated areas. It has an HVAP of 91.0%.

(SD-40) Miami-Dade (part, 16%) and Monroe. (+2.0%)

SD-40 is south of Miami. It includes Homestead, Florida City, Cutler Bay, and Palmetto City, and unincorporated areas. In addition, it includes the minimally populated areas in the western part of the county, and Monroe County (mainland and Florida Keys). The district is 51.5% HVAP and 18.5% BVAP. 