



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Jacksonville/First Coast**

**August 6, 2001**

**Testimony on Reapportionment - Jacksonville FL**

The League of Women Voters - Jacksonville/First Coast serves four counties, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St Johns, covering a significant proportion of Florida's population. We would like to thank the leadership on Reapportionment for extending opportunities for public comment across the State of Florida. These district groupings represent the cornerstone of our representative democracy. It is only fitting that the public has significant input into the process.

In the past, reapportionment had taken place in closed rooms with little input by the citizenry. Incumbent legislators monitored the process to make sure that their districts guarantee their re-election. This political gamesmanship resulted in what's known as gerrymandering that resulted in ridiculous looking districts that broke up communities solely for the benefit of incumbent legislators and the political party in power.

Therefore, these 20 regional meetings designed to gather public comment on a fair and equitable reapportionment process is heartily welcomed.

The League of Women Voters/Florida believes that the reapportionment process needs to be as open and accessible as possible to the public and the press. We would like to extend our appreciation to WJCT for helping make this possible in Jacksonville. In addition to these public hearings, we believe that these steps should include:

- > Time between what are known as "mark up sessions" should be created so that the public can examine any amendments and provide testimony.
- > Each committee chair should hold at least two workshops or mark up sessions available to the public at least 14 days prior to full committee action.
- > A policy should be adopted giving legislative members sufficient time to prepare amendments to the committee product and sufficient time for the public to analyze the maps and amendments before a final vote is taken.

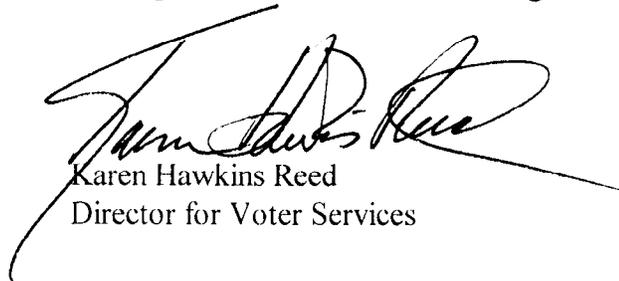
In addition to these recommendations on the reapportionment process, the League of Women Voters strongly recommends the following fair redistricting standards:

- > The districts should be drawn as equal in population as possible.

- > The district lines should be drawn to form districts that are compact and composed of contiguous territory.
- > The districts should be drawn so as not to dilute the voting strength of any racial, ethnic or language minority group.
- > The districts should not be drawn to favor any person or political party.
- > The districts should be single member districts including 25 congressional districts, 40 state senate districts and 120 state house districts.

In conclusion, the League of Women Voters is a participant of the People Over Politics coalition to introduce two constitutional amendments on reapportionment to a statewide vote. The first amendment would create an independent, citizen-based reapportionment commission to draw the congressional and legislative district lines. The second amendment will create fair standards to guide the commission as it draws the districts. We have included these fair standards in our recommendations to you tonight.

Once again, the League of Women Voters/Jacksonville - First Coast heartily congratulates you for organizing these public hearings as well as WJCT for hosting the hearing in Jacksonville.



Karen Hawkins Reed  
Director for Voter Services

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: Jacksonville - First Coast**  
Serving Clay, Duval, Nassau and St Johns Counties in NE Florida  
Please visit our website: [www.tdg.com/lwvjfc](http://www.tdg.com/lwvjfc) or contact us by phone [904] 355 VOTE

**People Over Politics**  
Post Office Box 1079  
Tallahassee FL 32302

[www.peopleoverpolitics.com](http://www.peopleoverpolitics.com)

**STATEMENT AT PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**  
**August 6, 2001**  
**Deborah Thompson**

- Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Good evening, and welcome to Jacksonville.
- [Introduce yourself]
- The City of Jacksonville owes a great deal to our community leadership, particularly those who have helped create the political and legal environment in which our businesses can flourish -- creating jobs and economic opportunity for thousands in this region.
- Two particular initiatives deserve special mention because they bear on the redistricting task ahead of you.
- The first initiative -- the Better Jacksonville Initiative -- has resulted in the identification of small and women-owned companies in the Jacksonville area, for whom we have conducted workshops and facilitated economic partnerships with other regional enterprises, particularly in the Orlando area.
- The second initiative has been the effort to pair business from Jacksonville and Orlando to submit and win competitive bids from the Army Corps of Engineers and its work in the Everglades. This partnering between Jacksonville and Orlando has resulted numerous business opportunities for the people of Jacksonville.
- These initiatives would not have been possible were it not for the fact that Orlando and Jacksonville are in the same congressional district. Because both cities are represented by the same Member of Congress -- Corinne Brown -- we have been able to bring people together, attract federal grants, and build a regional network that has helped our region gain the tools it needs to prosper economically.

- And as a result, a strong commercial tie has developed between Jacksonville and Orlando. The two communities have become commercially intertwined. Our interests are their interests. Issues important to them are also important to us.
- This partnership is well served by having the two communities represented by one Member of Congress. By sharing a congressional district and by knowing that the interests of our two cities are closely aligned, we can continue to build economic partnerships, for the betterment of both communities, and all of Florida.
- For that reason, I ask that you maintain Orlando as part of the district represented by Representative Brown, and I ask that you refrain from drawing any district that would disrupt this synergy, break our communities or deprive us of the leadership that has brought us together.
- Thank you for your attention.



Florida House of Representatives  
&  
Florida Senate



Public Hearing Appearance Record

Date: 8/6/01 Phone # 904-751-9820  
 Name: STEVE BURNETT  
 Organization: UETA  
 Address: 15327 CARP DRIVE SOUTH  
JACKSONVILLE FL 32226

State Employee

Lobbyist

Other

Business Owner

Materials to submit

I wish to speak

000038

*See comments attached*

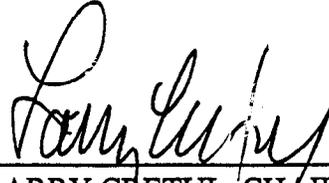
November 6, 2001

I AM UNABLE TO STOP TO TESTIFY. PLEASE RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH OF NORTH JACKSONVILLE ZIP CODES 32218 & 32226 HAVE MUCH MORE IN COMMON WITH NASSAU COUNTY THAN DISTRICTS ADJACENT TO US IN JACKSONVILLE. I AM ~~NOT~~ ENCOURAGING YOU TO LEAVE US IN ~~SENATE DISTRICT 6~~, HOUSE DISTRICT 12, & CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4. ~~SENATE~~ <sup>SENATE</sup> DISTRICT 6 ~~WHICH~~ <sup>WHICH</sup> I DO OFFER OUR PLEASUREMENT TO HELP NASSAU COUNTY BE PART OF A SENATE DISTRICT THAT IS MORE COMPACT THAN THE CURRENT ONE. PLEASE RECOGNIZE HOW RURAL JACKSONVILLE AREAS BE ~~DIFFERENTIATED~~ FROM URBAN DISTRICTS.

Steve Bunnott

**STATEMENT OF THE MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TO THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION RE: REDISTRICTING**

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners believes that the division of Marion County into numerous legislative districts results in the diminishing of the ability to present issues common to all Marion County citizens to the Florida Legislature. Therefore, the Board desires that this be taken into account in future redistricting decisions.



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LARRY CRETUL, CHAIRMAN

**LEROY.DEBRA**

**From:** Janis Dyke [pavilnh@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2001 1:39 PM  
**To:** floridaredistricting@leg.state.fl.us  
**Cc:** pickens.joe@leg.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** House District 21

As you consider redistricting for the state, please leave Penney Farms and other towns currently in House District 21 in the same district. We share concerns with NW Putnam County and South Clay County. Thank you. Janis Dyke, Health Care Administrator, Penney Retirement Community

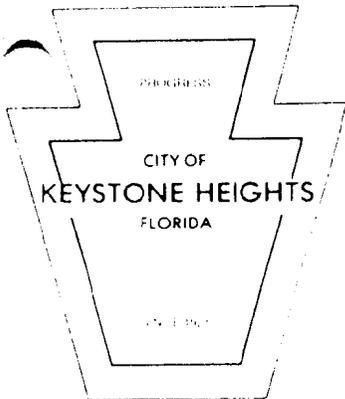
# City of Keystone Heights, Florida

Lloyd Green, Mayor  
City of Keystone Heights

Post Office Box 420

Keystone Heights, Florida 32656

(352) 473-4807



August 2, 2001

Representative Joe H. Pickens  
3841 Reid Street, #5  
Palatka, Florida 32177-3710

Honorable Representative Pickens:

I will not be able to attend the Public Hearing on redistricting in Jacksonville on August 6, 2001. Please see that my comments expressed in this letter are a part of the meeting and public record.

I would prefer that District 21 stay as it is. If any changes are deemed necessary, the City of Keystone Heights and southern Clay County should still be in the same district with the City of Palatka and northwest Putnam County.

The southern Clay County area has many of the same concerns and issues as northwest Putnam County. We are both rural in nature, have common interests in preserving our natural resources and rural quality of life, transportation, economic development and job opportunities to name a few. In fact the City of Keystone and the City of Palatka are working together to develop the Rails-to-Trails corridor between the two cities and has applied jointly for state grants.

To divide the district would be a disservice to the citizens of the current district by diluting their voices in state government. My main concern is, if the Keystone Heights area was placed in a district with a rapidly urbanizing area such as northern Clay County our interest would be overshadowed and representation would effectively disappear.

As Mayor of the City of Keystone Heights I respectfully ask the Florida Legislature to consider my concerns and to keep the City of Keystone Heights in the same district as northwest Putnam County.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lloyd A. Green, Mayor  
City of Keystone Heights

**LEROY.DEBRA**

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**From:** Robert D Hight [bhight5@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2001 5:39 PM  
**To:** floridaredistricting@leg.state.fl.us; pickens.joe@leg.state.fl.us

Attention: Todd Thompson  
Florida House of Rep. Redistricting Committee

Dear Rep. Thompson:

Please communicate to your committee that Penney Farms residents feel strongly that it is in the best interest of our community to remain in the same district as the current House District 21, since we have interests in common with southern Clay County and NW Putnam County, which are small-town and rural.

Thank you. Rebecca Hight, PO Box 156, Penney Farms FL 32079

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**LEROY.DEBRA**

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**From:** ld-tlong@juno.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2001 10:37 PM  
pickens.joe@leg.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee  
Attention: Todd Thompson  
HOB Room 203  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399

Dear Todd Thompson:

It is our desire for Penney Farms to remain in House District 21. Joe Pickens is our State Representative. Most of the Town is made up of older retired citizens, who enjoy knowing our Political Representatives personally. We know Joe personally, and we trust him.

We hope this redistricting will not place Joe Pickens in a District other than ours at Penney Farms, Florida, Clay County.

My husband and I are native Floridians, both being born in Putnam County.

We love living at Penney Retirement Community in Clay County because it is so near our original birthplace in Palatka.

Joe Pickens is like a part of our family. He's a Statesman we can honor.

We hope he can stay in our District. We also know you have to be fair and equitable.

May you be given great wisdom as you work with the redistricting process in the State of Florida.

Very sincerely,

Davis and Loubelle Long  
(Mr. and Mrs. L. Davis Long)  
P. O. Box 956  
Penney Farms, Fl. 32079

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<http://dl.www.juno.com/get/tagj>.

**LEROY.DEBRA**

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**From:** Clarboff2@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2001 2:42 PM  
**To:** floridaredistricting@leg.state.fl.us; pickens.joe@leg.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Attention: Todd Thompson

As a resident of Penney Farms, I wish to add my name to the list of those who are requesting that, in the redistricting consideration, Penney Farms be kept in the same district as now (House District 21) since we have most of the same interests as South Clay County and NW Putnam County. Please keep this request in mind as you continue your planning.  
Clark Offner

**LEROY.DEBRA**

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**From:** Lena White [lenaswhite@worldnet.att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2001 8:21 PM  
**To:** pickens.joe@leg.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** Redistricting - Florida House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Pickens:

I am sending a letter to the Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee, Attention of Todd Thompson, telling him that we at Penney Retirement Community request that the town of Penney Farms remain in the same district as the current House District 21, since we have most of the same interests as South Clay County and NW Putnam County.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely, Lena White (Resident of Penney Retirement Community for 19 years)

December 31, 2001

**Memorandum**

To: Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman  
Committee on Reapportionment

Fr: Douglas D. Adkins, Chairman   
Nassau County GOP Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting

**Re: Nassau County Board of County Commissioners Resolution on Reapportionment and Redistricting**

Senator Webster, please include the following resolutions from our local board of county commissioners as supplemental data to the Jacksonville public hearings. I would also request that you provide copies of these resolutions to each member of the committee.

I am also including a copy of our redistricting report from our committee to be included as supplemental data to the Jacksonville public hearing and also to be distributed to the members of the committee.

A few of the highlights that may be of particular interest include the following 1) Nassau County seeks to be represented in the Florida Senate by a Senator that is affiliated with the Duval County Legislative delegation. 2) Nassau County seeks to retain single member representation in the Florida Senate, Florida House of Representatives and the United States Congress, 3) Nassau County is strongly opposed to any plans that would divide the county along geographic lines. 4.) Nassau County has identified its fast growth small county status and coastal issues as key points of community interest.

I hope that this information is helpful to you and your fellow senators as you begin the important process of deciding how Floridians will be represented in our legislature and the United State Congress. I wish you and the members good luck and will be happy to provide you with any additional information you believe might be helpful. I can be reached at my office at 904-845-2362 or pager at 904-723-1855.

RESOLUTION 2001 - 187

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REDISTRICTING PLANS THAT PROMOTES SINGLE DISTRICT REPRESENTATION FOR NASSAU COUNTY IN THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ESTABLISHES TIES THAT WILL INSURE NASSAU COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DUVAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND RECOGNIZES THE EMERGING COMMUNITY INTEREST IN NASSAU COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has experienced a significant change in its population density, distribution and development over the last ten (10) years and is now a fast growing small county; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County in the last ten years has experienced rapid growth and development in the number of residential dwellings and commercial business interests; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County continues to face significant challenges to agriculture and silvaculture; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County faces the challenges associated with rapid residential growth and its ability to provide local services, which require greater assistance from both the State and Federal elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, more than fifty percent (50%) of the residents in Nassau County work outside the County and have employment, cultural, and economic ties to other parts of Northeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County has learned over the years that political representation works best in our community when east and west side interests are combined through single-district representation; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County residents deserve to have a reasonably close geographical proximity to their elected officials who represent them in Tallahassee and in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County includes a coastal community that faces unique challenges that require both Federal and State assistance; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County, for decades, has been closely tied both economically and culturally to Jacksonville and the communities which make up the region known as "Florida's First Coast"; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County benefits from representation that includes participation in the Duval County Legislative Delegation in that many regional issues impact the citizens of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2001, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

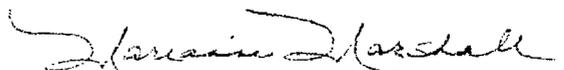
1. The Board supports redistricting plans that (a) promote single-district representation for Nassau County in

the Florida House of Representatives, and (b) establish ties that will ensure Nassau County's participation in the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and (c) recognizes the emerging community interests in Nassau County that include coastal issues, residential and commercial development, and unique funding problems associated with fast growing small counties.

2. The Board is hereby resolved in its support that Nassau County should be represented in the Florida House of Representatives by a Representative affiliated with the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and that Nassau County should retain single-member representation in the Florida House of Representatives.

3. The Board strongly recommends against any actions that would serve to divide Nassau County along geographic lines. The Board opposes efforts that would place Nassau County in a State House District that would separate the citizens of Nassau County from the issues, economic and cultural ties that unite us with our neighboring communities in Northeast Florida.

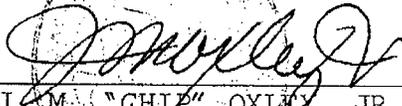
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



MARIANNE MARSHALL

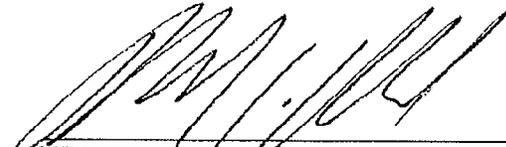
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 J.M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.  
 Its Ex-Officio Clerk

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
 J.M. Chip Oxley, Jr. Ex-Officio Clerk  
 Sup. Council District 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary Public for the State of Florida  
 No. 123456789

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MICHAEL S. MOLLIN

h/anne/res/doug-adkins-res

RESOLUTION 2001 - 188

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REDISTRICTING PLANS THAT PROMOTES SINGLE DISTRICT REPRESENTATION FOR NASSAU COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND ESTABLISHES TIES THAT WILL INSURE NASSAU COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DUVAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND RECOGNIZES THE EMERGING COMMUNITY INTEREST IN NASSAU COUNTY.

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WHEREAS, more than fifty percent (50%) of the residents in Nassau County work outside the County and have employment, cultural, and economic ties to other parts of Northeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County has learned over the years that political representation works best in our community when east and west side interests are combined through single-district representation; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County residents deserve to have a reasonably close geographical proximity to their elected officials who represent them in Tallahassee and in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County includes a coastal community that faces unique challenges that require both Federal and State assistance; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County, for decades, has been closely tied both economically and culturally to Jacksonville and the communities which make up the region known as "Florida's First Coast"; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County benefits from representation that includes participation in the Duval County Legislative Delegation in that many regional issues impact the citizens of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2001, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

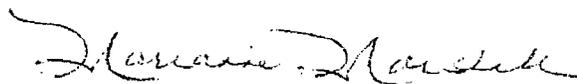
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for the United States Congress, and (b) establish ties that will ensure Nassau County's participation in the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and (c) recognizes the emerging community interests in Nassau County that include coastal issues, residential and commercial development, and unique funding problems associated with fast growing small counties.

2. The Board is hereby resolved in its support that Nassau County should be represented in the United States Congress by a Representative affiliated with the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and that Nassau County should retain single-member representation in the United States Congress.

3. The Board strongly recommends against any actions that would serve to divide Nassau County along geographic lines. The Board opposes efforts that would place Nassau County in a Congressional District that would separate the citizens of Nassau County from the issues, economic and cultural ties that unite us with our neighboring communities in Northeast Florida.

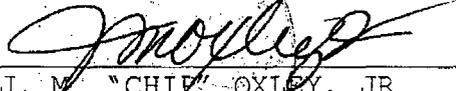
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



MARIANNE MARSHALL

Its: Chairman

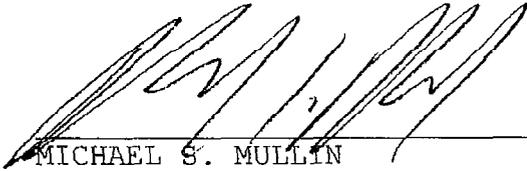
ATTEST:



J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
of M. Chip Oxley, Jr. Ex-Officio Clerk  
by Christine Weather, DC  
EX-082440, Clerk to the Board of County Comm.  
Nassau County, Florida

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney

  
MICHAEL S. MULLIN

h/anne/res/doug-adkins-res

RESOLUTION 2001 - 186

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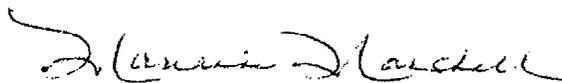
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2. The Board is hereby resolved in its support that Nassau County should be represented in the Florida State Senate by a State Senator affiliated with the Duval County Legislative Delegation, and that Nassau County should retain single-member representation in the Florida State Senate.

3. The Board strongly recommends against any actions that would serve to divide Nassau County along geographic lines. The Board opposes efforts that would place Nassau County in a State Senate District that would separate the citizens of Nassau County from the issues, economic and cultural ties that unite us with our neighboring communities in Northeast Florida.

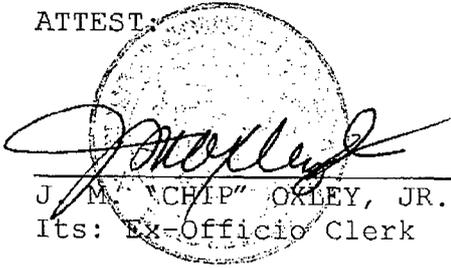
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



MARIANNE MARSHALL

Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



*J. M. 'CHIP' Oxley, Jr.*  
 J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.  
 Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
*J. M. 'CHIP' Oxley, Jr. Ex-Officio Clerk*  
*by Anne Adkins, Esq.*  
 EX-OFFICIO, 2001 Nassau County Clerk  
 Nassau County, Fla.

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLIN

h/anne/rec/doug-adkins-res

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDISTRICTING**

**December 11, 2001**

**I BACKGROUND**

A. Article III of the Florida Constitution deals with Reapportionment as follows:

Section 16. Legislative apportionment. –

(a) **SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.**

The legislature at its regular session in the second year following each decennial census, by joint resolution, shall Apportion the state in accordance with the constitution of The state and of the United States into not less than thirty Nor more than forty consecutively numbered senatorial districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory, and into not less than eighty nor more than one hundred twenty consecutively numbered representative districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory. Should that session adjourn without adopting such joint resolution, the governor by proclamation shall reconvene the legislature within thirty days in special apportionment session, which shall not exceed thirty consecutive days, during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall be the mandatory duty of the legislature to adopt a joint resolution of apportionment.

B. In February 2001, in anticipation of the above, Mr. Jim Adams, Chairman, Nassau County Republican Party, appointed Mr. Doug Adkins to chair an ad hoc committee to provide recommendations on redistricting. The following individuals were named to the ad hoc committee:

Doug Adkins  
Mary Ann Tobin  
Myers Kurtz  
Ann Herbek  
Jane Manley  
Sara Benzel  
Orrin Main

Ed Rodriguez  
John Drew  
John Crawford  
Tom Tyrill  
Muriel Creamer  
Chip Oxley  
Bill Berglund

- C, The first committee meeting was held on February 27, 2001 and  
The following plan was formulated:

(1) PURPOSE:

Develop and identify redistricting issues that will affect  
Nassau County and the Republican Party, and to make  
Recommendations to the Nassau County Republican  
Executive Committee.

(2) DISTRICTS UNDER REVIEW:

- Nassau County (precincts, school board, county comm)
- Florida State House
- Florida State Senate
- U. S. Congress

(3) PRELIMINARY GROUNDWORK:

- Schedule Educational Workshops
- (a) Historical
  - (b) State GOP Overview
  - (c) State Congressional Overview
  - (d) Federal Congressional Overview
  - (e) Impartial/objective Overview
-

### Obtain Appropriate Documentation

- (a) Maps
- (b) Census (1990 and 2000)
- (c) Regional Planning Council Data (County)

#### (4) AD HOC COMMITTEE SCHEDULE TIMELINE:

February 27, 2001 to October 1, 200

## II EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The committee agreed that in order to provide reasonable and rational recommendations to the Executive Board, historical as well as theoretical inputs were required.

In that regard, monthly meetings were scheduled and the following made presentations:

Clerk of Court Chip Oxley  
Vicki Cannon, Supervisor of Elections  
Former County Commissioner John Crawford  
Representative Johnny Byrd  
Senator Jim King  
Ralph Gonzales (State GOP)  
Representative Mike Hogan  
Jacksonville Councilman Matt Carlucci  
Senator Richard Mitchell  
Representative Aaron Bean  
Bill Helmick, Republican Party of Florida  
Representative Don Davis

## III DOCUMENTATION

The committee was very fortunate in that the presenters listed in paragraph II provided the majority of the maps and 1990/2000 census data.

In addition, Vicki Cannon, Supervisor of Elections and the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council provided data.

All data is available for review.

#### IV GROUND RULES FOR REDISTRICTING

- A. All recommendations are based on 2000 census data.
- B. Equal population per U.S. representatives is based upon the Constitution, Article 1, Section 2, in part “chusing representatives by States,....shall be apportioned among the several States,....according to their respective numbers ( census)....the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative.”

Law modified this section several times. The current number of Representatives was established at 435 in 1909. Thus the Decennial Census total count is divided by 435 to determine the number of persons per Representative. The Constitution does refer to whole numbers thus the number of representatives per state is rounded up or down to reach a whole number.

- C. The principal of voting districts is not specifically addressed in the U.S. Constitution but delegated to the States in Article 1, Section 4 as follows: “The Time, Places and Manner of holding elections for senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to places of chusing Senators...”

There were modifications to the section with the most recent and heavily litigated Voting Rights Act of 1965. The three pivotal cases were: Miller vs Johnson 115 S.C.2475(1995);

Reno v Bossier Parish School Board 520us 471 ( 1997): and Shaw vs Reno 113 S.C. 2816 ( 1999).

These and other cases concerned minority representation with voters either excluded/included in gerrymandered configured districts. The concept of compactness and community interest, natural and historic boundaries is current tests used to approve or disapprove political districts.

**V PRINCIPLES FOR REDISTRICTING**

- A. We believe redistricting is a political process and every effort should be made to assist Republicans to hold or gain office while maintaining logical boundaries.
- B. We believe we should use natural boundaries when possible.
- C. We believe Nassau County should maintain our political autonomy as much as possible.
- D. We believe communities of interest in Nassau County are both broad and diverse while mutually supportive and should be maintained as much as possible.

**VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDISTRICTING  
FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION,  
FLORIDA STATE SENATE DISTRICT AND FLORIDA  
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**A. CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION:**

1. Discussion:

The current congressional district (4), in its current configuration, maintains

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Nassau County as a whole and continues down the Atlantic coastline. In accordance with the 2000 census, the population of this District is 734,346 which is 94,951 over the average population of a district. See Attachment (1) map.

2. **Recommendation:**

The Committee agreed that Nassau County is best served by a congressional representative affiliated with Duval County and should retain single member representation in the United States Congress. This recommendation falls within the Ground rules and Principles set forth in this document. Nassau County's community interests in congressional district four are as follows;

1. Nassau County shares a large coastal area that is of significant importance to the entire Northeast Florida eco system and tourism.
2. Nassau County is a rural county that is quickly becoming a highly developed residential and commercial area.
3. Other areas of this district have gone from largely rural areas to high growth residential/ retail.
4. Many issues that affect Duval County and have a stake in how those issues are represented impact Nassau County.

B. **FLORIDA STATE SENATE:**

1. Discussion:

This district (Senate District #4) currently covers all or parts of 18 counties.

The average population of this district is 408,354 (according to the 2000 census) which is 8.795 over populated for an average district This district is not compact and does not fall within the principles set forth in this document. Since the Committee did not agree

with the present configuration of this district, two options were then considered: (1) Adding all of Nassau County to the current District 6, (2) Adding all of Nassau County to the current District 8. See Attachment (2) map.

## **2. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that redistricting maps be redrawn to include Nassau County in a State Senate District that is affiliated with Duval County and allows Nassau County to retain single member representation in the Florida Senate. This recommendation falls within the Ground rules and Principles set forth in the document. Nassau County's community interests are as follows;

1. Nassau County is affected by issues affecting Duval County and needs political representation that allows for participation in the Duval delegation.
2. Nassau County has historic ties to residents of the westside of Duval County and share many interests, family ties, beliefs systems and economic interests.
3. Nassau County residents need to have closer proximity to their State Senator be able to meet with that representative without the barrier posed by distance.
4. Nassau County is a fast growth county and is expected in the next ten years to become increasingly residential in its demographic make up.
5. Nassau County shares the economic development interests of Senate Districts affiliated with the Duval County Delegation and has a stake in how parts of the district develop over the next ten years.

C. **FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Discussion:

The current district ( House District 12) covers a large area and is not as compact as it should be. Based on the 2000 census, the average district population should be 133,186. District 12 is 1,528 over the average district population that will not be difficult to adjust. See Attachment (3) map.

2. Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that Nassau County should be represented in the Florida House of Representative by a member that is affiliated with the Duval County Delegation and should represent the rural interests in our community as well. The committee also recommends that Nassau County retain single member representation in the Florida House of Representatives. This recommendation falls within the Ground rules and Principles as set forth in this document. Nassau County's community interests are as follows in the representation in the State House of Representatives;

1. Nassau County continues to be a significant player in the political landscape of HD 12. Historically the citizens of Nassau County have played a pivotal role in both selecting the Representative and offering competitive candidates.
2. Nassau County continues to have community interests that revolve around issues affecting Duval County. It is of great importance that Nassau County remains part of the Duval Delegation in

order to ensure its interests are represented on a regional level.

3. Nassau County continues to have agricultural interests that are contiguous with other rural counties that compose HD 12 and needs to have a voice in agricultural matters.
4. Nassau County has both cultural and community ties to residents in Baker and Bradford Counties that form important economic and social ties in the region.

**VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS**

**TO BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.**

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