

My comments today focus on **political representation**. Political representation of **all voters**, not merely a few of them. Myself for example, I'm a political minority. I'm registered to vote, but in **neither** of the major parties. I have **no** political representation in Tallahassee or Washington, DC. There are many others like me, **a majority of all voter eligibles in fact**. My state representative, state senator and US representative represent some folks, but I assure you, **not me**, and not many others. The notion that a voter can be well represented by someone that they, the voter, differ with on significant and/or fundamental policy issues is **absurd**. The notion treats voters as ratifiers, not selectors--which we pretend that they are. While there are winners and losers in politics, so many voters shouldn't be **electoral losers all of the time**, at very least everyone that wants to be represented, should be.

It is to this end that I come to you today with a suggestion that goes beyond criticism of the winner-take-all single member district. But first. Districts are usually drawn in such a way that they transcend even the obvious objections that lead to major parties, they are drawn to be safe for one major party or the other oftentimes. I live in such a district. Last year no incumbent was running for the state house seat that I live in. And more than one person ran for the office, however, they were all from one party. I did have the opportunity to vote in a runoff between the top two vote getters from the republican primary. I undervoted. I understand I won't even get this opportunity in the next election. The incumbent in the district which I reside has stated his desire to see **his** district change little. It disturbs me **greatly** that officeholders essentially pick the constituents, and not the other way around.

Please understand that there exists a federal law that has our US representatives elected from single member districts that dates to 1907, and there is little you can do about that.

What I do **not** understand, **given** the voters that vote for losing major party candidacies, the voters that vote for nonmajorparty candidates, the undervotes, the votes for winning candidacies that were cast only to deny another candidate a representative franchise, the registered but not voting, the voter eligible but unregistered, **given all** these potential votes and real votes-- that are **not** represented-- why anyone would think that the present roster of legislators in Tallahassee represents **even a majority** of Floridians. An enduring mere plurality gets all the representation! If one also includes Floridians for whom the right to vote is not so easily reinstated, the equation gets worse. Succinctly, the vast majority of adult citizens in Florida have no political representation in seats of legislative power.

Reconsidering single-member districts is your task, and I ask that you give consideration to idea that still retains SMD's unrepresentative though they are. Simply recommend to the legislative powers a new option for voters: transferring to another district, within the tolerances of the one man, one vote principle.

**It's about political representation. the Florida voter is I think is the central community of concern.**

Larry Allred 8/27/01  
907-596-1119

## FLORIDA REDISTRICTING 2001

**Memo To:** Florida League of Cities  
**From:** City of Dunedin  
Mayor Tom Anderson  
**Subject:** Florida Redistricting 2001  
**Date:** August 20, 2001  
**Objective:** The Florida League of Cities should consider issuing a policy statement that supports keeping Cities and Communities with a common interest wholly within one district if possible.

- 2000 Census indicates that the State of Florida will receive two additional congressional seats.
- The State House and Senate Districts will be larger because of the increase in population e.g. House district 107,000 – 133,000 population. Senate districts 323,000 – 400,000 population.
- It is important for the Florida League of Cities to have good representation in the House and Senate and keeping cities and communities with a common interest wholly within one District will insure that.
- The St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune and Senator Jack Latvala have publicly stated that they believe keeping local government boundaries intact is important. The following basic criteria is suggested:
  - Have approximately the same number of residents in each District.
  - Districts should be as compact and contiguous as possible.
  - Keep Cities and Communities of common interest within one District.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Florida League of Cities should adopt a policy position as follows:

- Redistricting Committees should be encouraged to keep cities and communities with a common interest wholly within one District to insure good representation for Communities.
- The Florida League of Cities should encourage its members to attend public hearings to be held throughout the state by the Redistricting Committees and verbally present the Florida League of Cities position.
- A copy of the policy statement should be presented to the House and Senate Redistricting Committees, Speaker Tom Feeney, President John McKay and Governor Jeb Bush.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present this issue to you.



Mayor Tom Anderson  
City of Dunedin

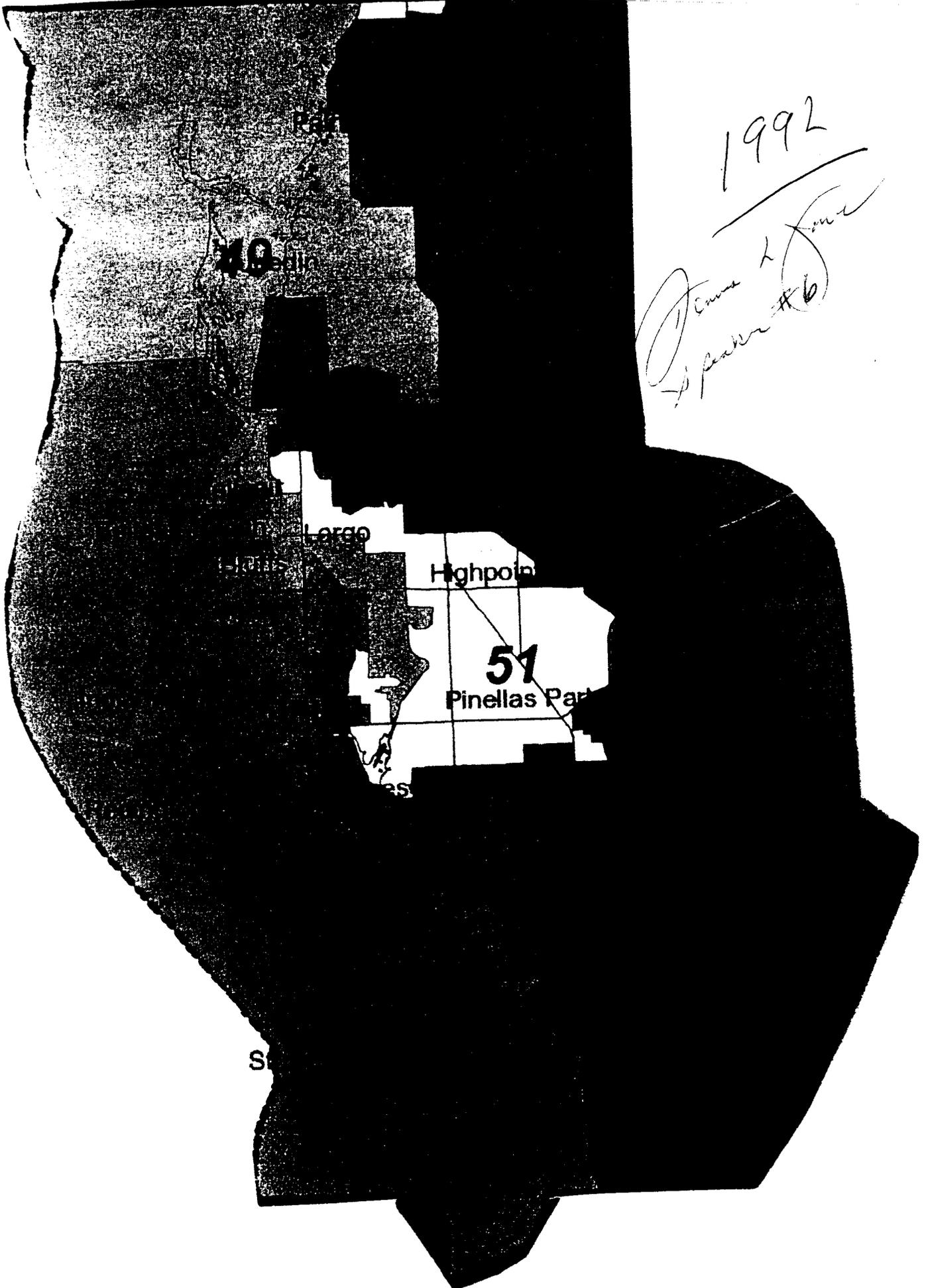
Thank you  
for letting me  
speak about this  
subject  
important  
EVENING  
W-U

Russ Matthews  
~~Barbara Giorgio~~ ST PETERSBURG FL

Good morning, my name is ~~Russell Matthews~~, I live in \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a

member of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. I want to thank the Committee for holding this public hearing. I would note, however, that the vast majority of your hearings are being held during the middle of the workday, when it is not convenient for the working public to attend. Further, I am lucky that this hearing is taking place in Pinellas County, when AFSCME members and other workers in Brevard, Seminole and Pasco counties, ~~which~~ might well be affected by this process, thus far have no opportunity to participate in a public hearing. I would ask that as this process moves forward, you strive to make it more open and more accessible, and that all information is easily available to the public. Posting all information on the Legislature's website, including any maps made available to the Legislative leadership, would be helpful.

I am also concerned that the most accurate census data be used during the redistricting process. News reports indicate that over 200,000 Floridians were missed by the 2000 Census and we know that minority groups are disproportionately represented in this undercount. Since Florida was one of only four states ~~to not provide~~ <sup>not providing</sup> precinct level data to the Census Bureau, I would suggest that to compensate for these possible attendant problems, the Legislature



1992

*Dennis L. Somes*  
*Speaker #6*

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Largo

Highpoint

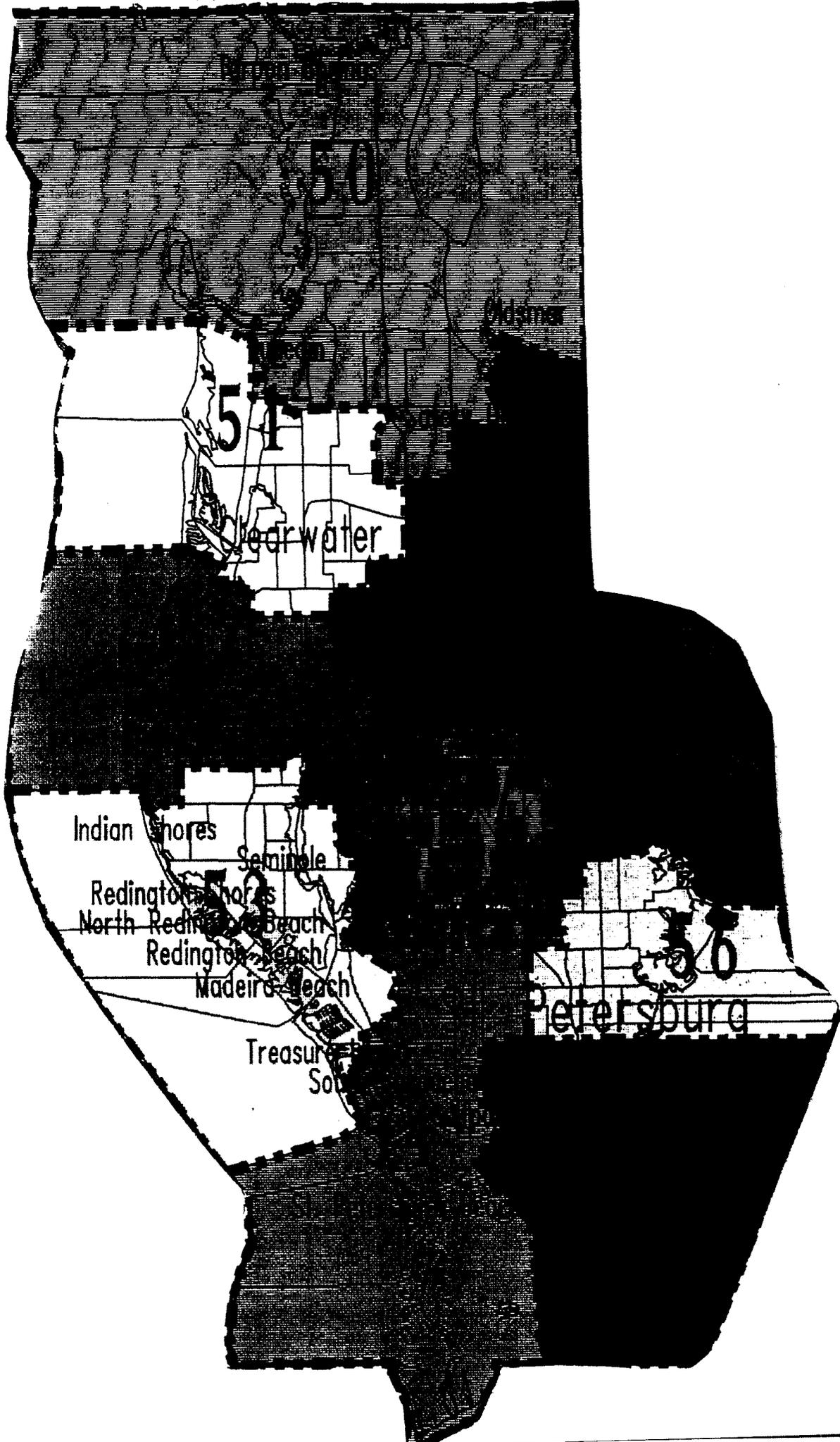
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Pinellas Part

S

1982

James H. Jones  
Speaker # 6



Ruth Talley, Speaker #44  
HCDEC

**TAMPA PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING**  
**9:30 a.m., Monday, August 27, 2001**  
**Hillsborough County Commission Chambers**

I understand that the software that the State has developed to use in drawing maps has a wealth of information, but quite frankly it is not that easy to use – especially for the average Floridian like myself who is not that computer literate. While many people may be able to use a word processing program and e-mail, most people are not that skilled at using complicated computer software, especially those of us who did not grow up with computers like the kids of today.

Since you have the state's technical staff attending these hearings, I am respectfully requesting that you use these public hearings as an opportunity to teach people how to use the FREDs software. You could set up a couple of computers and have your technical people available for an hour before each hearing starts to help people learn how to use the software.

Your software may be a great product, but it doesn't do the average non-computer literate Floridian any good if they do not know how to use it.

I hope you will take my suggestion to heart, because I think the benefit to those in the public who would be able to take advantage of it, would far outweigh the cost.

## **League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County**

### Position On Reapportionment:

Good Morning. My name is Jane Fagan and I am here today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County (LWVHC) to share our position on the upcoming redistricting process. We believe that the Florida Legislature is currently faced with an unique opportunity to restore trust in our electoral process; to strengthen representative government and to make each voter feel that their individual vote truly does count. The key to accomplishing these goals is the methodology the Legislature uses to accomplish redistricting.

The LWVHC is part of a statewide petition drive called "People Over Politics", which seeks to put two amendments on the November 2000 ballot for the people of Florida to vote on. These amendments reflect positions, which the FL League has held for about 30 years. One of the amendments would create a process for the legislature to appoint an independent non-partisan commission to draw the lines of congressional and legislative districts every 10 years following the census. Both majority and minority members of the Florida House and Senate would have equal input into the make-up of this commission.

The other amendment would set reasonable standards for these districts to guide the commission and ensure fairness in any reapportionment plan. Under this amendment, legislative and congressional districts would be contiguous and compact and would respect county and municipal boundaries to the extent possible. It would also prohibit redistricting decisions based on incumbency or party affiliation. Finally, this amendment would forbid the creation of districts that will dilute the voting strength of any group based on race, religion or national origin.

In the past, a special session of legislature has been devoted to this process. The League has monitored these sessions and has seen the division and animosity, which impact the deliberations and the final plans. The self-interest of some incumbents and the partisan maneuvering further complicate the session. Sometimes these problems cannot be resolved, no agreements can be reached and the plan has to be finally determined by the courts at great expense to the taxpaying citizens of Florida.

Following the special session the animosities and partisan arguments always carry over into the regular legislative sessions, the important business of Florida government is adversely affected as issues are debated and new laws are considered.

Computers have also now impacted the process. Demographic and political data can be adjusted in an infinite variety of ways thus creating a variety of districts. Some of these reflect special interest more than the needs of constituents and the greater common good.

Further complicating the matter this time, if Legislature is allowed to do the redistricting, is the effect of term limits. Eleven(11)of the forty(40)

senators and fifty- five(55) of the one hundred and twenty(120) House members will be newly elected, replacing the sixty six(66)current legislative members whose terms are over in 2000.

It is the League's position that an independent, non-partisan commission can carry out a better, less disruptive plan. We feel, however, that the Legislature, as an elected body, should play the important role of appointing the members of such a commission. The majority and minority party leaders in each chamber would appoint eight members to the commission. These 16 would then select a 17th member from some party other than the Democratic or Republican parties; an Independent, Libertarian, or Green party member, for example. Such commission members could not be elected officials, paid lobbyists or party officials, or closely related.

They would also have to sign a pledge to not seek office or be paid lobbyists for four years following the plan adoption. All of commission's meetings would be open, and public hearings around the state would ensure local input. Any decisions would require an 11- vote supermajority. The final resulting plan would have to be approved by the state Supreme Court for compliance with the Voting Rights Act and other laws, including the standards set by amendment one.

The League believes that the method it is proposing is fair to all concerned. Legislative and congressional representation should not depend on what party will be in power in 2002,2012 or anytime thereafter. What the League is advocating is a long term constitutional solution that will solve a problem that has been out of control for years. It is unrealistic to expect legislators to be unbiased when it comes to the retention of their seat or their future political plans. The non-partisan reapportionment commission being proposed by the League would negate this potential bias by creating a redistricting system that would benefit all Floridians and not just the political party that is in power during the reapportionment session.

The League strongly feels that such a process would help to end gerrymandering, restore public confidence, and strengthen the electoral process. It does not seem fair to ask the public to vote in districts which have been drawn in a way to preclude the outcome of an election before the people even have a chance to vote. Your help in getting these amendments on the November ballot for the people of Florida to decide themselves on how reapportionment should be handled can only help to restore faith among the voters in the existence of fair and truly representative elections.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted: Jane M. Fagan, President-Elect(2002)  
League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County  
P.O. Box 13186  
Tampa, FL 33681  
[LWVHC@yahoo.com](mailto:LWVHC@yahoo.com)

Date: August 27, 2001 Public Hearing  
Tampa, FL

# FAIR

(Fair Action In Representation)

P.O. Box 476  
Ruskin, FL 33570-0476

Contacts: (813) Ron Wolfe 273-8976 Mike Carducci 662-9694

The Bait and Switch Event  
By Ron Wolfe

The actions of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their July 12 redistricting meeting is a classic example of bait-and-switch and a disservice to citizens of south Hillsborough County.

By moving Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin and Sun City from district 4 to south Tampa district 1, the criteria for developing commission districts to allow representation of general areas of the county having similar or common interests or affinities has been violated.

The citizens who attended this meeting at county center came prepared to comment on redistricting options 1 and 2, as advertised in the Tampa Tribune. When they arrived, they were confronted with options 3 and 4, which had not been advertised.

The Hillsborough County Home Rule Charter, section 4.06 states: "Within 120 days after certification of the federal decennial census, the board of county commissioners shall reapportion districts 1 through 4. **Before doing so**, the board of county commissioners shall cause an accurate description of the proposed new boundaries of such districts to be entered upon its minutes and a certified copy thereof to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks (four publications being sufficient) in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county".

By approving option 4 and failing to advertise option 4 to the general public so citizens could assess the impact on their communities, citizens affected were unable to voice their concerns and were denied an opportunity to participate in the redistricting process. Further, by approving option 4, the BOCC disregarded the public input provided to the Hillsborough County Redistricting Task Force during 18 regional meetings throughout the county.

The advertised options 1 and 2 were a result of these community meetings and reflected the will of the people.

The commissioners prepared their own plan so why was taxpayer money used to finance the 18 regional meetings to gather citizen input?

(over)

# FAIR

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Commissioners supporting the approved plan were Pat Frank, Stacey Easterling, Jim Norman and Ronda Storms.

Commissioners Chris Hart, Jan Platt and Tom Scott opposed it.

It is clear to me that a number of the BOCC are out of touch with the wishes of residents. They display an arrogance that suggests they know what's best rather than responding to the wishes of the people.

For the past 18 months FAIR (Fair Action In Representation) has recommended significant amendments to the Hillsborough County Home Rule Charter, our county constitution. This includes moving from 3 at large and 4 single member elected commissioners to 7 single member districts, thereby bringing the government closer to the people.

Based upon this bait-and-switch event by the BOCC, is it time for you to join FAIR in helping to place these needed amendments on the ballot for November 2002?

FAIR has prepared a position paper and a preliminary redistricting plan. The plan proposes constituents served by each commissioner be reduced from 250,000 to 135,000. A 7 single member district map is included showing the preservation of all neighborhood community areas in Hillsborough County.

To get a copy of FAIR's plan, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (57 cents) to FAIR, P.O. Box 476, Ruskin, FL 33570-0476.

Ron Wolfe resides in Ruskin and is a co-founder of FAIR. He can be reached at (813) 273-8976 or email: [arjaywolfe@earthlink.net](mailto:arjaywolfe@earthlink.net).

**Mr. Chairman, Members** of the committee, welcome to Tampa.

Let me introduce myself, I am Mary Ann Keckler from Hernando County, a viable part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I have come here today to talk to you about the importance of maintaining the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as it is currently configured.

First let me say that I sincerely hope that you are guided by one overriding principle in this process-Fairness. We all know that one party controls the legislature and the Governor's office in this state, but the people of Florida do not want this process to be simply a partisan exercise. If you truly want the public's input, you should hold hearings after a plan is on the table. The public cannot be expected to comment on something they have not seen. AND SO I ASK YOU.....Have maps and plans been developed? If so, we respectfully ask that that we be allowed to review them and that they not be worked on in secret in some backroom..... The people of Florida have the right to know up front, which direction this State is taking overall on the redistricting.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district is a well designed district and a district that has a huge veteran population. Karen Thurman and her staff have been an asset in helping and aiding veterans with their problems and their needs. This has been done on a non partisan level. I for one am a Veteran and actively involved

in several veterans organizations of which I do an extensive amount of volunteer work, to help those that do not know which way to turn and what there benefits and rights are. I do this thru the help of Congresswoman Thurman's Office. She and her staff have been helpful in expediting and solving problems with claims etc. Not only has it been to help veterans, which Congresswoman Thurman deserves KUDOS and many of them. She has worked to help and and all contituents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district and in some cases other districts where people feel more comfortable dealing with her than there own Congress Person. KAREN as we all know an love has been there for us all... I am asking especially for Hernando County that she stay so I can Ccntinue doing what I DO best, helping those that need help thru the great efforts of her office. Not only is this heartfelt feeling in Hernando, but in Citrus County, Alachua County, Marion County Levy, Columbia and of course Pasco County. I continually hear people outside of her district praising her for the work she and her staff have done. The echoing voices I hear make me want to stand up and cheer, when I hear I wish I could vote for Karen Thurman, She has done a lot for me.. THATS AS NON PARTISAN AS YOU CAN GET.

Again I ask you when you are looking at this picture, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE look at it from the peoples point of view.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Good Morning!

My name is Hugh Green, I live in part of the 5th Congressional District,  
Hernando County.

I sincerely hope that you are guided by one principle in this process -  
Fairness!

In the spirit of fairness, we want you to consider what is best for the 5th  
District.

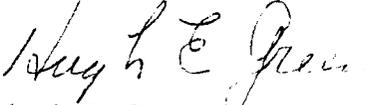
Our community is primarily concerned with education, veterans issues,  
seniors, health care, minority issues and urban concerns.

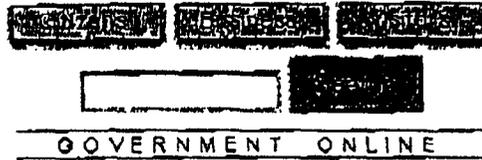
We feel that we have been well represented by Congresswoman Karen  
Thurman, who understands the concerns the people of the 5th District share.

In short, our district is configured in a way that has effective representation  
of our district's most important issues. You should not do anything to  
change that.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Hugh E. Green  
Spring Hill, Florida



## Hillsborough County Commission Redistricting Committee

### *Criteria for Redistricting*

The Redistricting Task Force believes the following criteria for reapportionment is reflective of governing legislation, as well as local community interest. Your Board of County Commissioners has adopted these as the guiding rationale and philosophy against which alternatives will be measured throughout the redistricting process.

- Commission districts should have equal population to comply with the "one man, one vote" requirement. When other criteria and principles are taken into account, all efforts shall be made to minimize the population variance among districts.
- Districts will be created in as compact a form as possible, and be contiguous.
- The 2000 Census counts provided under Public Law (PL) 94-171 from the U.S. Bureau of the Census will be used as the official source of population counts and demographic information for reapportionment.
- The Board of County Commissioners will maintain a County Commission district to maximize the opportunity for a minority representative candidate to be elected.
- Commission districts should allow representation of general areas of the County having similar or common interests or affinities. Geographic neighborhood and natural boundaries should be taken into account in the establishment of district lines and be used as divisions where practicable.
- The Board of County Commissioners will target a zero percent retrogression (no negative change) of minority composition in districts.
- Commission districts will be sensitive to the pattern of voting districts established by the Supervisor of Elections. They should be drawn to minimize public confusion with regard to voting.

John Chester Laconca

John Laconca  
2247 Waterfall Drive  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Phone (352) 688-0599 Cell: (352) 650-9339  
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August 27<sup>th</sup> 2001

I would like to thank the panel for opening up these hearing to the general public and to allow input into this process.

The job of a state legislator is a high and noble position, one that should be able to put above the petty ideas of self-gain and rewards system. The elected officials of Florida are entrusted with an awesome responsibility of serving the people of this state. I hope, with the re-directing coming up, the members of the legislative body will be able to up hold the trust and values the citizens of this state want from their elected officials.

I hope the members of this committee and further more, member of the entire Florida legislative body will put aside their own political ambitions and personal gain and do what is right. Put the needs and voices of the citizens above the self-gain of your fellow members.

I would like to remind the panel that new districts must be continuous and must not violate the Civil Rights acts of the 1960s. Also, that political gerrymandering is highly illegal and members that try to crave district as such will be watched carefully. Also, I would ask the panel to prevent the redistrict from splitting sub-divisions and other historic neighbors just to squeeze a few more voters into their scope. It should be an all or nothing with these areas. First and for most, the historical nature of representatives, such as Karen Thurman's twenty-year political relationship with Hernando County and others around the state. Most people have grown accustom to having these people serve as their representatives and it shows by their continuous re-election.

I hope that my words and the words of my fellow citizens are taken with good advise. I am fearful of men and women, who feel that they need to reward a few with such generous awards at the cost of the citizenry. A noble statesman would put the needs of the many above the needs of the few or the one.

I thank you for your time,



John Chester Laconca  
15 year Hernando County resident

Alexander & Evangeline Jenkins  
11450 Linden Drive  
Spring Hill, Florida 34608-5142

August 25, 2001

Letter on Redistricting at Public Hearing - Tampa, August 27, 01

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, We trust that you are having a good day. This letter is from both Alexander and Evangeline Jenkins. We are registered voters of Congressional District 5, and residents of Hernando County. We are sending this letter to indicate the vital importance of maintaining the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as currently established.

In your deliberations, We hope that you will be guided by the major democratic principle of fairness. We are aware that one party control the legislature and the governor's office, but it is your duty to all the people of Florida to make non-partisan decisions. Today, we feel very much like Don Quixote in that we are attempting to give public input on a plan that have not been published or debated. We realize that time is of the essence, but it appears as if this is an attempt to foist a partisan plan on the people.

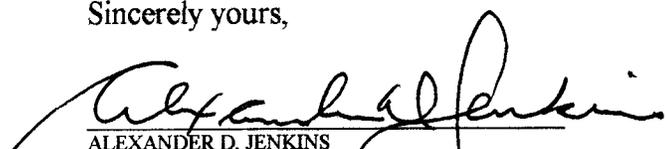
If you publish your plan, we can give input on what would be the best for the communities. We would not want you to chop up lines to fit some secret partisan agenda. We are asking for **fairness**

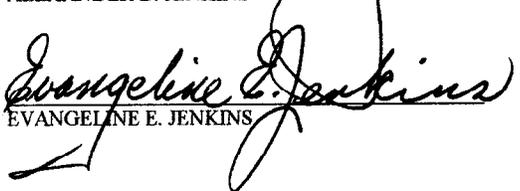
The 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which is comprised of Pasco, Hernando, Columbia, Levy, Marion and Alachua, and Citrus counties is a district that works well for the its citizens. A very strong community of interest exists among the people and business of the community. We know that we have been well represented by Karen Thurman, who understands the concerns the people of the 5<sup>th</sup> district share, such as education, economic development, and medical care for seniors and military veterans.

We would like to quote the old saying "If it is not broken, don't fix it". Do not pull us apart to satisfy a partisan agenda. This district works well for the people and gives us maximum effective representation on the issues.

whatever this committee do, will long be remembered.

Sincerely yours,

  
ALEXANDER D. JENKINS

  
EVANGELINE E. JENKINS

Michael Sullivan  
Hernando Democratic Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL SULLIVAN AND I AM A MEMBER OF THE  
HERNANDO DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CONTROL IS WHAT WE ARE SPEAKING OF HERE TODAY. THE  
LINES THAT YOU DRAW ON THE MAP WILL DETERMINE THE CONTROL  
AND DESTINY OF MANY CITIZENS. THE BLACK VOTERS OF THE STATE  
OF FLORIDA MUST NOT BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN  
POLITICAL PROCESS AS MANY WERE IN THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION. THE REAPPORTIONMENT PROCESS MUST ASSURE THE COUNTRY  
THAT THIS CANNOT HAPPEN AGAIN. THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT  
COUNTRY ARE WATCH VERY CLOSELY. FLORIDA MUST NOT BECOME  
THE TARGET OF JOKES THAT BELITTLE OUR INTELLECT AND OUR  
INABILITY TO HOLD AN ELECTION THAT IS FAIR TO ALL THE PEOPLE.  
YOU SHOULD USE EVERY POWER TO INSURE THAT THE LINES YOU  
ARE DRAWING ON THE MAPS OF REAPPORTIONMENT INCLUDE EVERY  
CITIZEN AND ABOVE ALL IS FAIR IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.  
DO NOT LET POLITICAL ADVANTAGE GUIDE YOUR HAND.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

  
MICHAEL SULLIVAN 12291 ASCOT LANE  
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

34609

Speaker # 000020

www.peopleoverpolitics.com

William Wolfe, Speaker #20

# The Ghost of Elbridge Gerry

By JOHN H. FUND

In the wake of Florida's presidential debacle, everyone is still talking about how to modernize voting machines and make sure that all votes count in a photo finish. But almost no one is paying attention to an arcane process that ultimately has a greater impact on who gets elected.

This year, the census has set in motion the redrawing of political districts. In many states, the process will result in sundered communities, Etch-a-Sketch gerrymanders, court suits and charges of discrimination. Just as citizens need not put up with spoiled ballots or vote fraud, they should also demand more order and fairness in what is now an ugly backroom practice.

## Creating Maps

Elbridge Gerry gave birth to the gerrymander in 1812, when, as governor of Massachusetts, he drew a district that resembled a salamander; his opponents named the creature after him. But such districts were child's play. Now, block-by-block computer maps of the nation allow the party in power to create maps with tortuous nooks and crannies. Too often, the result is a plan that allows elected officials to choose their voters, rather than the other way around.

Twenty years ago, the late Rep. Phil Burton created an infamous gerrymander that he called "my contribution to abstract art." One district was an incredible 385-sided figure. Voters tolerate such mischief because they don't know about it. Despite fierce debate, a Field poll found that 41% of Californians had no opinion about the "Burtonmander." But when read a neutral description of gerrymandering, 82% of voters disapproved of the process, and only 10% favored it.

A 1986 Supreme Court decision held that gerrymandering that artificially entrenches a majority party over time may be unconstitutional, but set a very high bar for such challenges. However, post-Florida, there is an environment in which

court challenges may be more likely, and in which talk of ways to cage the gerrymander is at least possible. So this could be a rare opportunity for genuine good-government reform.

Another reason for cautious optimism is that for the first time in generations both parties are going to be gored by gerrymanders. Democratic dominance of state legislatures vanished in 1994, and today Republicans control the governor's mansion and both legislative houses in 14 states, which together have 107 House seats. Democrats will control redistricting in 10 states with a total of 127 House seats. California's Democrats will deliver an updated version of the Burtonmander, while Florida's GOP legislature will draw friendly lines of its own.

The redistricting process has just gotten under way, but enough states have reported in to give a rough idea of how four distinct redistricting models work:

- *The Republican gerrymander.* In 1991, Democrats controlled redistricting in Virginia and lumped 15 Republican state delegates into eight districts. But over time, even that plan couldn't prevent a 1999 GOP takeover of the state legislature. This census, Republicans hold the pen, and have designed a plan that lumps nine Democrats into four districts and divides some cities.

- *The Democratic gerrymander.* Even though each party has one legislative house in Indiana, Democrats control the process because stalemates are settled by a commission that they dominate. The new congressional district map includes a seat designed to satisfy Democratic House Speaker John Gregg's yen to move to Washington. The 3rd District, which has combined South Bend and Elkhart together in the same district since 1932, has been renumbered, and the counties sepa-

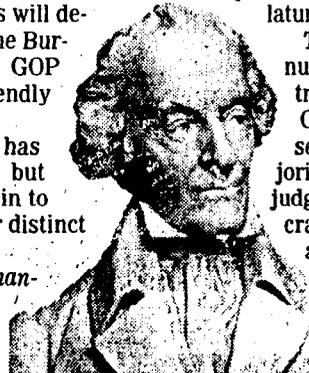
rated, to preserve a Democratic seat.

- *The 'Tiebreaker Is God' Commission.* New Jersey Republicans would control the redistricting process save for the fact that under public pressure the legislature turned over the job to a bipartisan commission in 1979. The 10 members are joined by an independent, tiebreaking 11th member appointed by the chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Larry Bartels, a Princeton professor with well-known liberal views, was named the tiebreaker. He sided with Democrats who wanted to spread out minority voters so they would impact more of the state's 40 state legislative districts.

The new map reduced the number of majority-black districts to one from three. The GOP proposal preserved those seats and added a second majority-Hispanic seat. A federal judge has blocked the Democratic plan until he hears GOP arguments that it dilutes minority voting power. Last week's Supreme Court decision upholding a mild form of racial gerrymandering bolsters GOP arguments that New Jersey's plan improperly eliminates minority districts. It will also allow the GOP to forge opportunistic alliances with minority groups on redistricting.

• *The Computers Do It.* Iowa is unique in that its redistricting is done by the professional staff of the legislature. They are charged with maintaining "the unity of counties and cities" and creating compact districts without regard to previous election results. By law, they cannot take into account where incumbents live, or any demographic information other than population.

This year, 50 of Iowa's 100 House members were tossed together in the same districts, along with 20 of the 50 senators. Even so, the staff-drawn plans for seats in Congress and the state legislature have a



The first gerrymanderer

good chance of winning approval. If the legislature turns them down, they must call special sessions to vote on a second, and then a third plan.

Iowa Republicans now hold four of five congressional seats in a state that voted for Al Gore, so it's no surprise that they will lose a little advantage this year. A new urban district that combines Des Moines and Ames moves from a toss-up to narrowly Democratic. GOP Rep. Jim Leach's district adds enough Republicans so that the GOP has a chance to keep it when the 24-year veteran retires. GOP Rep. Jim Nussle and Democrat Leonard Boswell have safer seats, though Mr. Nussle will have to move. The only clear overall winners are the voters, who have five compact districts in which not a single one of the state's 99 counties is divided.

## Partisan Tradition

It certainly would be too much to expect states with a more partisan tradition and a larger minority population to emulate Iowa's good-government purity. But just as the war against chads won't be won in a day, states could adopt standards that prevent the worst gerrymandering abuses by demanding contiguity and compactness. Last year Arizona became the sixth state to have a commission draw its political boundaries.

Upon leaving office, Ronald Reagan promised that he would devote time and energy to "tell the American people the truth about how the electoral process has been distorted" by gerrymandering. His voice stilled, others must take up the call. Unless districts are fairly drawn to preserve competition and the idea of a political community, many elections, basically predetermined, will be rendered meaningless. When voters learn the truth, it becomes yet another reason for them to stop voting—as they are doing in growing numbers.

Mr. Fund is a member of the Journal's editorial board. His political diary appears on OpinionJournal.com.

Fight AIDS With Reason. Not Rhetoric

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITION FORM  
*Amendment Two*

Place  
Stamp  
Here

***People Over Politics***  
***People Protection, Not Politician Protection***

***People Over Politics***  
P.O. Box 1079  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32302-1079

**TITLE:** CREATES INDEPENDENT NONPARTISAN COMMISSION TO APPORTION LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL SEATS WHICH REPLACES APPORTIONMENT BY LEGISLATURE.

**SUMMARY:** Creates 17-member commission replacing legislature to apportion legislative and congressional districts following census; state officials, members of congress, lobbyists, party officers, relatives or employees are ineligible; commissioners swear not to seek office in such districts or be paid lobbyists for four years; 16 members selected equally by majority and minority parties who select 17th member; all actions require 3/5 vote; not adopting districting plan within 180 days requires state supreme court to apportion.

**FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

Delete current Article III, Section 16, and insert the following:  
"Section 16. Legislative apportionment.--

"(a) APPORTIONMENT AND DISTRICTING COMMISSION. In the year following each decennial census or when required by the United States or by court order, a commission shall divide the state into not less than 30 or more than 40 consecutively numbered senatorial districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory, and not less than 80 or more than 120 consecutively numbered representative districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory as provided by this constitution or by general law and shall divide the State to create as many congressional districts as there are representatives in congress apportioned to this state. Districts shall be established in accordance with the constitution of this state and of the United States and shall be as nearly equal in population as practical.

"(1) On or before June 1 in the year following each decennial census, or within 15 days after legislative apportionment or congressional districting is required by law or by court order, 16 commissioners shall be certified by the respective appointing authorities to the custodian of records. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives each shall select and certify four commissioners. Members of minority parties in the senate shall elect one from their number who shall select and certify four commissioners. Members of minority parties in the house of representatives shall elect one from their number who shall select and certify four commissioners. Within 21 days after the 16 members are certified to the custodian of records, the commissioners by affirmative vote of 11 members shall elect the 17th member, who shall be a registered voter who for the previous two years was not registered as an elector of any political party having a member holding office in the appointing legislature. If no selection is made, then the chief justice of the supreme court shall select the 17th member from a list of four persons, who shall be registered voters who for the previous two years were not registered as electors of any political party having a member holding office in the appointing legislature, two selected by the speaker's and president's commissioners, and two by the minority parties' commissioners.

"(2) a. No commissioner shall have served during the two years prior to his or her certification as an elected state official, member of congress, party officer or employee, paid registered lobbyist, legislative or congressional employee, and no commissioner shall be a relative, as defined by law, or an employee of any of the above.

"b. As a condition of appointment, each commissioner shall take an oath affirming that the commissioner will not receive compensation as a paid registered lobbyist, or seek elected office in any legislative or congressional district for a period of four years after concluding service as a commissioner.

FOLD

Speaker  
#000020

# People Over Politics

## People Protection, Not Politician Protection

(3) The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chair and shall establish its own rules and procedures. All commission actions shall require 11 affirmative votes. Meetings and records of the commission shall be open to the public and public notice of all meetings shall be given.

(4) Within 180 days after the commission is certified to the custodian of records, the commission shall file with the custodian of records its final report, including all required plans.

(5) After the supreme court determines that the required plans are valid, the commission shall be dissolved.

(b) FAILURE OF COMMISSION TO APPORTION, JUDICIAL APPORTIONMENT. If the commission does not timely file its final report including all required plans with the custodian of records, the commission shall be dissolved, and the attorney general shall, within five days, petition the supreme court of the state to make such apportionment. No later than the sixtieth day after the filing of such petition, the supreme court shall file with the custodian of records an order making such apportionment.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT. Within 15 days after the final report of the commission is filed with the custodian of records, the attorney general shall petition the supreme court to review and determine the validity of the apportionment.

(d) EFFECT OF JUDGMENT IN APPORTIONMENT. A judgment of the supreme court determining the apportionment to be valid or ordering judicial apportionment shall be binding upon all citizens of the state. Should the supreme court determine that the apportionment made by the commission is invalid, the commission, within 20 days after the ruling, shall adopt and file with the custodian of records an amended plan that conforms to the judgment of the supreme court. Within five days after the filing of an amended plan, the attorney general shall petition the supreme court of the state to determine the validity of the amended plan, or if the commission has failed to file an amended plan, report that fact to the court.

(e) JUDICIAL APPORTIONMENT. Should the commission fail to file an amended plan or should the supreme court determine the amended plan is invalid, the commission shall be dissolved, and the supreme court shall, not later than 60 days after receiving the petition of the attorney general, file with the custodian of records an order making such apportionment.

*Fla. Stat. Section 104.185 - It is unlawful for any person to knowingly sign a petition or petitions for a particular issue or candidate more than one time. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.084.*

**I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the following amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the general election.**  
(Please print information as it appears on voter records.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, FL Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Cong. Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_ (OR) Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a change of address for voter registration? ( ) Yes ( ) No

For Office Use Only:  
Serial Number: 99-07  
Date Approved: 11/04

**People Over Politics**  
P. O. Box 1079  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1079

**TITLE:** STANDARDS TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPORTIONING OR CREATING LEGISLATIVE OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

**SUMMARY:** Establishes additional standards for legislative or congressional reapportionment beyond existing equal population requirement; districts shall be compact and composed of contiguous territory, avoiding division of counties where possible; districts shall not dilute voting strength of any group based on race, religion or national origin; districts shall not be drawn to favor or disfavor any incumbent, political party or other person.

**FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

Add a new subsection (\*) to Article III, Section 16:

“(\*) STANDARDS FOR REAPPORTIONMENT. In apportioning the legislative and congressional districts, in addition to the population requirements provided in the constitutions of the United States and this state, the following standards shall be followed:

“(1) All legislative and congressional districts shall be compact in form, and composed of contiguous territory. Where possible, division of counties and other political subdivisions shall be avoided.

“(2) Districts shall not be drawn so as to dilute the voting strength of any group based upon race, religion or national origin.

“(3) Districts shall not be drawn so as to favor or disfavor any incumbent, political party or other person.

*Fla. Stat. Section 104.185 - It is unlawful for any person to knowingly sign a petition or petitions for a particular issue or candidate more than one time. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.084.*

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City \_\_\_\_\_, FL Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Cong. Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_ (OR) Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a change of address for voter registration? ( ) Yes ( ) No

For Office Use Only:  
Serial Number: 99-06  
Date Approved: 11/04

**People Over Politics**  
P. O. Box 1079  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1079

Karl Schulz

To Senator Webster: AUG 28, 2001

This is to encourage you to help put  
CITRUS COUNTY INTO ONE VOTING PRECINCT  
rather than the split precinct it is now.

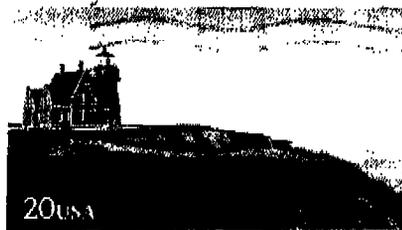
Our votes sometimes do not count &  
this is not fair.

Citrus county should be only ONE voting  
precinct & thank you for your help.

Karl C. Schulz

AUG 30 2001

Karl C. Schulz  
11833 Riverhaven Drive  
Homosassa, Florida 34448



Senator Daniel Webster  
Chair of Ctte of Reapportionment  
315 South Dillard St  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

47274320



Charles Littell  
International Rotary Club  
POST OFFICE BOX 6147  
SPRING HILL FL.  
ZIP 34611

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS CHARLES A. LITTELL AND BY PROFESSION I AM A PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST FOR THE LAST FORTY YEARS. I HOLD U.S. PATENTS, RECORDS OF INVENTION AND CERTAIN AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT. I AM ALSO A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB. THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ALL MEMBERS TRY TO LIVE BY IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

THESE ARE SOME OF THE SIMPLE GUIDELINES YOU SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN DRAWING THE LINES OF REAPPORTIONMENT FOR THE 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS TEST #2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED? WILL IT GUARANTEE EACH CITIZEN THE SAME FAIR TREATMENT THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSWOMAN KAREN THURMAN FOR MANY YEARS? WILL IT BE FAIR TO ALL PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS AND FAITHS? THIS WILL REQUIRE A DEPTH OF WISDOM ON YOUR PART AND A GREAT MEASURE OF POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY. REMEMBER TEST #2....IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED? I HAVE FAITH THAT IT WILL INDEED BE FAIR.....

THANK YOU

*Charles A. Littell*  
CHARLES A LITTELL

SPRING HILL, FLORIDA