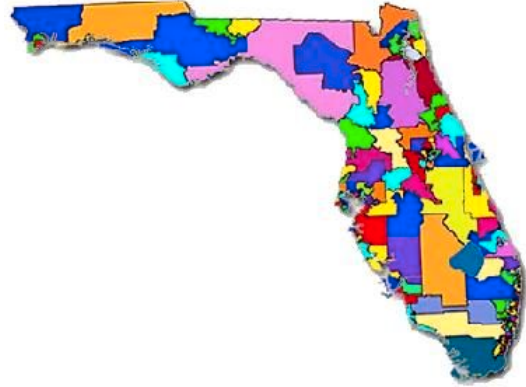


Reforming Florida Politics

“Our representatives are selecting their voters, as opposed to the voters selecting their representatives. That is a situation that I think the American people should not accept.”

Barack Obama February 8, 2006



Should your legislators be allowed to hand pick their voters and design legislative districts that they cannot lose? Can our political representatives do a good job when their political districts expand over many counties and hundreds of miles?

Northeast Florida examples of such gerrymandering include:

- Congressional District 4 (Ander Crenshaw) - it stretches 186 miles from Tallahassee to Nocatee, across 7 counties on the northern edge of the state and curling down to the eastern half of Duval County
- Running 150 miles is Congressional District 3 (Corrine Brown), stretching from Arlington, thru west Jacksonville, Orange Park and a sliver of eastern Clay County to Gainesville's east side, across five more counties to southern Orlando

Expansive state legislative districts in our area:

- House District 20 (Bill Proctor), extends about 75 miles from western Clay County to SE Flagler County
- House District 12 (Aaron Bean), covers 6 counties or parts, extending about 90 miles
- Senate District 8 (Jim King), extends from Fernandina Beach to Daytona Beach, about 120 miles.

Not only are many districts sprawling, they are tortuous in the detail of their boundaries - they do not generally relate to typical community boundaries, but are drawn selectively among or around neighborhoods so that it takes a specific ZIP-plus 4 address to identify one's assignments. Many who live in the same town or neighborhood have different legislators - many are confused and have little knowledge of who represents them. There is too often little connection of a legislator to one's community.

These conditions exist because there are no laws prohibiting these practices. Legislators perpetuate their own power by drawing safe districts for themselves.

Because of these conditions, an effort is underway by FairDistrictsFlorida.org to amend the Florida Constitution to stop legislators from choosing their own voters and to make sure that political districts are contiguous and more compact.

There is a need to create clear and strict fairness standards and rules that stop legislators from drawing political boundaries that favor an incumbent or political party. These standards and rules would create compact and fair districts which would make use of existing political and geographical boundaries and protect minority voting rights. These standards and rules could give voters back the power to fairly elect their representatives and encourage challenges to ineffective incumbents.

FairDistrictsFlorida.org has created two proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution for the 2010 ballot to try and accomplish these changes. One proposed amendment would specify standards for Congressional redistricting and the other proposed amendment would specify standards for Florida legislative redistricting.

How can we bring about these changes?

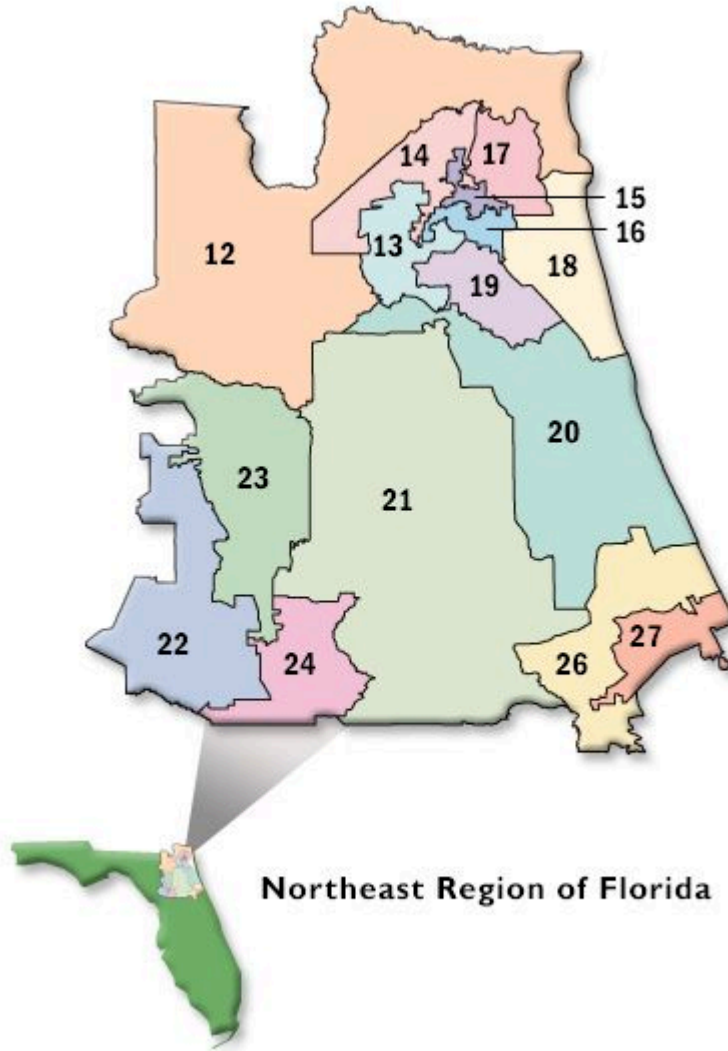
1. Collect 676,811 voter signatures on each of 2 companion petitions by October 31, 2009, to ensure that the Fair Districts amendments will be on the ballot in 2010. (Two petitions: one for state legislative districts & one for congressional districts)
2. Vote for the Fair Districts amendments on November 2, 2010 (60% +1).
3. Go to <http://www.FairDistrictsFlorida.org> to download petitions or to get involved in the campaign or phone FairDistrictsFlorida. at (305) 445-5442
4. Spread the word. Ask your friends and family to sign petitions and get involved.

Maps of Florida districts on the following pages graphically portray the need for major reform!

Legislative/Congressional District Maps, Fla Div of Elections

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/district-maps.shtml>

Florida House Districts, Northeast Florida

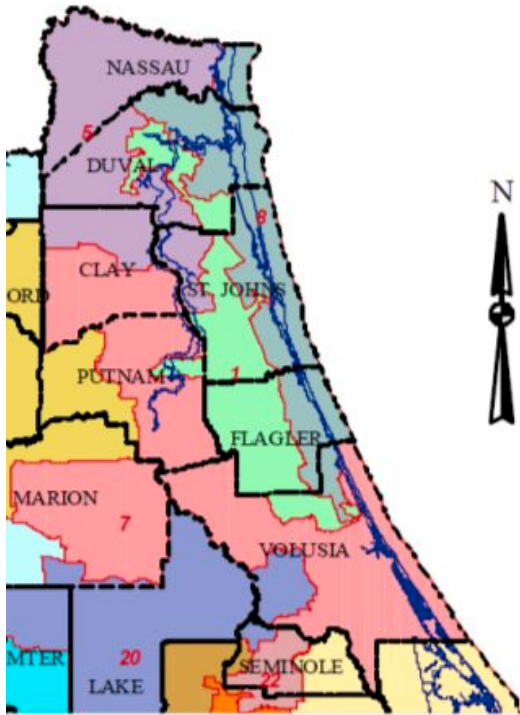


Northeast Region of Florida

http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File=About_The_Representatives_District_North_East.htm

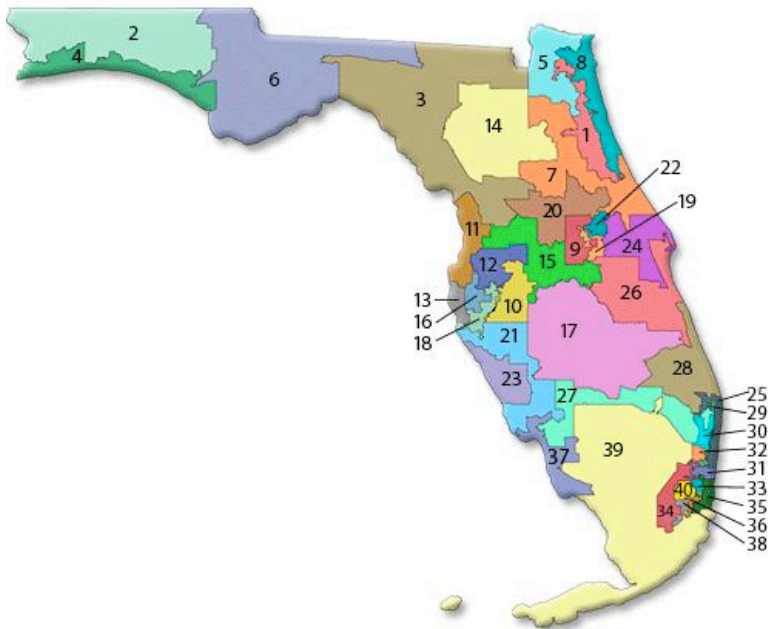
12 Aaron Bean
20 Bill Proctor

Florida Senate Districts, Northeast Florida



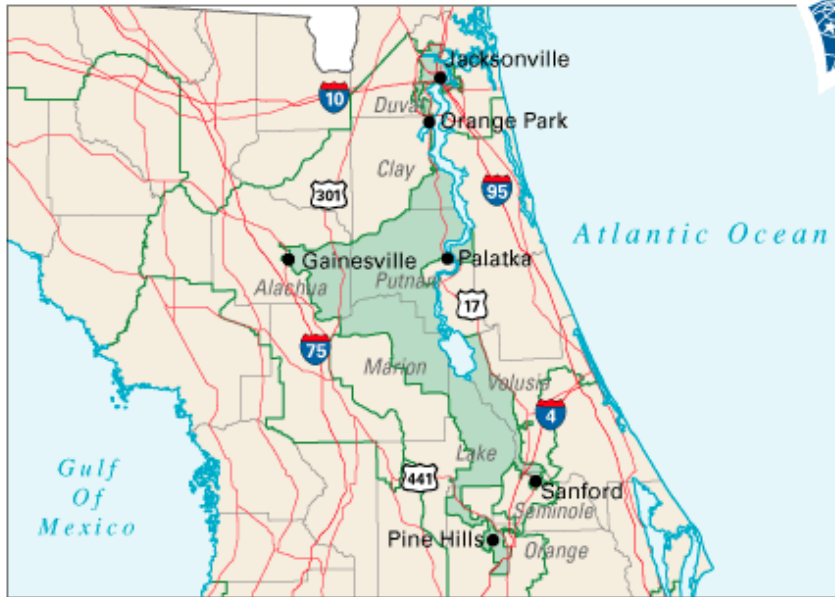
- 1 Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr.
- 5 Stephen R. Wise
- 8 James E. "Jim" King, Jr.
- 7 Evelyn J. Lynn

Fla. Senate Districts



Florida's Congressional District 3

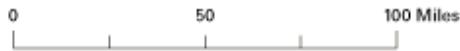
Congressional District 3



3 Congressional District
Marion County



Florida (25 Districts)



<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/pages/3400/f3406/f3406.htm>

Florida's Congressional District 4

Congressional District 4



4 Congressional District
Baker County



Florida (25 Districts)



<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/pages/3400/f3407/f3407.htm>

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/congress/congress.php>