



# Email Updates

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## Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee Redistricting Update – March 29, 2011

To: Interested Media  
From: David Bishop, Communications Director, Office of the Senate President  
Katie Betta, Communications Director, Office of the Speaker  
Date: March 29, 2011  
Re: Preclearance Application for Amendments 5 and 6

Today, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate jointly submitted the [application for preclearance for Amendments 5 and 6](#) to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).

In this application, the Legislature is requesting that DOJ preclear these amendments, under the interpretation that they are beneficial for preserving and enhancing the rights of minority voters – a statement echoed consistently by the organizations that authored, campaigned for and supported these amendments.

[The submission and cover letter are attached.](#) The exhibits that accompany the submission are available for download [here](#).

### **Background:**

Earlier this month, the Executive Office of Governor Rick Scott requested assistance from the Florida Legislature and Florida's Attorney General, regarding the application for preclearance for Amendments 5 and 6 (Article III, Sections 21 and 20, of the Florida Constitution), as adopted by Florida voters during the 2010 General Election.

The Governor requested assistance in determining who was the proper authority to actually file the preclearance application and what information should be included in that application. The original application did not substantively address the fundamental question of whether or not Amendments 5 and 6 were retrogressive to minority voters in Florida's five "covered jurisdictions," Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe counties.

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It was determined that either the Attorney General, as the “chief legal officer” of the State, or the Florida Legislature, as the implementing authority for redistricting, should submit the application. The Legislature, House and Senate, then agreed to submit the application to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

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**Benjamin M. Fairbrother**  
House Redistricting Committee

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