



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Katie Betta

(850) 488-1450

MEDIA EVENT: Florida House to Hold Pre-Session Information Session *Redistricting Briefing and Exclusive Preview of MyDistrictBuilder Software*

Tallahassee—The Florida House of Representatives will host a pre-session information session for members of the media on January 20, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Members of the media will have access to the top substantive experts among the senior members of the House staff during various information sessions and will have the opportunity to ask questions related to complicated issues of public policy likely to come before the Florida House during the upcoming 2011 Legislative Session. Additionally, senior staff from the House Redistricting Committee will present an in-depth timeline of Florida's redistricting process as well as an exclusive preview of the *MyDistrictBuilder* software.

Pre-Session Information Session

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: The Capitol, Room 333

Draft Agenda

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.: Redistricting Presentation and Preview of *MyDistrictBuilder Software*

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.: Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Reform

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: Florida Retirement System

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 2011-2012 Budget

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Education

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Medicaid

Members of the media wishing to attend the information session should contact the House Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747 or via publicinfo@myfloridahouse.gov.

Members of the media wishing to fully participate in the exclusive preview of the *MyDistrictBuilder* software are encouraged to bring their laptops to the event. Additionally, it is recommended that you visit MyDistrictBuilder, at <http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>, prior to the event. When you log onto *MyDistrictBuilder*, you may be prompted to download the most recent version of Microsoft Silverlight. Additionally, you will be asked to dedicate storage space in the isolated storage of your computer.

*****PLEASE NOTE:** The redistricting presentation and preview of *MyDistrictBuilder* as well as other information sessions will be presented by House staff, not members of the Florida House. As such, these sessions are intended as **information sessions only** with the goal of providing background information for members of the media. There will be a brief question and answer session following each topic. House staff will not comment on specific pending or potential legislation, but will be available to answer background questions on various issues. ***

BACKGROUND: Redistricting Process and *MyDistrictBuilder* Software Development

In late 2009, at the direction of then-Speaker-Designate Dean Cannon, House staff began planning to implement a web-based district builder, via cloud server technology.

In April 2010, the House announced the launch of www.MyFloridaCensus.gov, a precursor to *MyDistrictBuilder* designed to promote the 2010 census. Estimates show that *MyFloridaCensus* contributed to at least \$35 million in federal funding for the State of Florida and its counties and municipalities over the next decade.

During the summer and fall of 2011 the Florida House will conduct meetings around the state to take public testimony regarding redistricting. Members of the public will be able to submit partial or complete redistricting plans to the House Redistricting Committee via *MyDistrictBuilder*. Open public testing of the “beta” version of *MyDistrictBuilder* will begin in early March.

If you would like to follow the redistricting process and the development of *MyDistrictBuilder*, you are welcome to follow us at either [Facebook](#) (MyDistrictBuilder) or [Twitter](#) (@MyDistrictBuilder), or send a request to be included on the *MyDistrictBuilder* e-mail list via mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.

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