

Fort Walton Beach Public Input Meeting  
June 21, 2011 – 7 p.m.  
Post-Public Input Meeting Report

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The purpose of this document is to summarize specific district map-drawing suggestions from the Fort Walton Beach public meetings on June 21, 2011. Therefore, the comments in this document will focus on specific instructions provided by Florida residents participating in these meetings.

Other comments that were either not specific on how to draw a map or that were editorial in nature will not be included in this document. For all of the comments in their entirety, please see the meeting transcript, video and/or podcast via [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org).

The following encapsulates comments from persons who spoke and/or submitted written comments for the Fort Walton Beach public meeting. To make it clear, these are the public's suggestions. This document does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Florida Legislature.

## Specific Map-Drawing Testimony-Fort Walton Beach Public Hearings

June 21, 2011

### NW-12: Horizontal Districts vs. Vertical Districts

**Description:** Similarly to the public hearing in Pensacola, some residents of the area expressed that legislative districts should be built horizontally which would unite the communities of the southern end of the panhandle counties and unite the communities of the northern end of the counties; while others suggested that they should be drawn vertically in an attempt to follow county boundary lines. Draw horizontal districts, not vertical districts.<sup>1</sup> Beaches are the beaches, north end is the north end.<sup>2</sup> I want vertical district lines, along the county lines. Our Representatives should be fighting for whole counties, not the beaches.<sup>3</sup> Keep it simple, follow county lines as much as possible.<sup>4</sup>

**Visual:**

Horizontal District vs. Vertical Districts	
Reasons Presented in Favor of Horizontal Districts	Reasons Presented in Favor of Vertical Districts
Beaches are the beaches, north end is the north end. <sup>2</sup>	Our Representatives should be fighting for whole counties, not the beaches. <sup>3</sup>
Keep the beaches and farmland separate. The Beaches and the north part of the county have different needs. Keep Communities of interest together. <sup>5</sup>	It's easier to draw maps to boundaries that are locatable and they should be followed. <sup>7</sup>
Keep the beaches together. There is an opportunity to draw horizontal districts. We have common issues and problems. <sup>6</sup>	Keep it simple, follow county lines as much as possible. <sup>4</sup>
Keep the beaches and the north county separate, but keep things less spread out. <sup>7</sup>	
The Representatives from the north live in the north and they understand their issues and the Reps in the south live in the south and understand that area. Please keep it that way. <sup>8</sup>	

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Kelley of Fort Walton Beach  
<sup>2</sup> Al Kauses of Mary Esther  
<sup>3</sup> Ed Winkelseth of Shalimar  
<sup>4</sup> Elbert Perez of Latie Lorraine  
<sup>5</sup> Suzanne Harris of Miramar Beach  
<sup>6</sup> Mary Neilsan of Santa Rosa Beach  
<sup>7</sup> Jeanne Ashley of Destin  
<sup>8</sup> Ben White of Crestview

### **Policy Issues:**

- If horizontal districts are drawn, districts will have to cross county lines in order to meet the ideal population, and each county in the region would have at least two representatives.
- If vertical districts were drawn along county lines and that county's population did not line up with the ideal population for a district, then the county would either need to be split into at least two districts (if the county's population is too large) or the district would need to be within a part of a second county (if the county's population is too small).
- If vertical districts were drawn along county lines, communities that share similar industries and economic issues such as agricultural lands or beach communities could possibly be split.
- Is there a way to build a compromise map of a hybrid of horizontal districts when appropriate and vertical districts when appropriate?

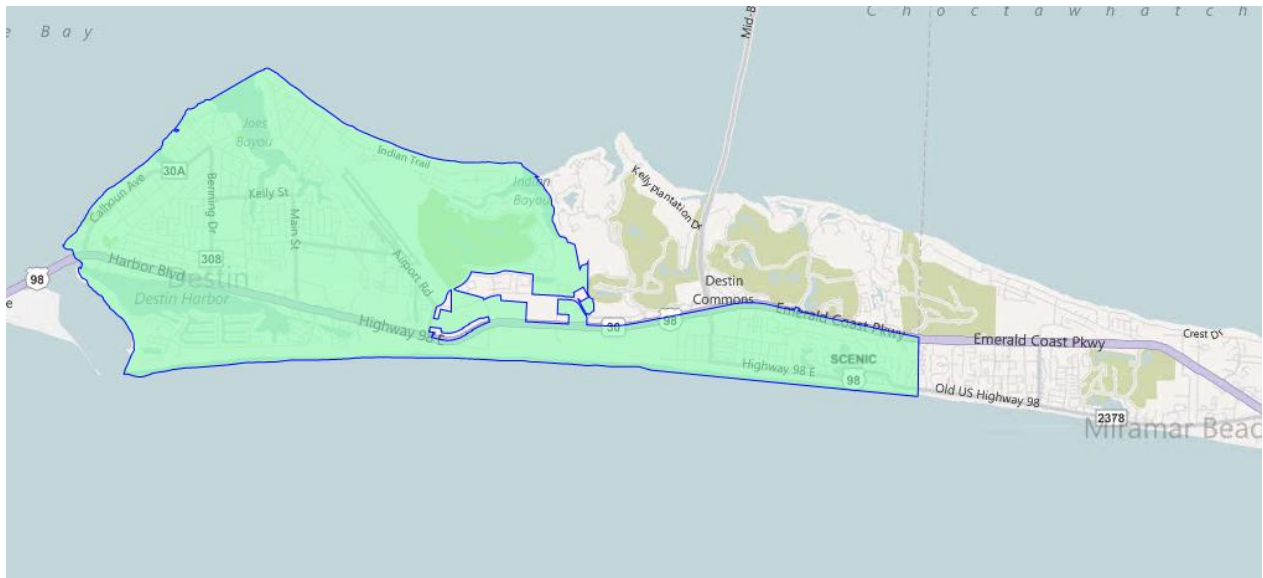
**NW-13:** Keep the City of Destin whole within legislative and congressional districts.

**Description:** Keep the City of Destin whole, don't break us up.<sup>9</sup> Currently, the city of Destin is divided between House districts 4 and 7 and between congressional districts 1 and 2.

**Visual:** Keeping the City of Destin whole in a legislative district would look like this:

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<sup>9</sup> Sam Seevers, Mayor of Destin



### Policy Issues:

- The city boundaries of Destin would create holes within a legislative district that would need to be filled.
- With the population of Destin being 12,305, many more communities would need to be added to a house, senate or congressional district in order for the district to meet its ideal population.

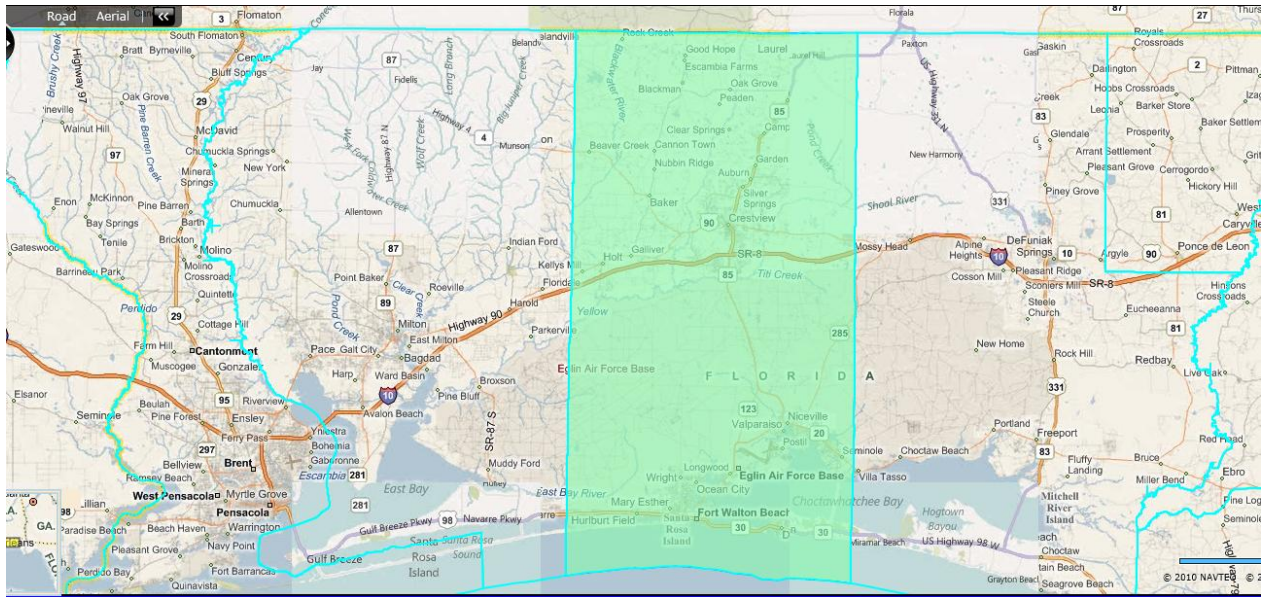
**NW-14:** Place All of Okaloosa County in Congressional District 1 and Place South Walton County in Congressional District 2.

**Description:** Congressional District 1 should have as much of Okaloosa as possible and keep South Walton in Congressional District 2.<sup>10</sup>

**Visual:** Placing all of Okaloosa County in Congressional District 1 would look like this:

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<sup>10</sup> Brenda Rees of Santa Rosa Beach



**Policy Issues:**

- A Congressional district with all of Okaloosa County in it would be 515,523 people short of the ideal population.
- In this example, both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties are unassigned to District 1, but would most likely have to be if you kept Okaloosa County whole within District 1.

**Visual:** Placing South Walton County into District 2 would look like this (in brown):



**Policy Issues:**

- “South Walton County” was not defined in the testimony, so for the purposes of this exercise, Interstate 10 was used as the dividing line between north and south.
- The Congressional district 2 shown above would need 663,993 more people in order to be completed.