

Lehigh Acres Public Input Meeting  
August 31, 6 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 Lehigh Acres public meeting on August 31, 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 Lehigh Acres public meeting. To make it clear, these are the public's suggestions. This document does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Florida Legislature.

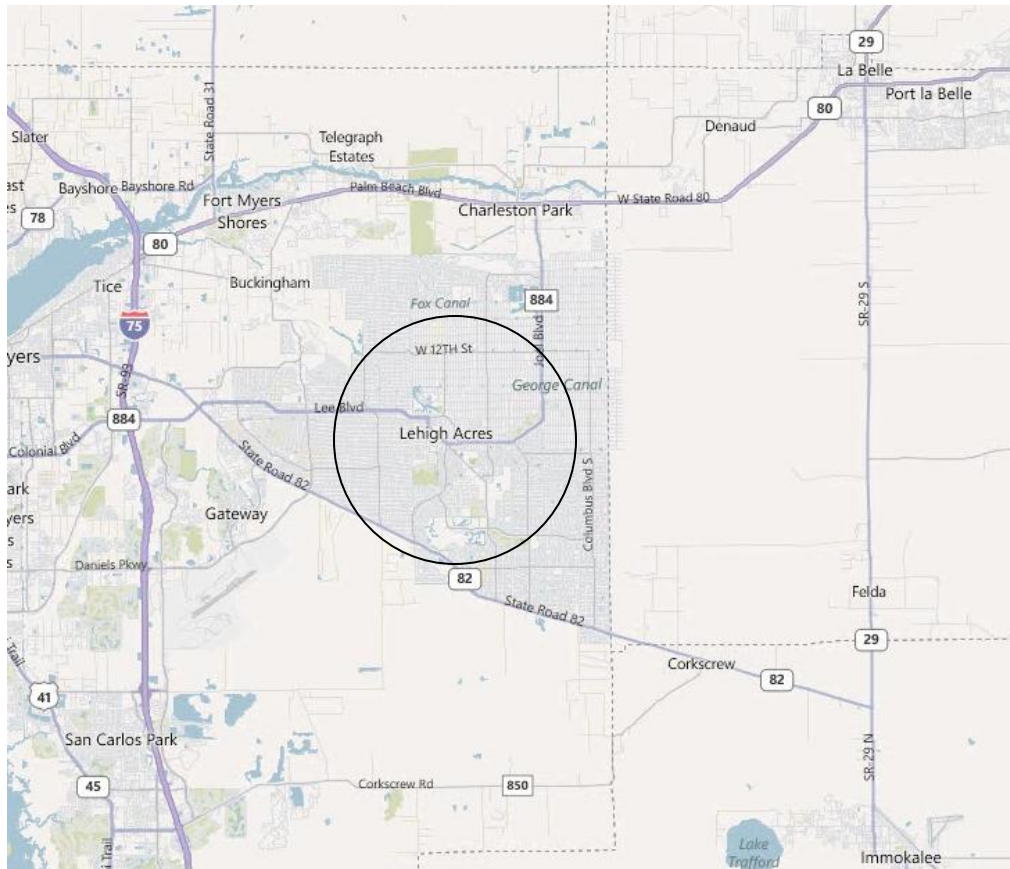
## Specific Map-Drawing Testimony-Lehigh Acres Public Hearing

August 31, 2011

**SW-29:** Keep Lehigh Acres Whole

**Description:** Leave Lehigh Acres whole in the House and Senate.<sup>1</sup> We need a representative who has Lehigh Acres at heart.<sup>2</sup> Lehigh Acres should all be kept whole in the same district.<sup>3</sup>

**Visual:** The Lehigh Acres community is located here on the map:



### Policy Issues:

- Lehigh Acres is an unincorporated community in Lee County located east of Interstate 75. The exact parameters of Lehigh Acres was undefined in the testimony and further clarification would be needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Jim Roach of Cape Coral

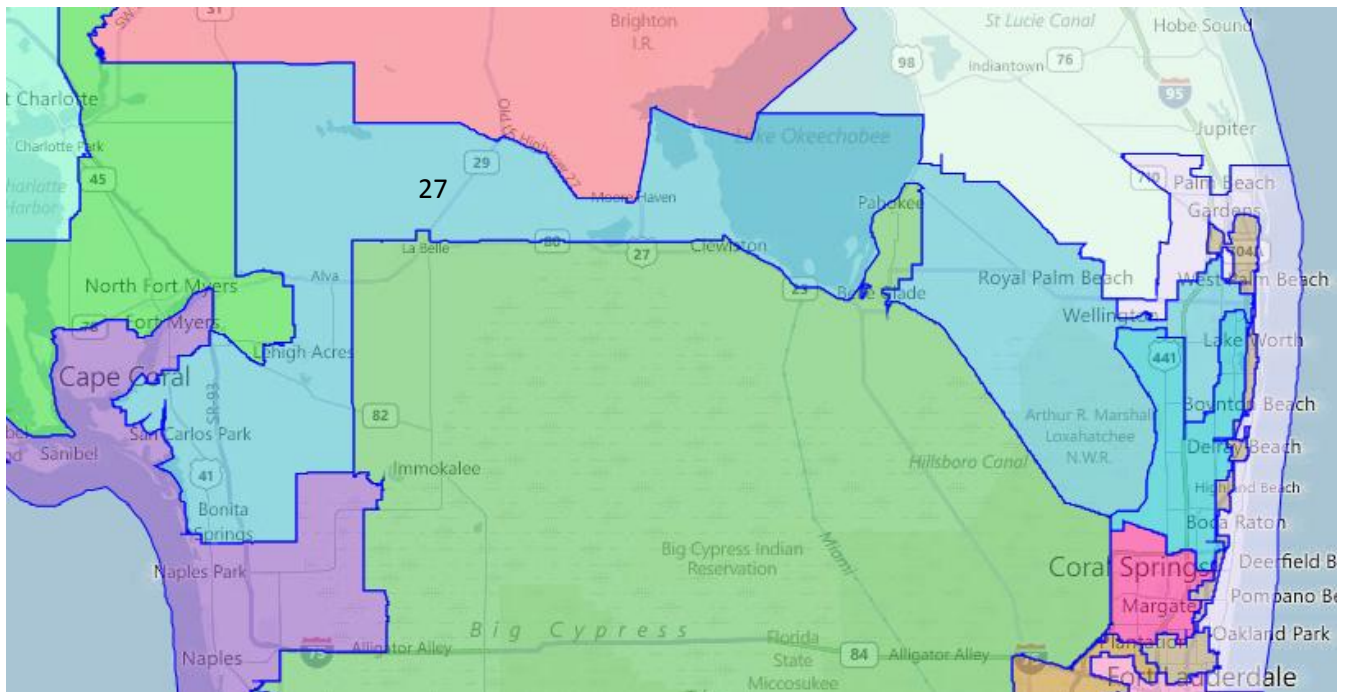
<sup>2</sup> Tanda Lawson of Lehigh Acres

<sup>3</sup> Nathan Stoux of Lehigh Acres

### SW-30: Eliminate Districts that Cross the State

**Description:** The people of southwest Florida need to have their own voice by someone who is from our area. Please eliminate cross-state districts that connect us to east Florida.<sup>4</sup> No more cross-state districts.<sup>567</sup> Do not connect the east and west within a district.<sup>8</sup> We need cross-state representation to protect water quality across the state.<sup>9</sup>

**Visual:** An example of a cross-state district can be found in the current Senate District 27, which looks like this:



### Policy Issues:

- With a population of 551,555, Senate District 27 is currently over the ideal population for a Senate district and needs to lose 81,523 people.
- The parameters of “cross-state” were also not clearly defined within the testimony and further clarification may be needed.

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<sup>4</sup> Donald Eslick of Bonita Springs

<sup>5</sup> Marilyn Edwards of Estero

<sup>6</sup> Philip Douglas of Estero

<sup>7</sup> Joseph Whalen of Lehigh Acres

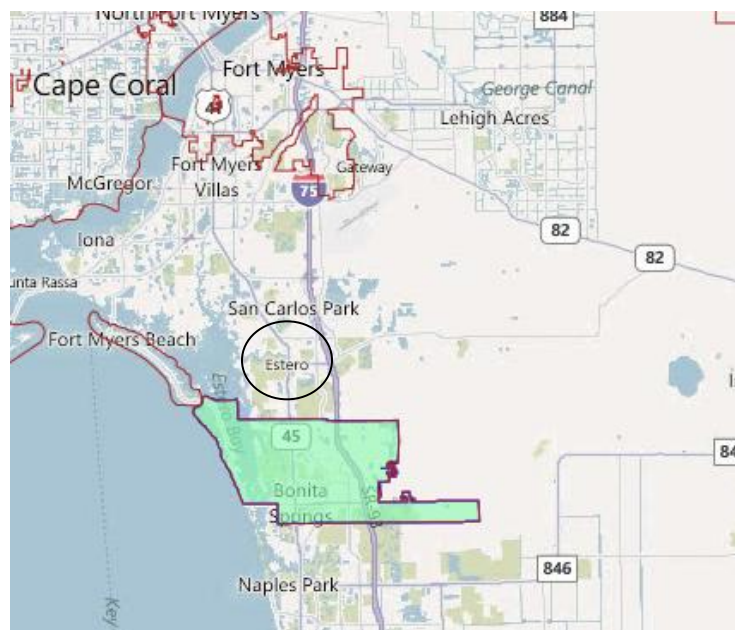
<sup>8</sup> Edd Weiner of Lehigh Acres

<sup>9</sup> Woody Hanson of Fort Myers

### **SW-31: Connect Estero with Bonita Springs and Lee County**

**Description:** Estero and Bonita Springs are in the southern end of Lee County. We in Estero are unincorporated and Lee County is our government. We manage our growth with Lee County and it is important for us to be together.<sup>10</sup> Estero and Bonita Springs should be connected with a Lee County district.<sup>11</sup>

**Visual:** The map below shows what all of the City of Bonita Springs would look like within a district as well as the location of the Estero community.



### **Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 43,914, the City of Bonita Springs is not large enough for the ideal population of a House, Senate or Congressional district and other communities would need to be added to it for the district to be complete.

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<sup>10</sup> Donald Eslick of Bonita Springs

<sup>11</sup> Marilyn Edwards of Estero

- Estero is an unincorporated area of southern Lee County. The exact parameters of the community were not specified in the testimony given and more clarification may be needed.
- With a population of 618,754, Lee County has the population of .89 Congressional districts, 1.32 Senate districts and 3.95 House districts.

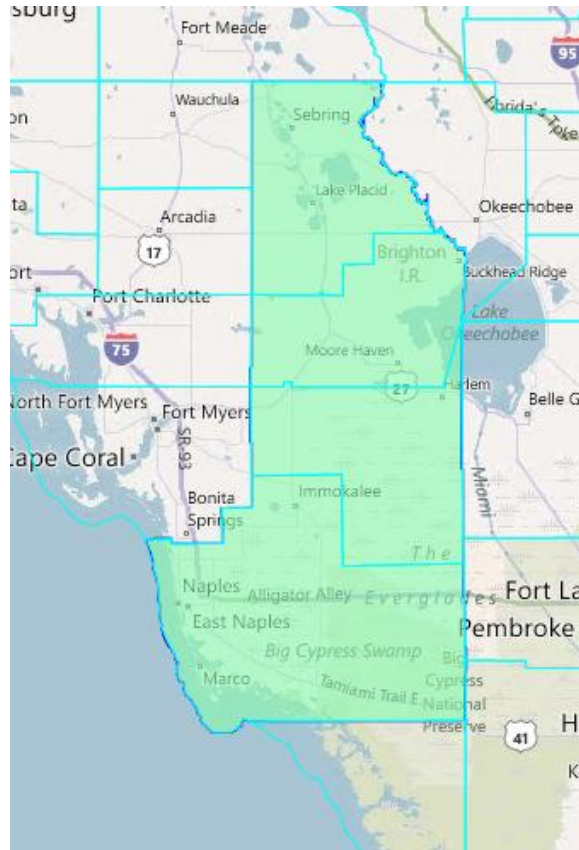
**SW-32:** Connect Collier County with Hendry, Glades and Highlands Counties in a Senate District

**Description:** For the Senate district to our south, I recommend that you connect Collie County with Hendry and Glades Counties to meet the population figure for the district.<sup>12</sup> **\*\*Note\*\*** In the testimony given, there was a fourth county named that should be included in the district. The county mentioned was “Hillside”. After reviewing the testimony, committee staff believes that the gentleman was referring to Highlands County.

**Visual:** A Senate district that included all of Collier, Hendry, Glades and Highlands Counties would look like this:

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<sup>12</sup> Donald Eslick of Bonita Springs



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 472,330, the district above is 2,298 over the ideal population, or a deviation of .04%.

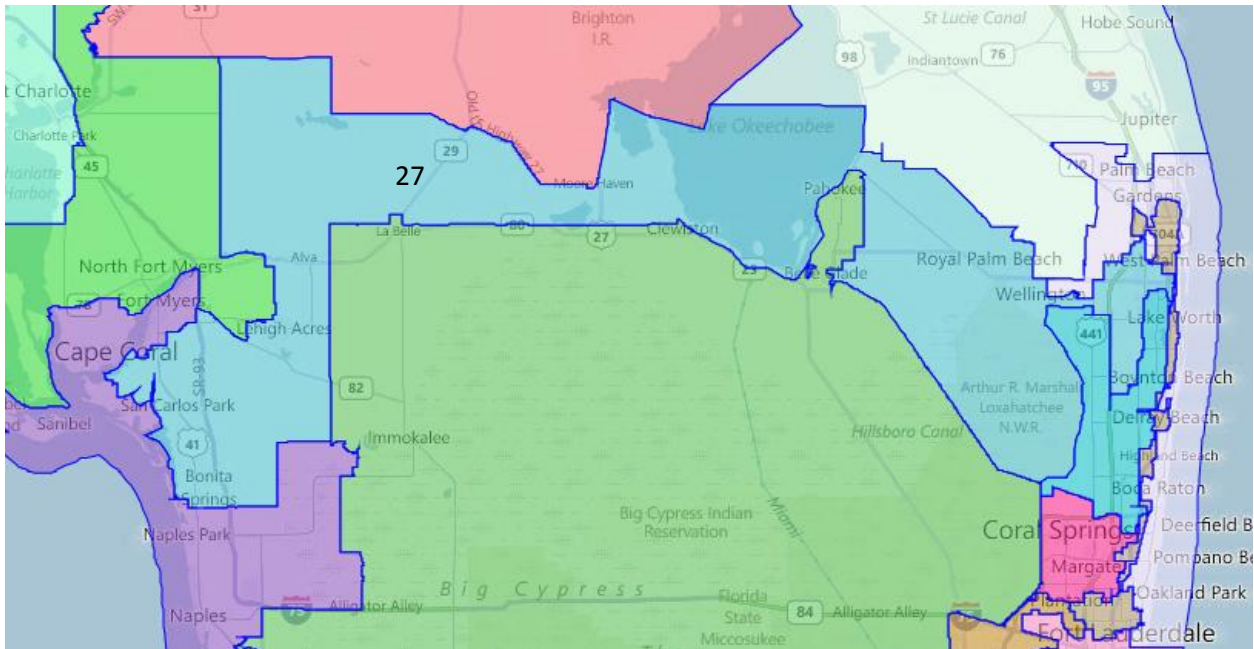
**SW-33:** Keep the Current Boundaries of Senate District 27

**Description:** Please keep the boundaries of Senate District 27. We benefit from having multiple Senators. The inland communities such as Fort Myers have more in common with the inland communities of the district and not the coastal communities of Lee County.<sup>13</sup>

**Visual:** Currently, Senate District 27 looks like this:

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<sup>13</sup> Thomas Leonardo, Councilmember for the City of Fort Myers



### Policy Issues:

- With a population of 551,555, Senate District 27 is currently over the ideal population for a Senate district and needs to lose 81,523 people.

### SW-34: Keep Lee County Whole in a Senate District

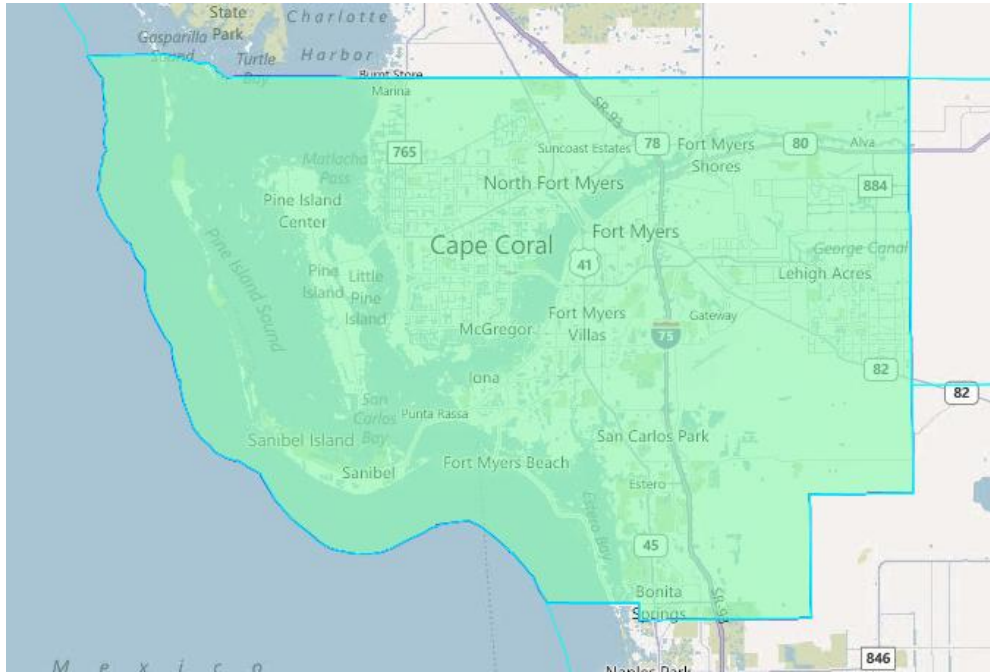
**Description:** Please give Lee County its own Senate seat.<sup>14</sup> Our metropolitan area is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the state but we are in the minority within our own Senate districts. We are due the

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<sup>14</sup> Craig Briscoe of Fort Myers

consideration based on our population to have a Senate seat.<sup>15</sup> Given our population, we want most, if not all, of Lee County together in a Senate district.<sup>16</sup>

**Visual:** Keeping Lee County whole in a Senate district would look like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 618,754, Lee County is too large to meet the ideal population for a Senate district and will need to be split at least once.

**SW-34:** Connect Clewiston with an Eastern District and LaBelle with a Western District

**Description:** We want to promote growth and represent Hendry County in the best way possible. Since they are split apart with Clewiston connect to an eastern majority district and LaBelle with a western majority district.<sup>17</sup>

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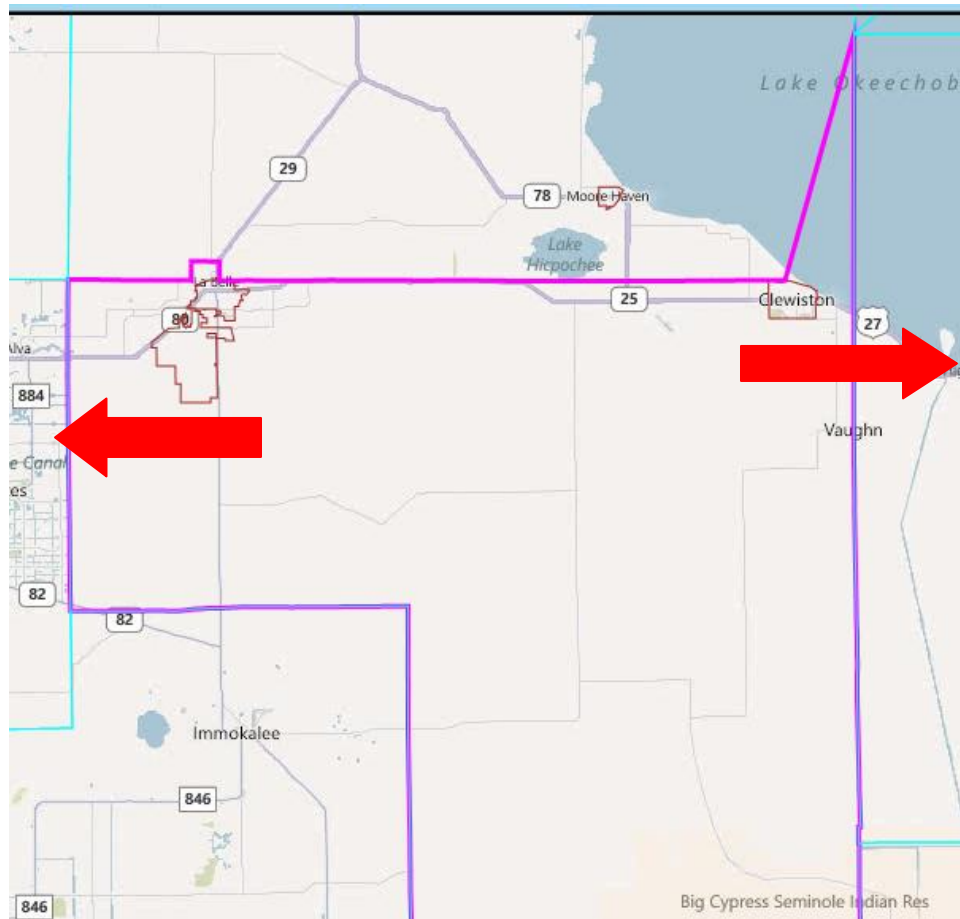
<sup>15</sup> Brenda Skupny of Cape Coral

<sup>16</sup> Christina Cook of Cape Coral

<sup>17</sup> Rich Murphy, Hendry County Superintendent of Schools



**Visual:** Below is a map of Hendry County with arrows reflecting the testimony as it relates to the districts connecting Clewiston and LaBelle:



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 39,140, Hendry County would need to be connected to other counties in order to meet the ideal population for a House, Senate and Congressional district.
- In order to meet the request of the testimony, Hendry County would be split into two districts.