

Melbourne Public Input Meetings
July 28, 2011 – 10 a.m.
Post-Public Input Meetings Report

The purpose of this document is to summarize specific district map-drawing suggestions from the Melbourne public meeting on July 28, 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.

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

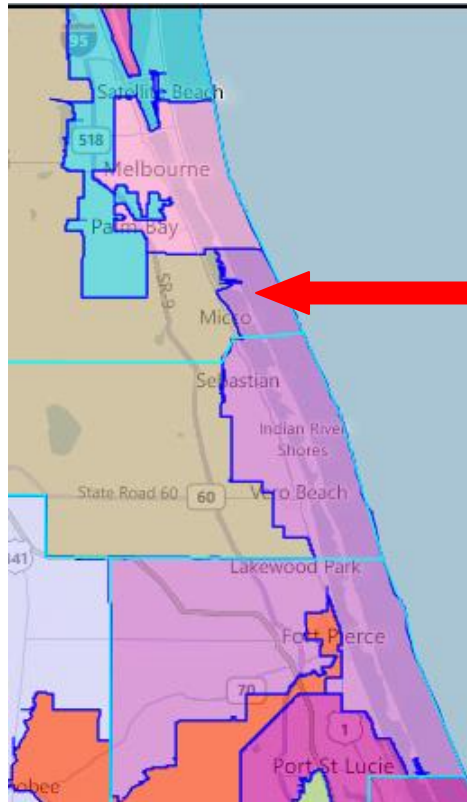
Specific Map-Drawing Testimony-Melbourne Public Hearing

July 28, 2011

Cent-19: Remove Brevard County from House District 80

Description: I would like to be added to another district where the people share our interests.¹
Please try to keep it so that we are represented by someone who lives in Brevard County.²

Visual: Currently, House District 80 looks like this (in light purple, with a red arrow pointing to the Brevard County portion):



Policy Issues:

- Currently, the population of House District 80 is 8,174 short of the ideal population for a district. Removing the Brevard County portion of the district would make it 11,643 short.
- If that portion was removed from the district, it would have to be absorbed by a neighboring district or districts.

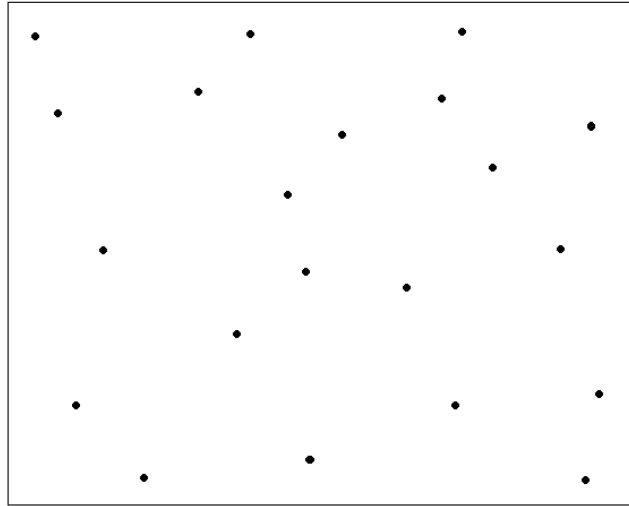
¹ Peter Fusscas of Melbourne Beach

² Richard Ware of Titusville

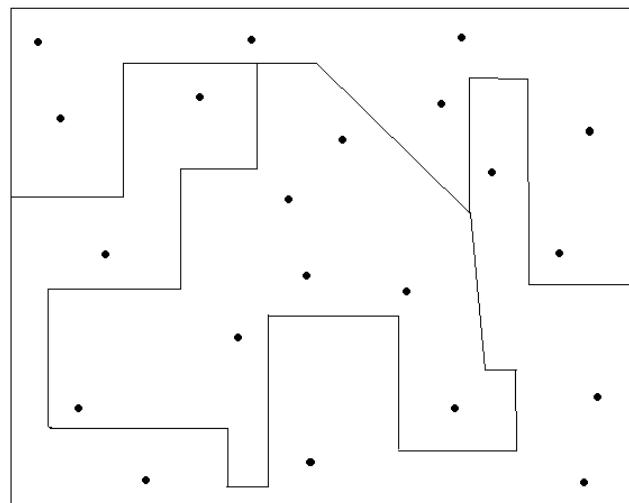
Cent-20: Nest Three House Districts Within a Senate District

Description: “The Rockledge City Council would like to go on record with the Committee with regard to the concept of "nesting", or establishing a Senate District and carrying 3 House Districts from each "nest" or Senate District This would appear to be the simplest and most representative manner in which to approach reapportionment.”³

Visual: Using the illustrations below, a Senate district will be dividing into three equal portions so that three House districts are “nested” within the Senate district.



The square dots within it represent an entire State Senate district and its population. Using the concept of nesting, each House district will have an equal amount of population and each House district's boundaries will be nested within the Senate district.



³ Letter from the City of Rockledge as Presented by Councilwoman Colleen Stuart

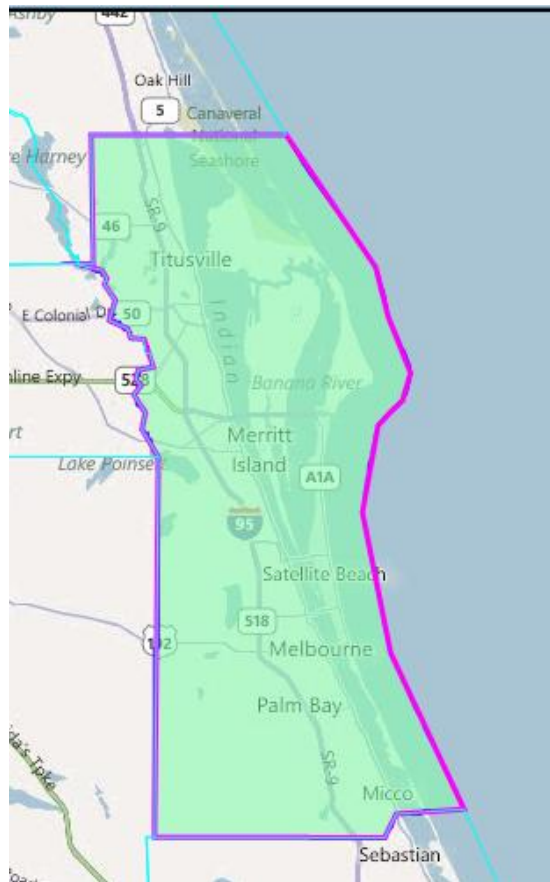
Policy Issues:

- If a county or municipality were split in a Senate district, that would ensure that the municipality would also be split within the House districts as well. VTDs may also need to be split in order to achieve nesting as well.

Cent-21: Keep Brevard County Whole within a Congressional District

Description: Brevard County should have one member of Congress.⁴ Brevard County should be all within one Congressional district.⁵ Brevard County is about equal for its own Congressional seat.⁶ With issues like seniority and appropriations versus substantive policy, we desperately need two members of Congress in Brevard County.⁷

Visual: Brevard County kept whole in a Congressional District would look like this:



⁴ David Gunter of Melbourne

⁵ Stuart Gorin of Melbourne

⁶ Diane Marcun of Cape Canaveral

⁷ Tim Franta of Rockledge

Policy Issues:

- With a population of 543,376, Brevard County is too small to have a Congressional district all to itself in order to meet the ideal population. More counties or communities would need to be added to it.

Cent-22: Draw Legislative Districts in Brevard County using Horizontal Lines to Create Northern, Central and Southern Districts

Description: State Senate and House districts should be drawn horizontally to create Northern and Southern Senate districts and Northern, Central and Southern House districts.⁸ Brevard should be split into North, Central and South in the State House.⁹ I would like to see our county broken up into North, Central, South and the beaches. We all have different and separate interests.¹⁰ We need to connect people with similar interests. North, South, Central and the beaches is a good idea.¹¹

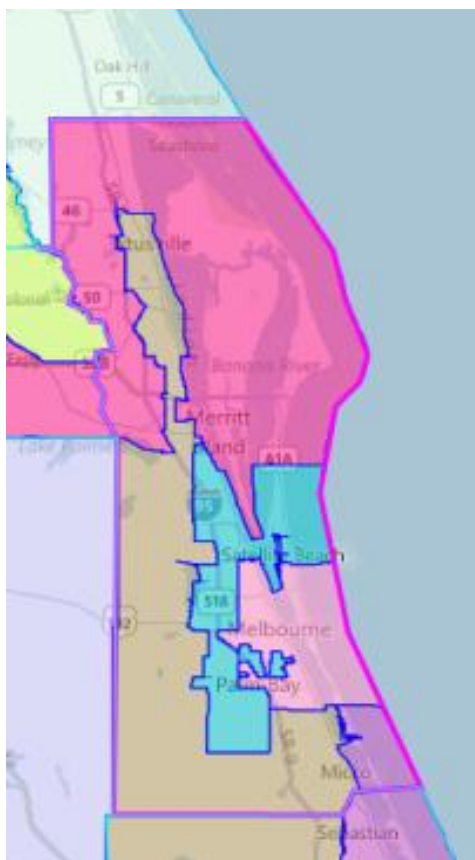
Visual: The House districts in Brevard County currently look like this:

⁸ David Gunter of Melbourne

⁹ Liz Schillo of Merritt Island

¹⁰ Frank Montelione of Satellite Beach

¹¹ Karen Dove of Palm Bay



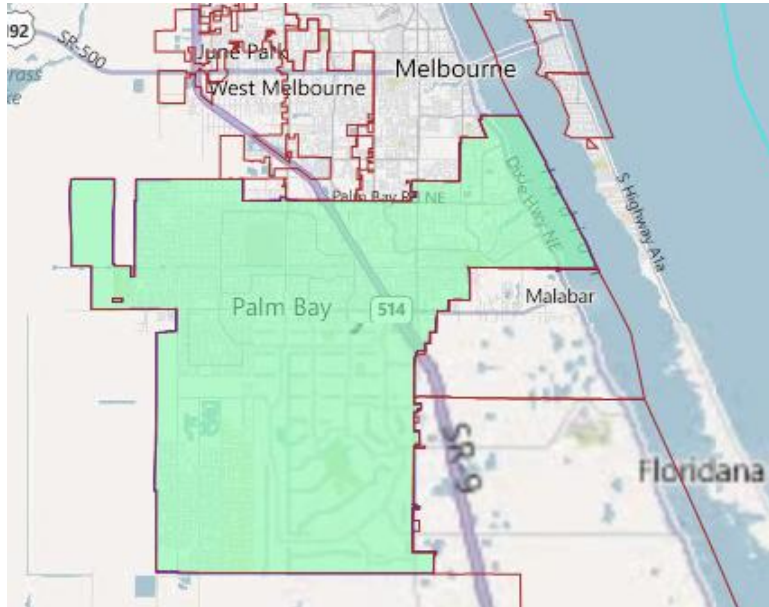
Policy Issues:

- During the testimony, it was unclear as to what would be used to divide the county into Northern, Central and Southern districts. More clarification may be needed.
- With a population of 543,376, Brevard County has more than the population needed for three House districts to be solely located within it, so a fourth House district would include portions of the county.
- For the State Senate, Brevard County is 73,345 people shy of having enough having its own seat. With that said, if the county were to have a Senate district that was solely within it, the other district or districts would need to have portions of other counties in them.

Cent-23: Keep The City of Palm Bay Whole within a House District

Description: Palm Bay is big enough to have one representative and they should be represented.¹²

Visual: Keeping the City of Palm Bay Whole within a House District would look like this:



Policy Issues:

- With a population of 103,190, the City of Palm Beach is not big enough to have its own House district in order to meet the ideal population and other communities would need to be added to it.
- When building a district using the city boundaries of Palm Bay, holes are created that would need to be addressed. Using these same boundaries would also result in several VTDs being split.

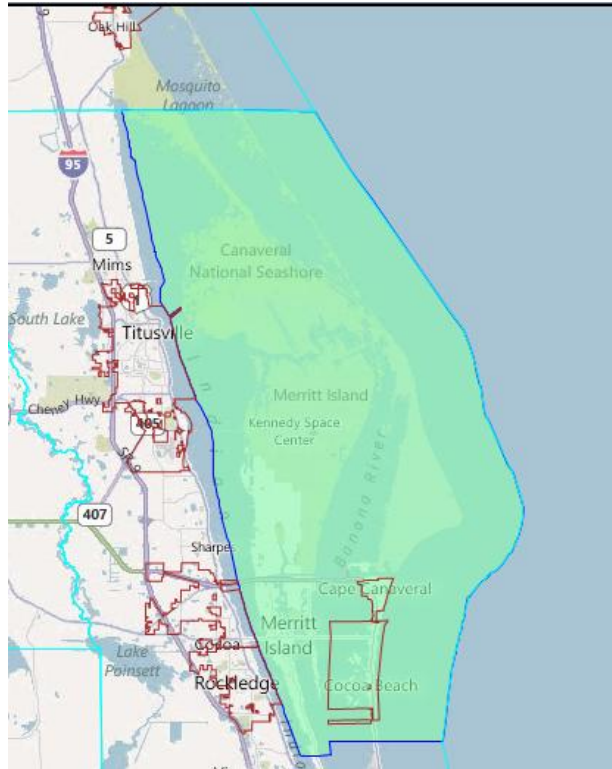
Cent-24: Connect the Cities of Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach with Merritt Island

Description: Keep Merritt Island, Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach together in this process.¹³

Visual: A legislative district that connects Cape Canaveral, Cocoa Beach and Merritt Island would look like this:

¹² David Gunter of Melbourne

¹³ Liz Schillo of Merritt Island



Policy Issues:

- For the purposes of this exercise, all of the VTDs from the Northern Brevard County line to just South of the City of Cocoa Beach were used as the parameters of Merritt Island, which is located between the mainland of Brevard County and Cape Canaveral.
- With a population of 65,405, the district shown above is too small to meet the ideal population for a House district. More communities would need to be added to it.

Cent-25: Redesign the Pieces of House District 29

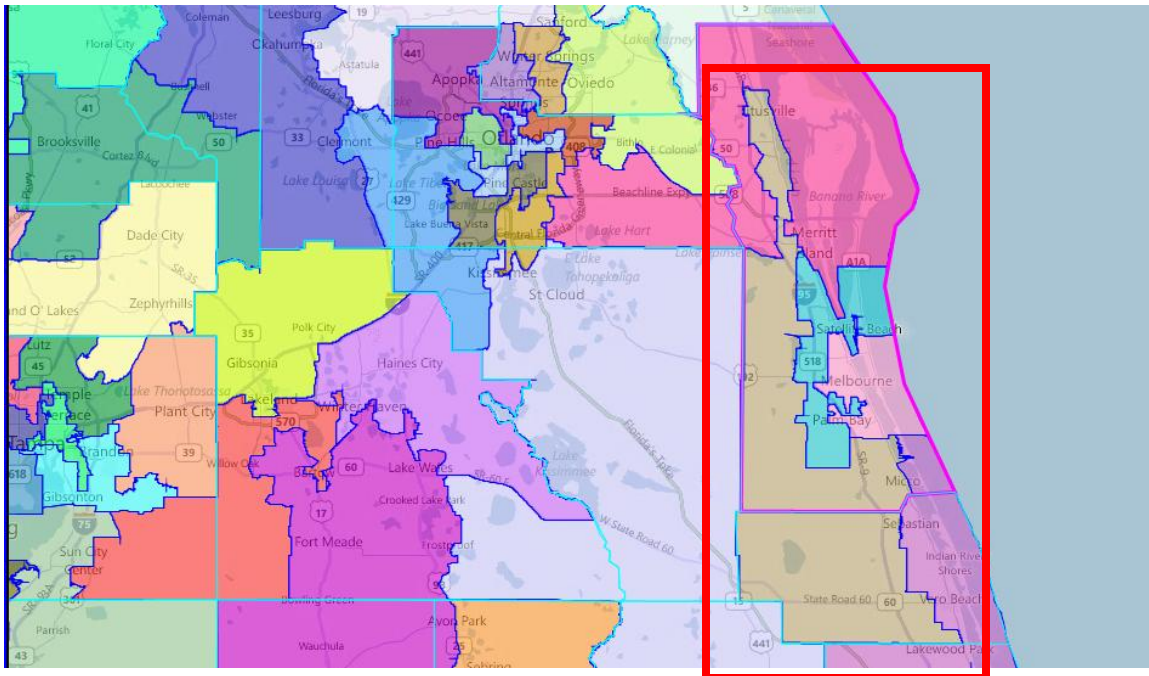
Description: “District 29 stretches from Titusville in the north some 80 to 90 miles to Vero on (in) the South. Needless to say the Citizens of Titusville have little in common, legislatively, with the citizens of Vero...I’m asking you to use common sense for the Citizens of North and Central Brevard and redesign the district to encompass the approximately 156,000 people with common needs that would be contained by starting the district at the Volusia County line and going south to the City of Rockledge to about Barnes Road.”¹⁴ I believe that North Brevard County and Titusville have more in common with West Brevard versus South Brevard. You could even link us with the Orlando area if needed as we have more in common with them¹⁵. House District 29

¹⁴ Johnson, Walt – Submitted July 25, 2011 via Email

¹⁵ Bob Wille of Titusville

should be reconfigured.¹⁶ We are no longer an agricultural community and should be put into a more compact district.¹⁷ Additionally, “the large distances and population distributions of a district like 29 place a much greater burden on a representative to properly represent the people that reside their (there)...I would like to point out that a large portion of District 29 is rural...The only real population centers are at one end of the district (the Titusville area), which is at a significant distance from a large portion of the rest of the district.”¹⁸

Visual: Current view of House District 29 (light brown).

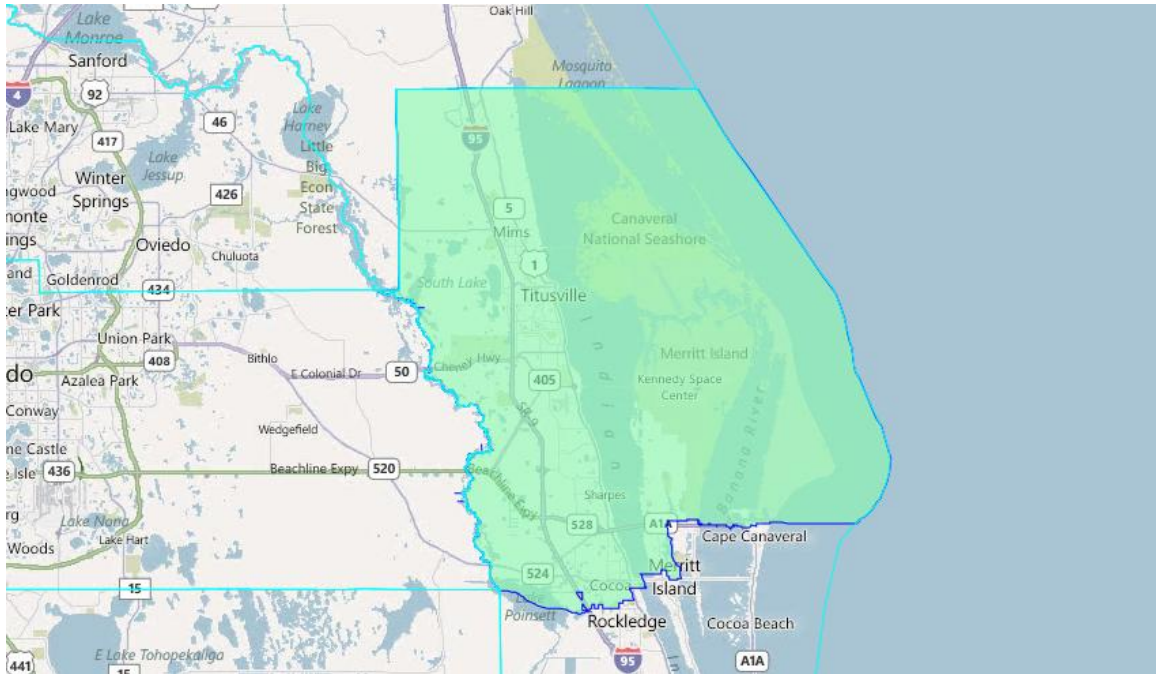


Visual: An example of a new House District that starts at the Volusia County line and ends in Rockledge.

¹⁶ Maureen Rupe of Cocoa

¹⁷ Ann Ford of Cocoa

¹⁸ Campione, Ben – Submitted July 28, 2011 via Melbourne Public Hearing



Policy Issues:

- With a population of 160,290, House District 29 is roughly 1.7% (3,613 people) over the ideal population for a house district.
- During the testimony, West Brevard was not defined and more clarification may be needed.