

Miami Public Input Meeting  
August 17, 2011 – 10 a.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 Miami public meeting on August 17, 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 Miami public meeting. To make it clear, these are the public's suggestions. This document does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Florida Legislature.

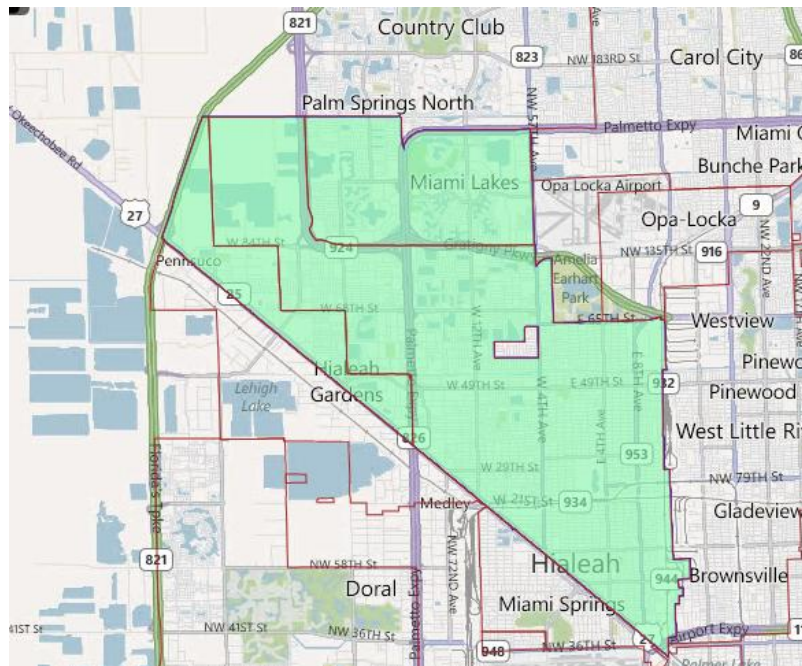
## Specific Map-Drawing Testimony-Miami Public Hearing

August 17, 2011

**SE-21:** Combine Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens and Miami Lakes into One District

**Description:** Miami-Dade County's population demands that a sufficient number of districts have the ability to elect the candidate of their choice. Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Miami Lakes, or Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Miami should make up one district.<sup>1</sup>

**Visual:** Placing those communities into one district would look like this:



### Policy Issues:

- With a population of 275,774, the district above would be too large for the ideal population for a House district (by 119,097) and too small for the ideal population for a Senate (by 194,259) or Congressional district (by 420,571).
- Using the city boundaries to create the district above would also create a hole within the district that would need to be addressed. The creation of this district also splits several VTDs.

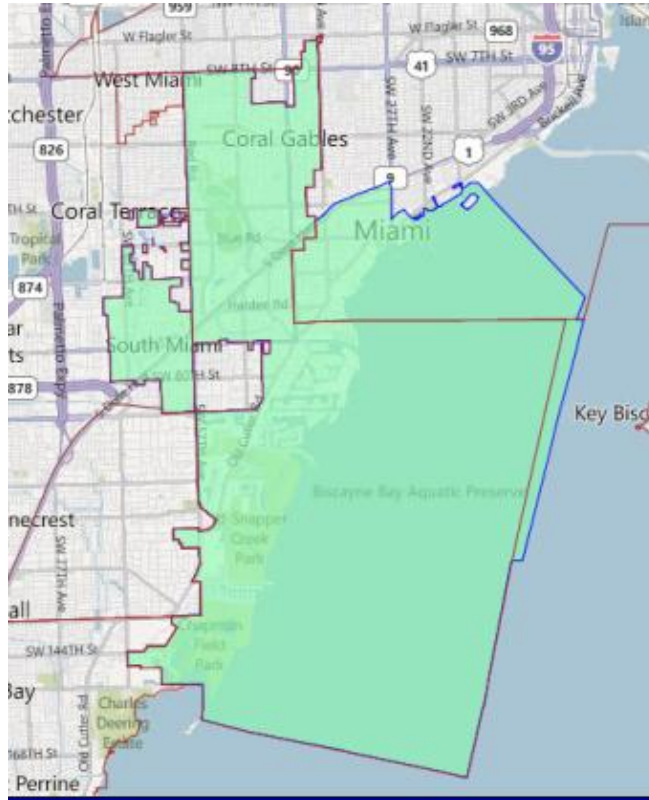
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<sup>1</sup> Ira Paul of Hialeah

**SE-22:** Combine Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Miami into a District

**Description:** Miami-Dade County's population demands that a sufficient number of districts have the ability to elect the candidate of their choice. Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Miami should make up one district.<sup>2</sup>

**Visual:** Combining those communities would look like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- In the testimony given, the exact parameters of the Coconut Grove community were not defined, so the VTDs South and East of US-1 just North of the Coral Gables city boundary were selected. More clarification may be needed.
- With a population of 72,115, the district above is too small to meet the ideal population for a House, Senate or Congressional district. As an example, to complete a House district, 84,562 more people from other communities would need to be added to it.
- Using the city boundaries to create a district would also create holes within the district that would need to be addressed. Several VTDs were also split in the creation of this district.

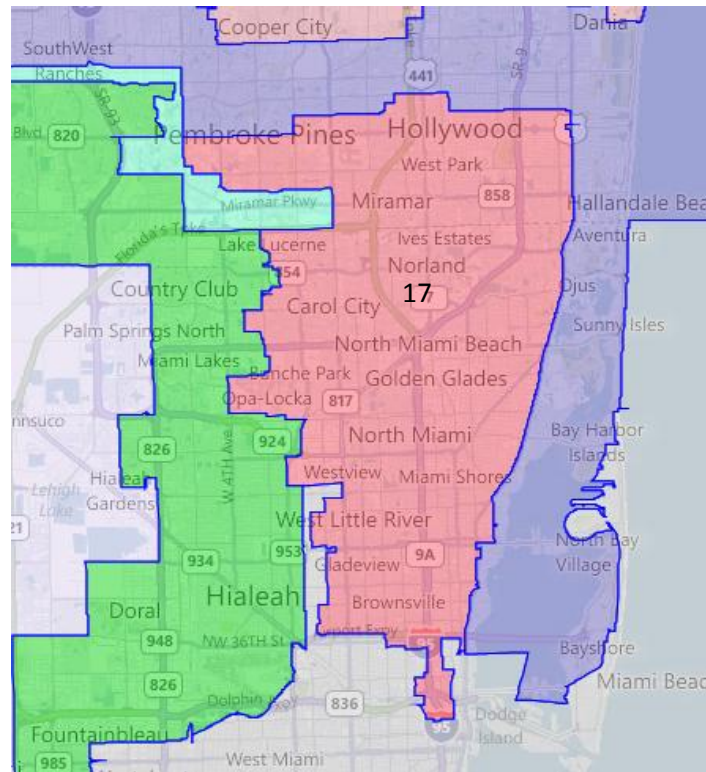
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<sup>2</sup> Ira Paul of Hialeah

**SE-23: Keep the Current Congressional District 17 Intact**

**Description:** Please preserve the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and the ethnic communities in it. It is currently 34% Haitian-American.<sup>3</sup> I am interested in the integrity of District 17. I am happy with the current district, but if changes need to be made, increase the district's population by going North and Northwest.<sup>4</sup> Maintain the integrity of District 17 as it appears now.<sup>5</sup>

**Visual:** Currently, Congressional District 17 looks like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 655,160 the current District 17 is too small to meet the ideal population of a Congressional district. 41,184 more people would need to be added to it in order to meet the ideal population. Several members of the public stated that the district should expand to the North or Northwest if it needed to grow.

<sup>3</sup> Jonas Georges of Miami Shores

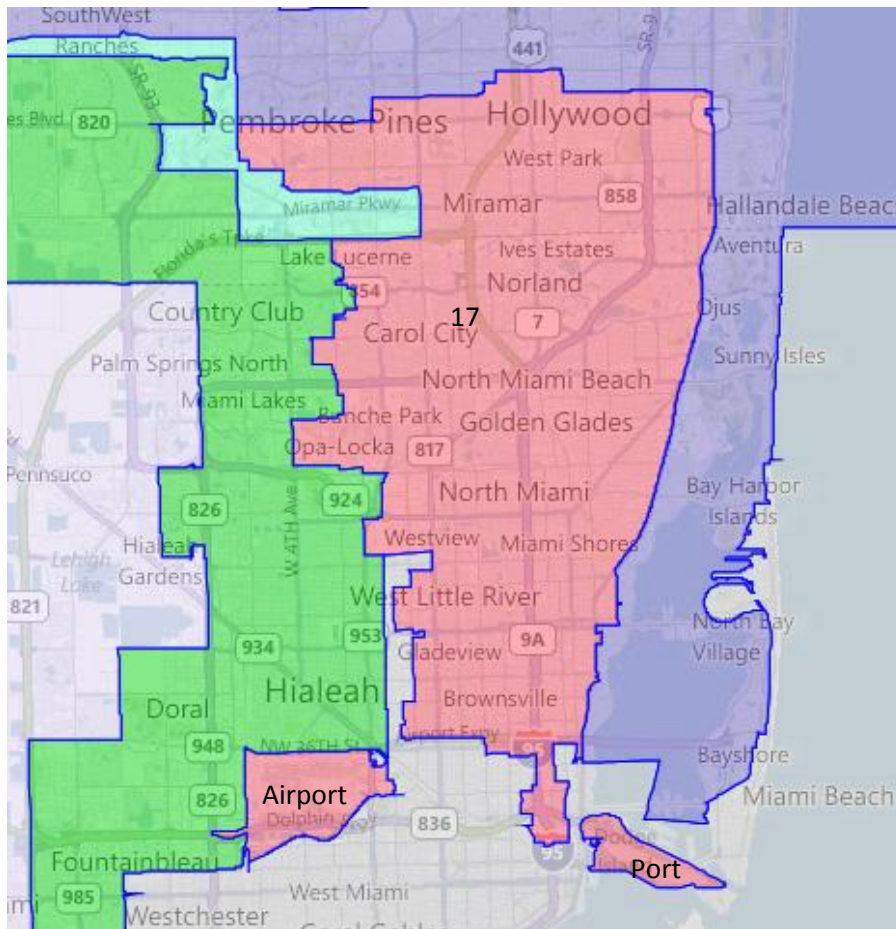
<sup>4</sup> Georges Daniel of the Haitian American Coalition

<sup>5</sup> Jean-Robert LaFortune of Haitian-American Task Force on Redistricting

**SE-24:** Add the port and airport to Congressional District 17

**Description:** Congressional District 17 needs to add the Port of Miami and the airport. Bringing those institutions into the district would also bring more investment into the district.<sup>6</sup> Put the port and airport into District 17.<sup>7</sup>

**Visual:** Adding the Port of Miami as well as Miami-International Airport to Congressional District 17 would look like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- By only adding the VTDs containing the Port of Miami and Miami-International Airport, District 17 has now become non-contiguous. Other geography would need to be added to it in order to correct this.

<sup>6</sup> Badili Jones of Miami

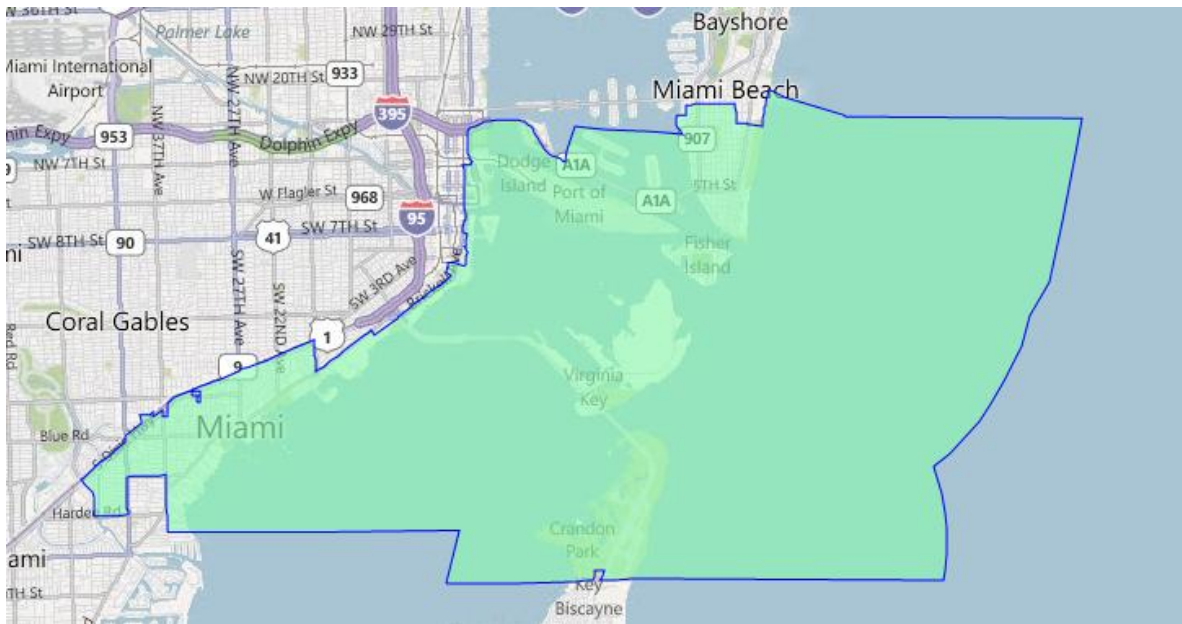
<sup>7</sup> Gihan Perera of Miami Shores

- Adding both of the VTDs mentioned above make no change to the population of District 17, which is 41,184 people short of the ideal population for a Congressional district.
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**SE-25:** Combine South Miami Beach and Coconut Grove into One District

**Description:** I would like to see South Miami Beach connected to the Coconut Grove area for tourism and hospitality.<sup>8</sup>

**Visual:** Combining the South Miami Beach area with the Coconut Grove area would look something like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- During the testimony that was given, the parameters to define South Miami Beach as well as Coconut Grove were unclear. For the purposes of this exercise, the VTDs just shy of the Venetian Causeway were used for South Miami Beach and the area for Coconut Grove that was used in Miami Issue 1-2 of this report were used.
- With a population of 66,889, the district above is too small to meet the ideal population for a House district. 89,788 more people would need to be added from other communities in order to complete the district.

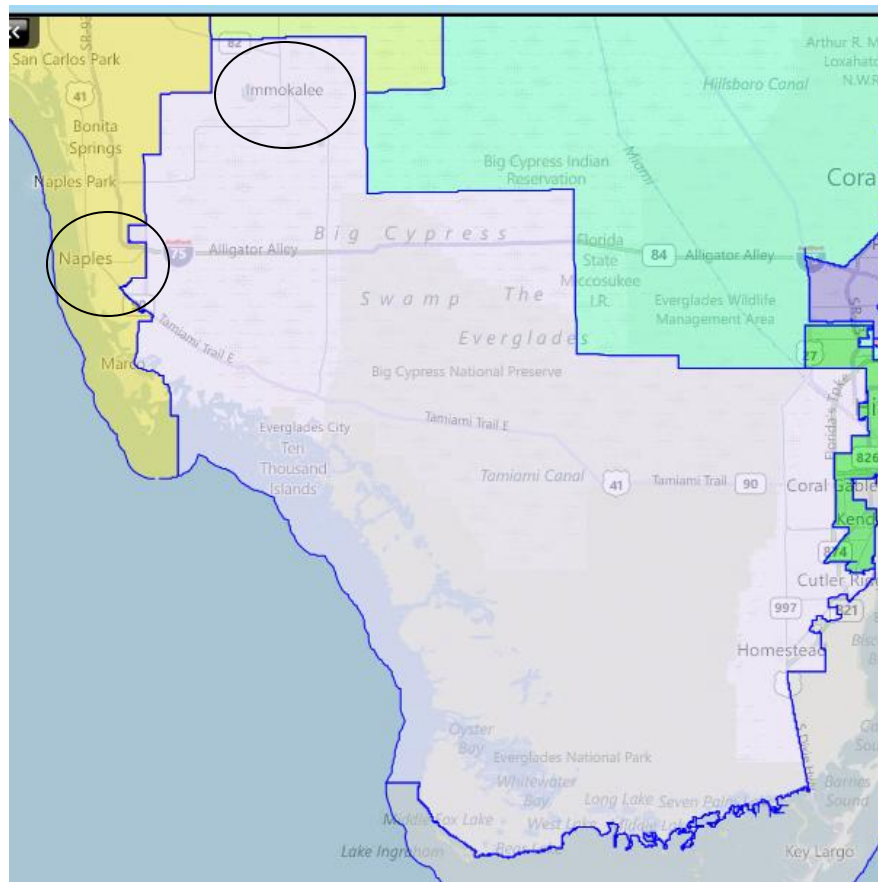
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<sup>8</sup> Harold Foster of Miami Beach

**SE-26:** Remove Immokalee and Naples from Congressional District 25

**Description:** Currently, District 25 unfairly splits racial minorities and communities of interest. Immokalee and Naples do not share the same issues as Miami and they do not reflect our area.<sup>9</sup>

**Visual:** Currently, Congressional District 25 looks like this (with the Immokalee and Naples areas circled):



**Policy Issues:**

- During the testimony given, it was stated that Naples should be removed from the district. It is important to note that the City of Naples is not in District 25, but rather in District 14. It is possible that the speaker meant to say the Naples area or the Naples and Immokalee communities of Collier County as opposed to municipalities. Speaking of which, the Immokalee community of Collier County is not a municipality and the parameters of that community which they request be removed are unclear. More clarification may be needed.

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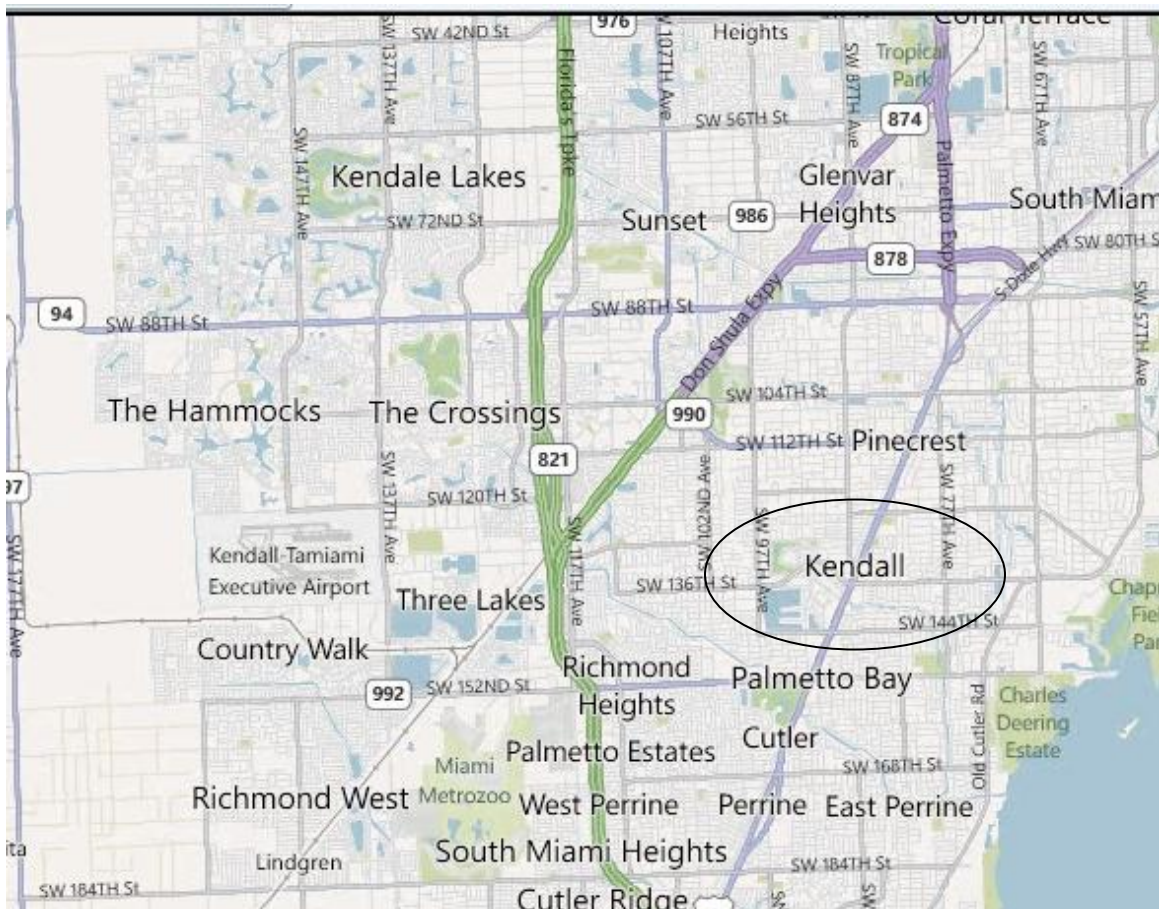
<sup>9</sup> Lida Rodriguez-Taseff of Miami

- With a population of 807,176, the current Congressional District 25 is too large to meet the ideal population of a congressional district. 110,832 people would need to be removed from it in order to be complete.

**SE-27: Keep the Kendall Community Whole**

**Description:** Kendall should be kept together. The people of Kendall do not need three representatives, they need one.<sup>10</sup>

**Visual:** The Kendall Community can be found on the map below (with a circle around it):



**Policy Issues:**

- The parameters of the Kendall community were not expressly defined in the testimony given, so more clarification may be needed.

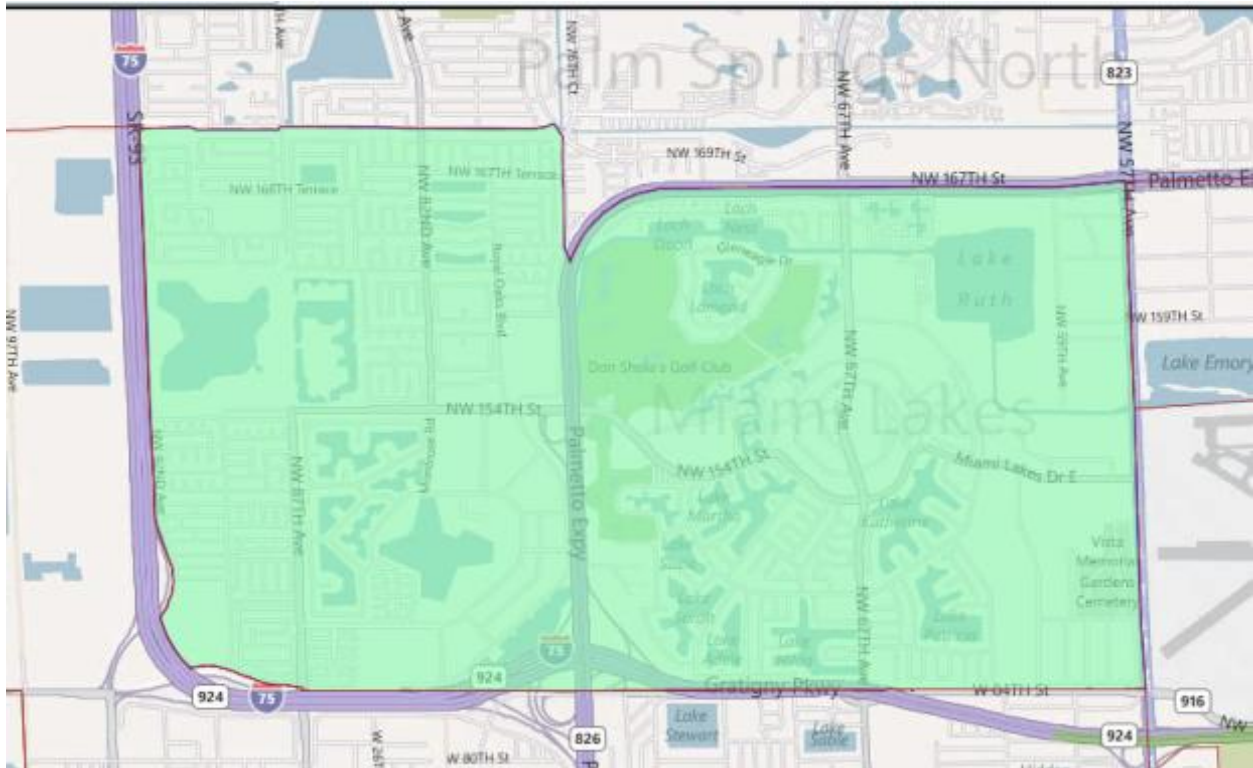
<sup>10</sup> Lida Rodriguez-Taseff of Miami



**SE-28:** Keep the Town of Miami Lakes Whole

**Description:** Our town is divided into House districts. Please put Miami Lakes into one district.<sup>11</sup>

**Visual:** Keeping Miami Lakes whole within a district looks like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 29,361, Miami Lakes is too small to meet the ideal population for a House district. 127,316 more people from other communities would need to be added to it in order to be a complete district.
- In the creation in the district above, several VTDs were split in the process.

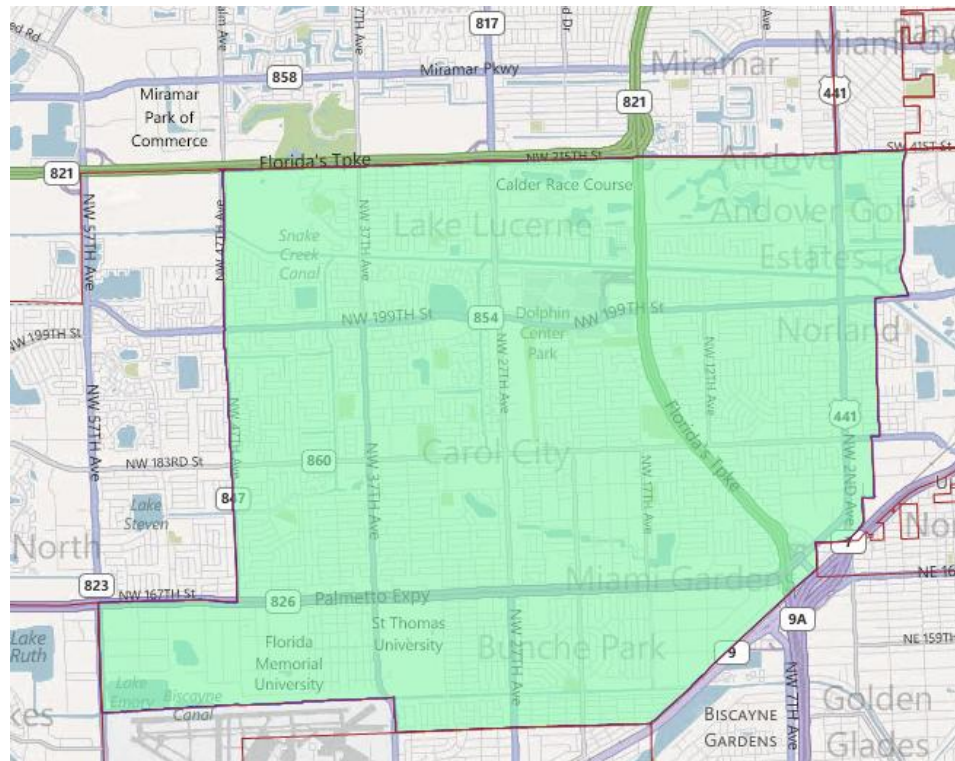
**SE-29:** Keep The City of Miami Gardens Whole

**Description:** Keep Miami Gardens together as a city.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Councilman Nelson Hernandez, Town of Miami Lakes

<sup>12</sup> Councilman Oliver Gilbert, City of Miami Gardens

**Visual:** Keeping the City of Miami Gardens whole within one district would look like this:



**Policy Issues:**

- With a population of 107,167, Miami Gardens is too small to meet the ideal population for a House District. 49,510 more people from other communities would need to be added to it in order to complete the district.