

Tampa Public Input Meeting
August 29, 2011 – 4 p.m.
Post-Public Input Meeting Report

The purpose of this document is to summarize specific district map-drawing suggestions from the Tampa public meeting on August 29, 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 Tampa public meeting. To make it clear, these are the public's suggestions. This document does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Florida Legislature.

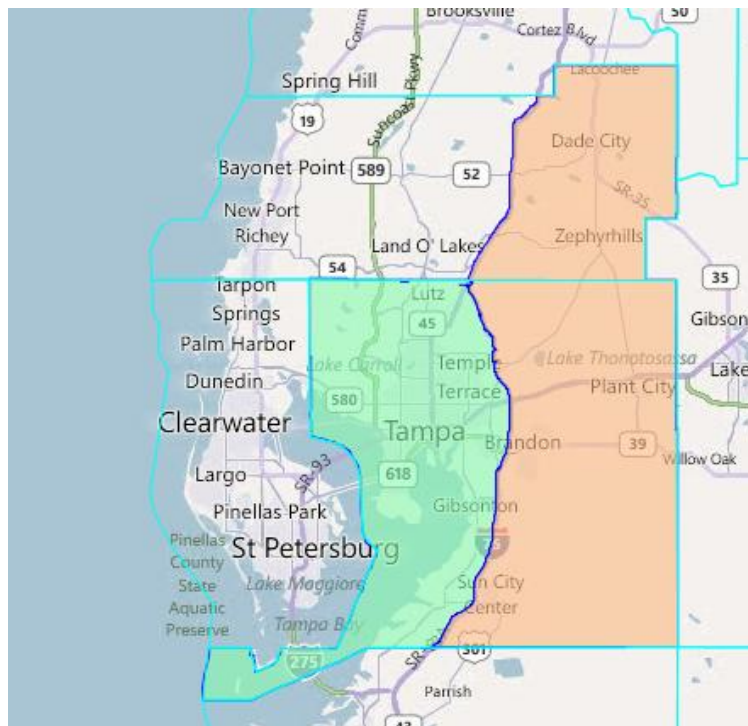
Specific Map-Drawing Testimony-Tampa Public Hearing

August 29, 2011

SW-1: Two Congressional Districts in Hillsborough County

Description: I would like to see two compact congressional districts in Hillsborough, with the dividing line that is near I-75 and that runs north and south. This would create one district that is primarily urban and another that would be rural and farming communities. This rural district would include a portion of east Pasco County, which is also east of I-75.¹

Visual: The two Congressional districts in Hillsborough County as outlined above, using I-75 as the dividing line, would look like this:



Policy Issues:

- With a population of 788,156, the western district (District 1 in green on the map above) is 91,812 above the ideal population for a Congressional district.
- Conversely, the eastern district (District 2 in brown on the map above) has a population of 568,387, which is 127,957 shy of the ideal population.

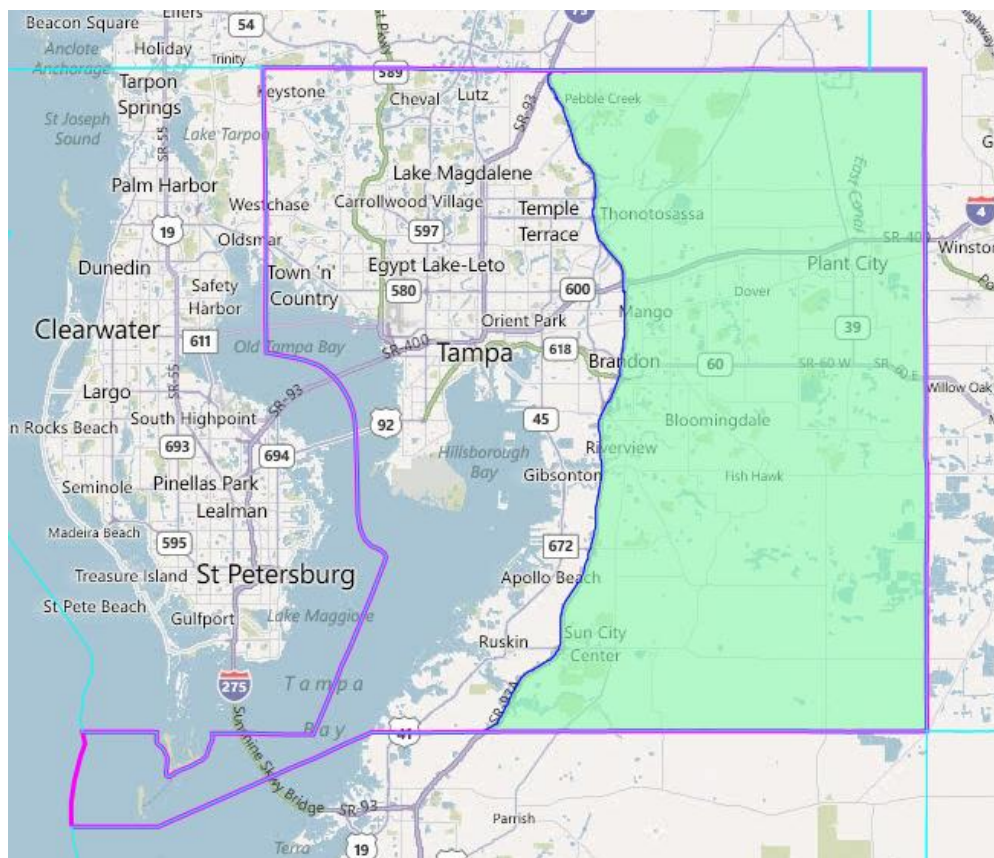
¹ Jack Wolff of Plant City

- In the process of using the roadway of I-75 as the dividing line between the two districts, two VTDs had to be split.

SW-2: Eastern Hillsborough County as a District

Description: Please recognize the importance of the agricultural community that is east of I-75. These residents share similar interests and contribute to the county’s economy. Drawing a district that is east of I-75 to the county line would help to preserve this important way of life and the rural character of those who live in this area of eastern Hillsborough.²

Visual: A single district that was all of Hillsborough County east of I-75 would look like this:



² Danny Aprile of Temple Terrace

Policy Issues:

- With a population of 441,074, the district drawn above would be too large for a House district and too small for a Senate or Congressional district. Of the three, this area is closest to that of a Senate district.

SW-3: Remove Manatee and Pinellas Counties from Congressional District 11

Description: District 11 looks gerrymandered and absurd. I propose that the district be consolidated to be contained within Hillsborough County alone.³ District 11 just doesn't make sense. Pinellas County should not be in that district.⁴⁵ We need a district that does not make us cross bridges into other counties.⁶ There is no reason why a Representative that represents Tampa should have to go to St. Petersburg and Bradenton. This district should be more representative of Hillsborough County and include Westchase, Carrollwood, Northdale and Brandon.

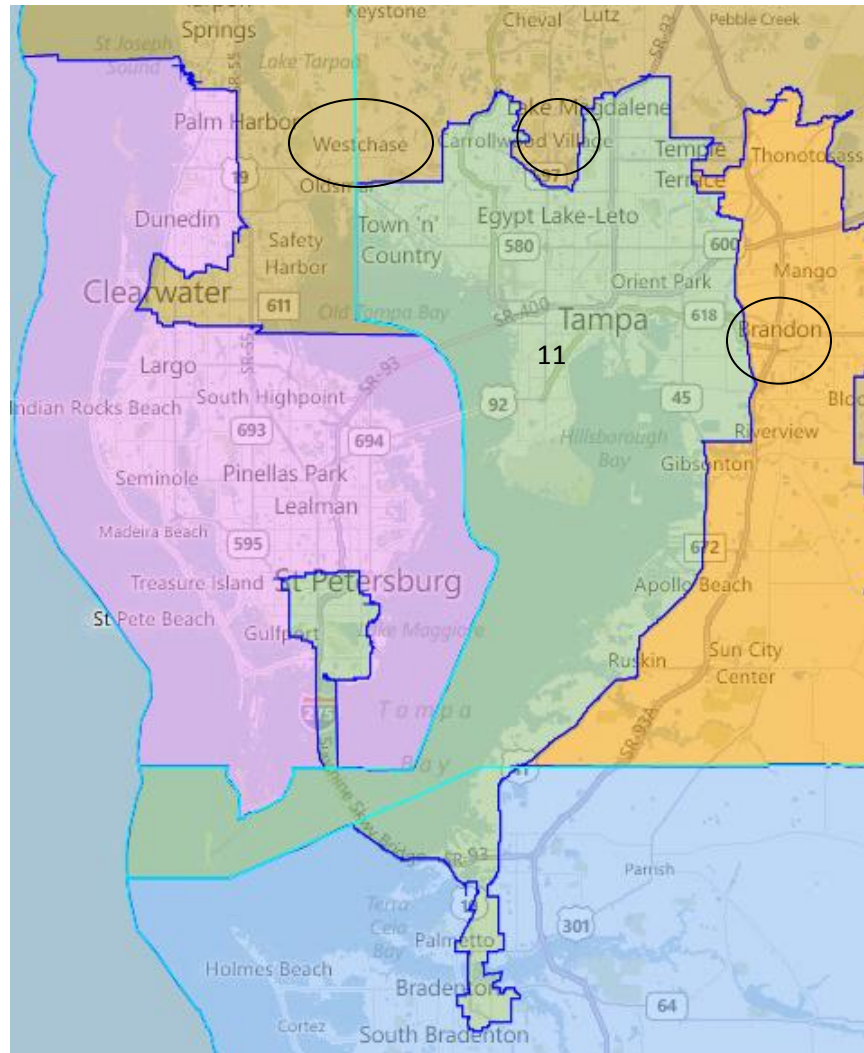
Visual: Currently, District 11 looks like this (in green with circles around the communities mentioned above):

³ Elizabeth Morowati of Tampa

⁴ Charlie Touchton of Tampa

⁵ Evelio Otero of Tampa

⁶ Mary Kay Ross of Tampa



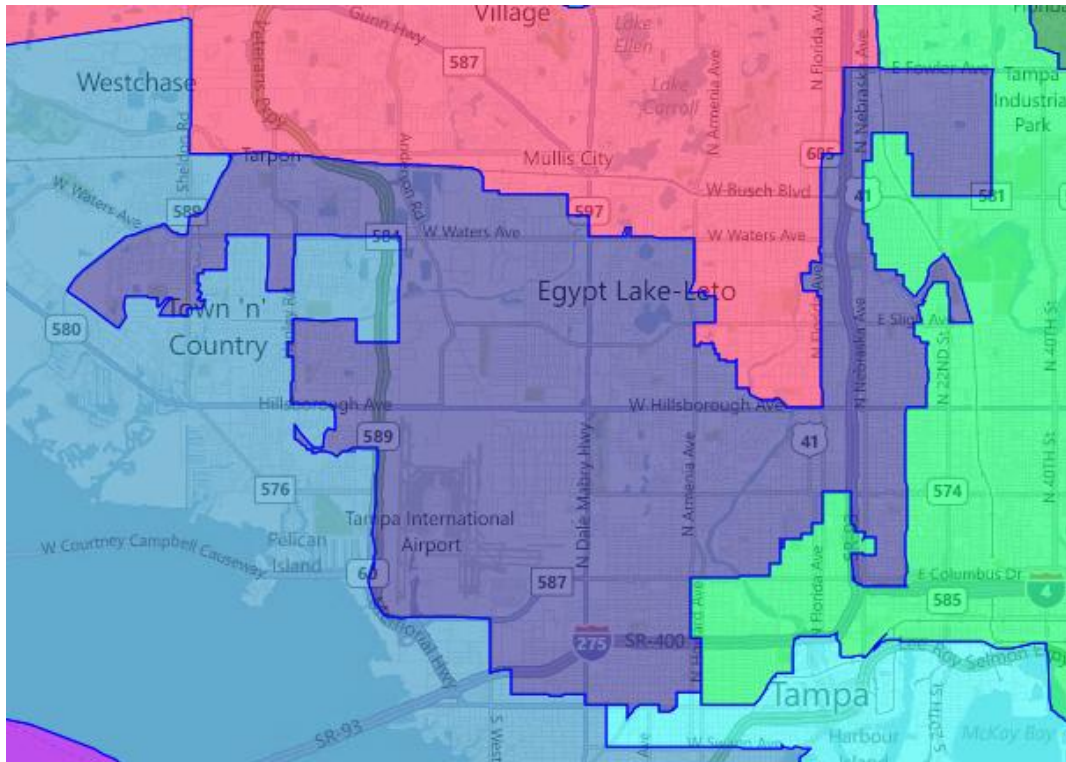
Policy Issues:

- Currently, District 11 is 22,545 people under the ideal population for a Congressional district. If the Pinellas and Manatee portions of the district were removed, the district would then become 117,148 people under the ideal population.
- The specific parameters for the Westchase, Carrollwood, Northdale and Brandon communities were not specified in the testimony, so further clarification may be needed.

SW-3: Place the Town n' Country Community into House District 58

Description: House District 58 has always had a Hispanic Representative. Please include Town n' Country, which is a large Hispanic community, into this district. Everything between Hillsborough Avenue and Waters Avenue should be placed within this district.⁷

Visual: Currently, District 58 looks like this (in purple):

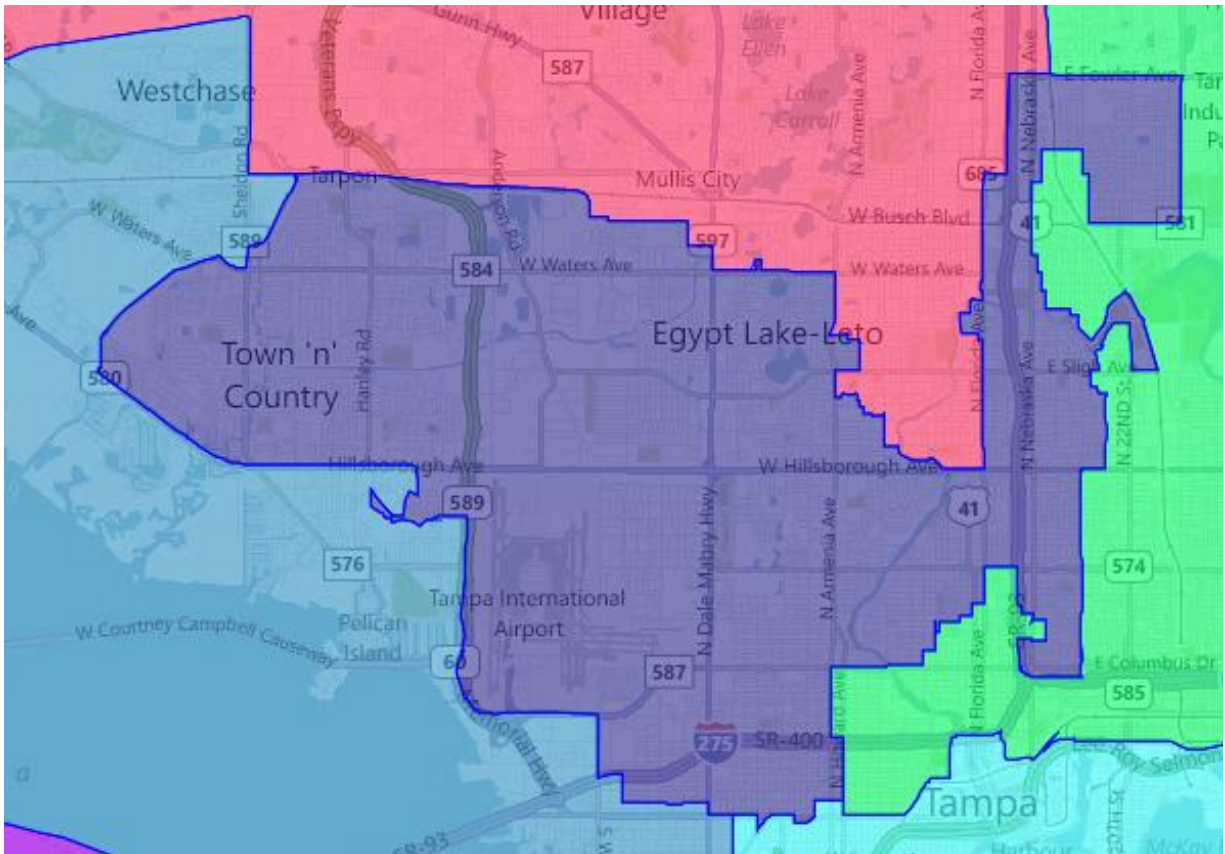


Policy Issues:

- Currently, House District 58 is 24,780 people under the ideal population of a House district.

Visual: House District 58 including the Town n' Country community as outlined in the testimony would look like this:

⁷ Chris Cano of Tampa



Policy Issues:

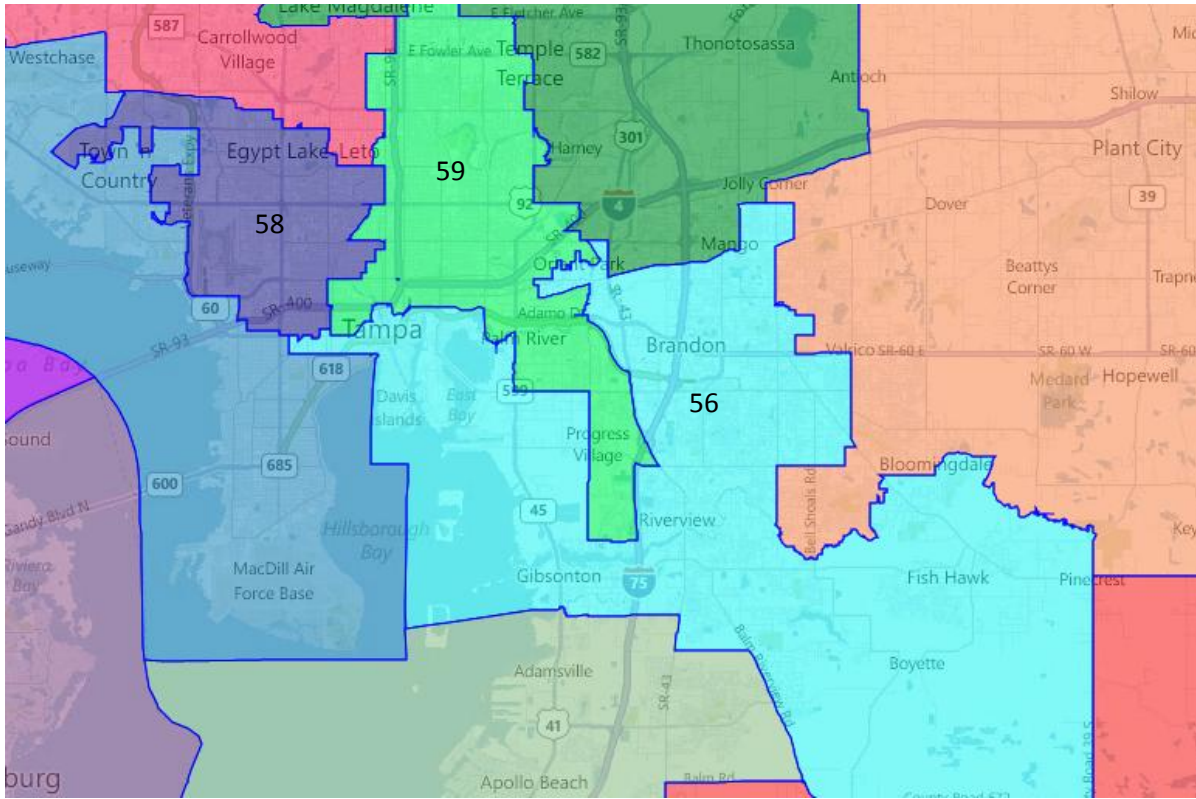
- The District 58 shown above is not 5,922 people shy of the ideal population.
- The District 58 shown above has a Hispanic Voting Age Population of 48%.

SW-4: Reconfigure House Districts 56, 58 and 59

Description: The boundaries for House District 56 should include east of I-75 to Boyett Road and south to SR-672. House District 58 should continue northwest from Hillsborough Avenue to Sligh Avenue and continue over west with the current boundaries. House District 59 should continue up US-41 to SR-582 to include citizens that share the same city council and county commissioners but remembering that these communities share the same interest. In doing this, please preserve the minority district.⁸

⁸ Ella Coffee of Riverview

Visual: The districts as outlined above would look something like this:



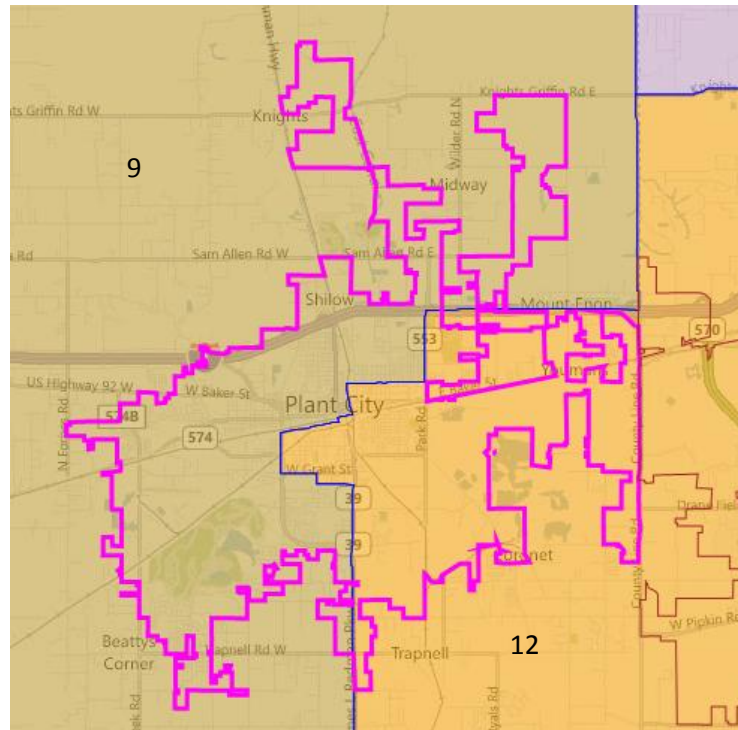
Policy Issues:

- The map above may not represent exactly what Ms. Coffee meant when giving her testimony. The locations of Sligh Ave, Boyette Ave, did not match up with the direction that she gave within her testimony. More clarification may be needed.
- In the map above, House District 56 has a population of 197,817 is over the ideal population for a House district by 41,140, while House District 58 is 56,003 under the ideal population and House District 59 is 29,184 over the ideal population. More adjustments would need to be made to each district.

SW-5: Maintain Current Representation in the City of Plant City

Description: We are happy with our current representation both at the state and federal level. We would actually like to get a third member of Congress in there somehow.⁹

Visual: On the current Congressional map, Plant City looks like this:



Policy Issues:

- Currently, Plant City is represented in two Congressional Districts (9 and 12), one Senate District (10) and one House District (62).

SW-6: Preserve Minority Districts in the Tampa Bay Region

Description: I live in the Ybor neighborhood, which is a proud, historic Black community. Please uphold House District 59 as a minority Black district.¹⁰ Hispanics are now the largest minority group in Florida. I speak in support of House District 58, which has 51% Hispanic

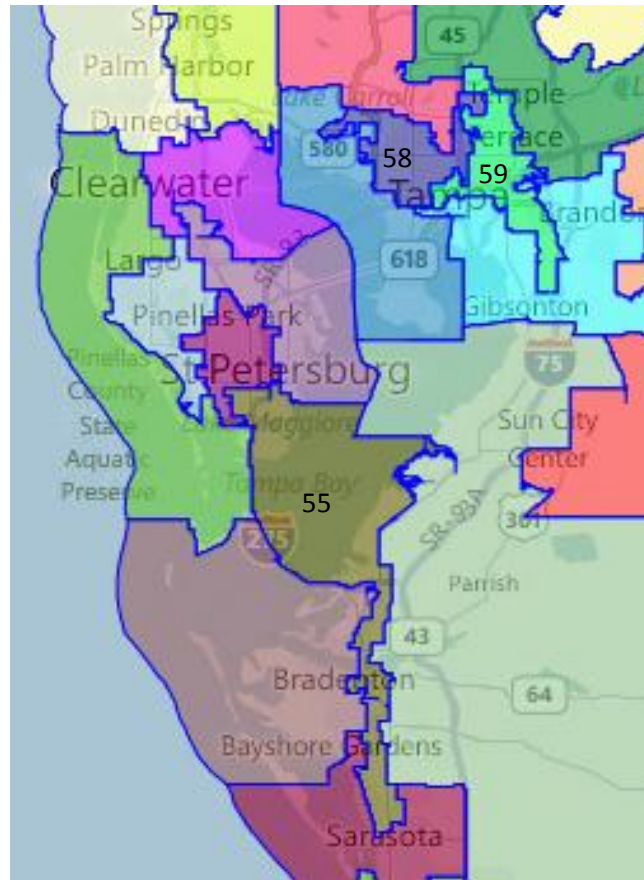
⁹ Dan Rollerson, Mayor, Plant City

¹⁰ Maria Elbilbaisi of Tampa

voters in it.¹¹ Please honor Florida's diversity. I believe that with little effort, lines can be drawn that respect concentrations of Hispanic and Black minorities.¹²

Visual: The current districts that are represented by racial minorities in the House and Senate are:

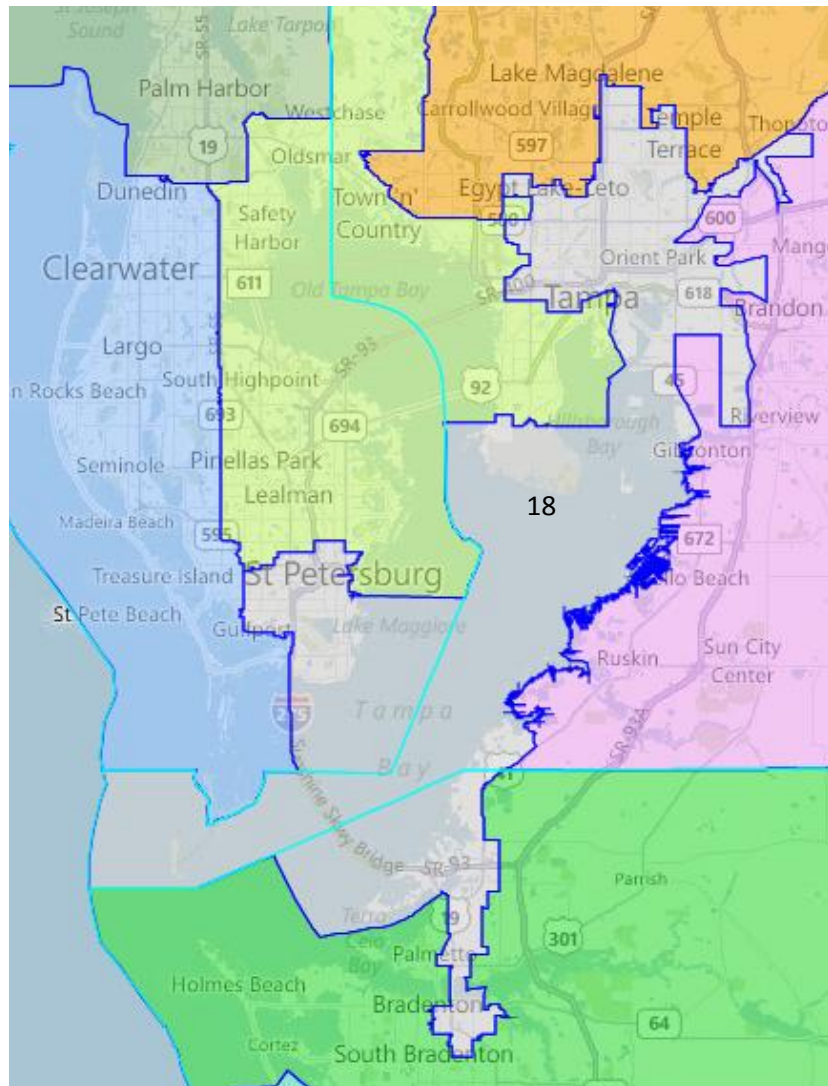
House (Districts 55, 58 and 59)



¹¹ Lidia Madrano of LULAC

¹² Patrick Montega

Senate (District 18)



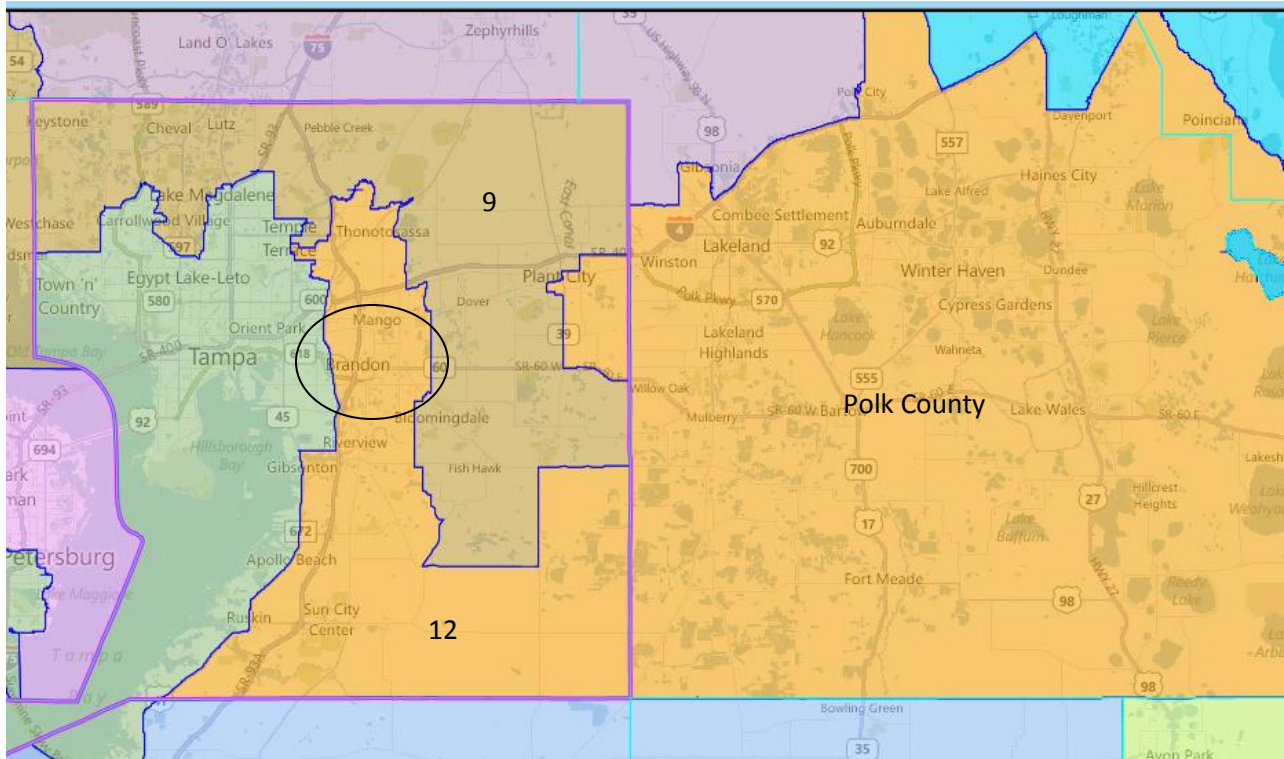
Policy Issues:

- Currently, House District 55 has a population of 133,112, which is 23,565 short of the ideal population. The district also has a Black Voting Age Population of 49%. House District 58 has a population of 131,897, which is 24,780 short of the ideal population. It has a Hispanic Voting Age Population of 49%. House District 59 has a population of 141,651, which is 15,026 short of the ideal population. It currently has a Black Voting Age Population of 54%.
- Currently, Senate District 18 has a population of 404,822, which is 65,210 short of the ideal population. The district also has a Black Voting Age Population of 39%.

SW-7: Place the Brandon community into a Congressional district that is linked with Eastern Hillsborough County

Description: I don't think that it is fair that my portion of Brandon got lumped into a district with Polk County. I would like to see Brandon in our own Congressional district with our fellow eastern Hillsborough County citizens.¹³

Visual: Below are the current Congressional districts in the Brandon area:



Policy Issues:

- Currently, Congressional District 9 has a population of 753,549 which is 57,205 over the ideal population for a Congressional District, and District 12 has a population of 842,199, which is 145,855 over the ideal population. Both districts in their current form would need to shrink to meet the ideal population.
- The exact parameters of the Brandon community were not clearly defined in the testimony, so more clarification may be needed.

¹³ Vivian Bacca of Brandon