



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

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Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Northwest Florida Residents for Telling the Stories of Their Communities

Panama City, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up their first round of public redistricting meetings today in Panama City with lawmakers thanking the residents of Northwest Florida for telling the stories of their communities and providing input that is critical to the redistricting process. The first round of more than two dozen public redistricting meetings took place in Florida’s Panhandle from Monday, June 20, to Wednesday, June 22, and included stops in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach and Panama City.

“Public participation from the onset of the redistricting process ensures that Floridians play a key role in shaping the House, Senate and Congressional districts that will represent their communities in Tallahassee and in Washington for the next decade,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “We are dedicated to engaging the public in this process, and we hope to foster an unprecedented level of public participation as we travel throughout the state.”

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees are scheduled to travel to 26 cities across the state to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. Redistricting must be finalized during the 2012 Legislative Session.

“The residents of Florida’s Panhandle are extremely engaged in this once-in-a-decade redistricting process,” said Senator Don Gaetz, Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “The input that they shared with us over the past three days will play a critical role when we begin the process of drawing new legislative and congressional boundary lines.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will be Monday, July 11, to Wednesday, July 13, and will include stops in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, The Villages and Gainesville.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week's meetings will be available at the same websites.

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