



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

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Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Northeast & North Central Florida Residents for Sharing Stories About Their Communities

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up their second round of public redistricting meetings last night in Gainesville with lawmakers thanking the residents of Northeast and North Central Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process.

The second leg of the statewide tour, which kicked-off in Florida's Panhandle last month, traveled to Northeast and North Central Florida this week and included stops in Jacksonville on Monday, July 11, St Augustine and Daytona Beach on Tuesday, July 12, and The Villages and Gainesville on Wednesday, July 13.

“Public participation is the cornerstone of the 2012 redistricting process. We need the input of the public in order to ensure that Florida's districts truly represent the portrait of Florida's many diverse communities,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “I want to sincerely thank the residents of Northeast and North Central Florida who attended the public redistricting meetings and provided us with valuable insight into their communities.”

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. The Florida constitution mandates that the Legislature vote on new maps during the 2012 Legislative Session, which has been moved to the months of January and February to better accommodate the redistricting timeline.

“This redistricting process will determine the basis for representation in Washington, D.C. and Tallahassee for the next decade. Therefore, it is vital that we hear how residents want their districts look, so that we can incorporate specific details of their unique communities when we begin to draw the maps this fall,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “We are going to continue to engage the public throughout the redistricting process, and I am looking forward to hearing more public input and testimony at the remaining meetings and through the many communication tools available from the Florida Senate and House.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place [Monday, July 25](#), to [Thursday, July 28](#), and will include stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne.

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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