



# The Florida House of Representatives

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## **Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Central Florida Residents for Sharing their Stories**

*Public participation continues to be the cornerstone of the redistricting tour*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up the Central Florida leg of the public redistricting meetings today in Melbourne with lawmakers thanking the residents of Central Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process. With 14 public meetings now complete, the Florida House and Senate continue to be dedicated to making this redistricting process the most open and transparent in Florida’s history with public participation being the cornerstone of the tour.

The Central Florida leg of the statewide tour, which kicked-off in June, traveled to Central Florida this week and included stops in Lakeland on Monday, July 25, Wauchula and Wesley Chapel on Tuesday, July 26, Orlando on Wednesday, July 27, and Melbourne on Thursday, July 28.

“The public participation in the redistricting process has been tremendous to this point,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “Not only have we collected critical input from Floridians at the public redistricting meetings being held across the state, but countless people have submitted their comments to us via social media, like Facebook, Twitter and legislative blogs, as well as email. And now, we also have 18 of maps that have been submitted by the public posted to our website and available for others to comment on and offer their feedback about the submitted maps.”

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.

“The public input that we are taking away from these meetings now will be the foundation for any redistricting plans drafted by the Florida House and Senate,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “I encourage residents who have not gotten involved in the process but who are concerned about their representation in Tallahassee and Washington D.C. get engaged by coming to one of the dozen public redistricting meetings that are left or by sending your comments and input directly to our redistricting committees. This is a historic process that only occurs once every ten years and it’s essential that we hear from Floridians how they want their communities represented.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place Monday, August 15, to [Thursday](#), August 18, and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West.

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](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) or [www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://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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