



2011 - 2012

Brian E. Corley
Supervisor of Elections
Pasco County



2011

The Beginning of Reapportionment and Redistricting

“One Person One Vote”

The idea that the voting power of each voter be as equal as possible to the vote of any other is as old as our country itself. Set forth in the U.S. Constitution, the idea of equal representation was paramount to our founding fathers. These defining principles are the very ones that continue to make our country great.

The decennial census of 2010 is complete and is the basis for reapportionment of government representation by state. The 2010 census created a shift of twelve representative seats, affecting eighteen different states nationwide. As a result, Florida gained an additional two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives for a total of twenty-seven statewide.

Throughout this next year beginning in March, our office and the county commission will work in conjunction with the Senate and House Reapportionment Committees to map out the voting precincts within Pasco County. These plans will be submitted to the state legislature in early 2012 for adoption of a joint resolution, and then on to the Attorney General who petitions the Supreme Court for judgment. If there are no objections, the new districts will take effect within 60 days of the judgment, or approximately June 2012 in time for the August primary and November 2012 Presidential Elections.

For additional information on reapportionment and redistricting visit these websites:

U.S. Census redistricting website: www.census.gov

Florida Senate Redistricting Committee: www.flsenate.gov

Florida House Redistricting Committee: www.myfloridahouse.gov

FAQs

What is reapportionment?

Reapportionment refers to the allocation of the number of congressional seats among the states, or legislative seats among the counties. It's referred to as reapportionment because this process is carried out every ten years. Apportionment is determined at the federal level using the Method of Equal Proportions adopted in 1941.

What is redistricting?

Once apportionment is established, it is up to each individual state to draw its own congressional and legislative boundaries. This process is called redistricting, and it involves adjusting established electoral district boundaries in response to population shifts. Conventional thinking is that areas of faster growth are entitled to more representation, with the opposite being true as well.

What is the basis for these allocations?

The population numbers of the decennial census conducted in 2010 by the U.S. Census Bureau is the basis for apportionment, and plays a major role in the redistricting process.

Why is this done?

To ensure equality of government representation among the states proportional to the population, Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution established that the apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives shall be based upon a national census. The first census was taken in 1790, with the 2010 census being the twenty-third census in the history of our country.

What is the Supervisor of Elections' responsibility in this?

The Supervisor of Elections provides data, such as election results and voting history, to the Florida State Senate and House Reapportionment Committees. This data is used for evaluating districts and calculating district statistics. Based on recommendations by the committee and in accordance with the delineation of the representative districts, the board of county commissioners with the approval of the Supervisor of Elections maps the voting precincts within their county.

What does this mean to me?

At most, a legislative district, precinct boundary or polling place may change. If you reside within this area, you will be notified via an updated voter information card. Relocation of a polling place is a decision that is never taken lightly by the Supervisor of Elections' Office but may be a necessity based on the outcome of redistricting. As always, voting by mail and early voting are available options for all registered voters.

How can I become involved in this process?

Because reshaping political boundaries impacts the imprint of your community, it may change the criteria which determine your representation at all levels of government. There are several resources available for you to stay informed:

- Learn more about redistricting at www.floridaredistricting.org.
- Contact your State Representative and State Senator. Contact information is available in our Guide to Government Officials at www.pascovotes.com.
- Use MyDistrictBuilder to submit ideas for new districts to the Legislature. It is currently being developed by the Florida House of Representatives and will be accessible from the redistricting website www.floridaredistricting.org.
- Take part in the Legislature's public meetings on redistricting throughout Florida, beginning summer 2011.