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**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. SC02-194

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Original Proceeding  
On The Attorney General's Petition For Review  
Of The Florida Legislature's  
2002 Joint Resolution Of Apportionment

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**IN RE: 2002 JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPORTIONMENT**

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**BRIEF AND APPENDIX  
OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA and  
THE CITY OF OCALA, FLORIDA  
IN OPPOSITION TO THE JOINT RESOLUTION**

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## STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND FACTS

This is an original proceeding pursuant to article III, section 16(c), Florida Constitution. The Florida Attorney General has petitioned this Court for a declaratory judgment determining the validity of the Florida Legislature's 2002 joint resolution of apportionment, House Joint Resolution 1987, which adopts apportionment Plan S17S0036 (the "2002 Plan"). Marion County, Florida, and the City of Ocala, Florida, oppose the 2002 Plan because of the way its state Senatorial redistricting impacts Marion County. This opposition is unrelated to partisan politics, racial, ethnic, or language considerations. Rather, Marion County and Ocala oppose the 2002 Plan because it splits Marion County among four separate state senatorial districts, not one of which is predominantly within Marion County. [A 1 (maps).] Marion County is the only county in the state divided into four Senatorial districts in which the county's voters do not have a majority vote in any one of the districts.

Florida's total population, 15,982,378, divided by 40 Senate districts, yields an optimum Senate district of 399,559. Marion County's population of 258,916 is nearly two-thirds of that optimum number, but the plan fails to recognize Marion County's significant population as a community of interest. [A 2 (demographics).] The 2002 Plan unnecessarily achieves population deviation of only 0.03 percent,

sacrificing Marion County's interests, which could have been protected without even approaching the 10 percent deviation that the law presumptively allows.

Under the 2002 Plan, Marion County becomes a part of four different Senatorial districts, with Marion County voters constituting a numerical minority in all four districts [A 1 (maps); A 4 (district by county statistics)]:

<u>District</u>	<u>% of district voters from Marion County</u>
District 3	27.4%
District 7	20.1%
District 14	12.2%
District 20	5.1%

Thus, it is apparent that the 2002 Plan will give Marion County little chance of electing a Marion County resident to look out for its local interests in the Florida Senate. Marion County has not had a resident Senator for the last twenty years, and will not have one for the next ten years under the 2002 Plan, in spite of its enormous past and projected growth. The 2002 Plan deprives Marion County of any realistic likelihood of a meaningful voice in the State Senate to represent its political community of interest.

Splitting Marion County among four senatorial districts thwarts the desires of Marion County residents for political cohesion and a meaningful, unified political voice in the state Senate. This desire was expressed in Resolution 02-R-27 of the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County:

WHEREAS, Marion County is currently represented by four Senators, none of whom reside in Marion County; and

WHEREAS, Marion County has a population of nearly 265,000 and clearly deserves at least one resident Senator; and

WHEREAS, Marion County has been one of the fastest growing areas in the nation over the last 20 years and is expected to grow an additional 20% by 2010; and

WHEREAS, Marion County's population is 40% to 200% larger than surrounding counties but those surrounding counties have resident Senators; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is "one community of interest" with unique environmental, economical and sociological issues, which are concerns shared by all of its citizens and a common desire to resolve those issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, does hereby resolve that it is in the best interest of Marion County and all of its citizens to have at least one resident Senator and urges the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide for this occurrence in the current reapportionment process.

[A 3 (expressions of community of interest).] The Cities of Ocala, Dunnellon, and Belleview, and the executive committees of both the Republican and Democrat parties in Marion County, among many other civic and community leaders, strongly urged the Legislature to recognize and respect its community of interest as a political subdivision [A 3], and testified to that effect at public hearings. [A 5.] Their efforts were unavailing despite the bounty of evidence supporting them.

Marion County lies in the central highlands region of the Florida Peninsula, midway between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, south of Gainesville and northwest of Orlando. [See map at A 1.] Marion County encompasses 1,663 square miles, making it the fifth largest Florida county geographically. The County is perhaps best known for its beautiful gently rolling countryside, which is home to extensive and world-renowned horse farms. Farming consumes nearly 24% of Marion County's acreage. [A 2 (demographics).] The agricultural industry, and particularly horse farming, is one of Marion County's biggest and most economically significant industries, and presents unique environmental, regulatory, and financial concerns. Horse farming is important to the state as a whole, and its central concentration in Marion County presents unique issues deserving of a protective voice in the state Senate.

Marion County's natural resources likewise set it apart as a community deserving of a dedicated political voice. [A 2.] Much of the eastern third of Marion County lies within the Ocala National Forest. In fact, approximately one-third of Marion County's total acreage is either a state or federal recreation site. Marion County is also privileged to be home to three of the state's First Magnitude Springs: Silver Springs, Rainbow Springs, and Silver Glen Springs. Together, these springs discharge significantly more water than springs located in any adjacent county. Marion County residents withdraw a larger amount of fresh water

for domestic self-supplied purposes (private wells) than any other county in the entire state. [A 2.] The presence of these unique natural resources in Marion County creates additional unique environmental and regulatory concerns common to the county's voters.

Marion County's current population, according to the 2000 decennial census, is 258,916. [A 2 (composite exhibit of demographics).] This makes Marion County the seventeenth largest Florida county in terms of population, and represents growth since the 1990 decennial census of nearly 33%. Of the registered voters in Marion County, nearly equal numbers are Republican and Democrat: 62,961 Republican and 61,556 Democrat. Marion County is home to 63,488 people age 65 and over, making it the state's fifteenth largest county in terms of senior population. At the same time, Marion County has the state's fifteenth-largest school-age population and seventeenth-largest public school district. Marion County's population far exceeds that of its neighboring counties and far exceeds the populations of all but two of the counties with which it shares senate districts.

Most of Marion County is unincorporated, but it encompasses five incorporated municipalities: Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, Reddick, and McIntosh. Ocala is by far the largest municipality in Marion County, with a population of 45,943. One would think that perhaps the voting power of a city the size of Ocala would give this part of Marion County an opportunity to elect a Senator of its



choice. Not so, however, because the 2002 Plan divides Ocala among three state Senate districts. [A 1.] More Marion County voters are in District 3 than in the county's other three districts (27.4%), but again, their voting power is nullified by the size and scope of that district, which extends all the way north to Georgia, east to Duval County, and west through Jefferson County. Significantly, Senate District 3 also has a "finger" jutting into Leon County to capture parts of Tallahassee, over 180 miles away from Ocala by road. The jutting "finger" of District 3 takes in 36,611 Tallahassee/Leon County voters [A 4 (District by County statistics)], effectively negating the voting power of the part of Ocala in District 3.

Compared to its neighboring counties, which have resident Senators or a meaningful opportunity to influence the outcome of a Senate race, Marion County leads in population, growth in population, land area, number of eligible voters, number of households, school-age population, state taxes collected, and personal income. [A 2 (last chart).] Marion County and Ocala present these considerations in support of their request that the Court invalidate the 2002 Plan as it affects Marion County, and afford the Florida Legislature the opportunity to redraw that aspect of the plan to give Marion County a meaningful opportunity to elect a resident Senator, failing which Legislative redrawing the Court itself should do so.

## SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

Community of interest in the form of political subdivisions has long been recognized as a valid consideration in redistricting, and one that should be respected when it is possible to do so without creating a discriminatory impact in affected areas. Particularly in a case such as this where the challenged aspect of redistricting does not impact on racial, ethnic, or language concerns, no rational reason exists to divide Marion County among four Senate districts in which the County's voters have no significant influence. Further, no rational reason for such a division exists where there remains significant statistical leeway to create districts better reflecting communities of interest without exceeding or even approaching the ten percent deviation threshold that courts have long considered acceptable. Because of the demonstrable benefit to Marion County and the lack of prejudice to surrounding areas, the Court should reject the 2002 Plan as it relates to Marion County and order the Florida Legislature to redraw this aspect of the plan to respect Marion County's community of interest and give it a meaningful opportunity to elect a resident Senator.

The sole criterion upon which the 2002 Plan based its division of Marion County into four senatorial districts was numerical equality of population. Thus, the 2002 Plan treats Marion County as a population borrow pit, over which the Legislature moved lines here and there to make its population numbers work in

four separate districts, without regard to the identity of Marion County as a political subdivision representing an identifiable community of interests. Marion County voters do not comprise a majority or even a significant minority of any one of the four districts. This division of Marion County's voters was not necessary to avoid a discriminatory impact in Marion County or any surrounding area, nor was it necessary to create in any particular district a constituency fairly reflective of that district's population. This division of Marion County into four parts was not necessary to achieve a legally valid numerical population deviation in the affected Senate districts. It was, in short, irrational. It was simply more convenient for the Legislature to subordinate Marion County's community of interests to an overly zealous quest for mathematical nicety, than to respect Marion County's community of interest and give it the opportunity to elect a resident Senator. The 2002 Plan is invalid in this regard and should be redrawn.

### **STANDARD OF REVIEW**

The Florida Constitution requires this Court to determine whether or not the 2002 Plan is "valid" in light of the constitutional mandate that the Legislature apportion the state "in accordance with the constitution of the state and of the United States." Art. III, § 16(a), Fla. Const. In this original proceeding the standard

of review is de novo as to the plan's compliance with constitutional requirements.

See In re Apportionment Law, 414 So. 2d 1040 (Fla. 1982).

### ARGUMENT

#### **PRESERVING MARION COUNTY'S POLITICAL VOICE AS A SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER THE PURSUIT OF NEAR-PERFECT MATHEMATICAL EQUALITY OF POPULATION.**

In addition to certain explicit constitutional and statutory requirements, the redistricting process is also governed by certain longstanding jurisprudential considerations. The United States Supreme Court has stated quite clearly that "mathematical nicety is not a constitutional requisite." Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533, 569 (1964). The Supreme Court has specified that preservation of political subdivisions is a clearly legitimate policy in apportionment cases:

To the extent that a citizen's right to vote is debased, he is that much less a citizen. The fact that an individual lives here or there is not a legitimate reason for overweighting or diluting the efficacy of his vote. ... The Equal Protection Clause demands no less than substantially equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places as well as of all races.

377 U.S. at 568 (emphasis added). After recognizing the importance of preserving the weight of each citizen's vote, and the legitimacy of political subdivisions as a means of ensuring equal representation, the Court criticized districting that did not respect political subdivision boundaries: "Indiscriminate districting, without any

regard for political subdivision or natural or historical boundary lines, may be little more than an open invitation to partisan gerrymandering.” Id. at 578. Rather than ignoring political subdivision lines, the Court encouraged respect for them:

A consideration that appears to be of more substance in justifying some deviations from population-based representation in state legislatures is that of insuring some voice to political subdivisions, as political subdivisions.

Id. at 580. This Court has also noted that maintaining the integrity of the state’s political subdivisions is a legitimate concern in redistricting. In re Constitutionality of Senate Joint Resolution 2G, 597 So. 2d 276, 285 n.14 (Fla. 1992).

The United States Supreme Court also has held that, given the choice between numerical equality among districts and respect for political subdivisions’ voices, the latter may justify a departure from the former: “a desire to preserve the integrity of political subdivisions may justify an apportionment plan which departs from numerical equality.” Abate v. Mundt, 403 U.S. 182, 185 (1971). In Brown v. Thomson, 462 U.S. 835 (1983), the Supreme Court again made it clear that the goal of achieving population equality among districts is not paramount:

We have recognized that some deviations from population equality may be necessary to permit the States to pursue other legitimate objectives such as ‘maintain[ing] the integrity of various political subdivisions’ and ‘provid[ing] for compact districts of contiguous territory. ... As the Court stated in Gaffney [v. Cummings], 412 U.S. 735, 749 (1973), ‘[a]n unrealistic overemphasis on raw population figures, a mere nose count in the districts, may submerge these other considerations and itself furnish a ready tool for ignoring

factors that in day-to-day operation are important to an acceptable representation and apportionment arrangement.’

Brown, 462 U.S. at 842. In Brown, the Supreme Court upheld a Wyoming apportionment plan that allocated at least one House of Representatives seat to each and every county, even the least populous county having less than half the “ideal” average population, and even though the result was a deviation averaging 16% from exact population equality. 462 U.S. at 838. In protecting the smallest county’s right to have a resident representative, the Wyoming Legislature found that “the opportunity for oppression of the people of this state or any of them is greater if any county is deprived a representative in the legislature than if each is guaranteed at least one (1) representative.” Id. at 840. The Supreme Court upon review agreed with these “substantial and legitimate state concerns,” upholding the apportionment plan in its respect for county lines. Id. at 843.

The Supreme Court has expressly disapproved splitting up political subdivisions in a manner that deprives them of their respective political voices. In Mahan v. Howell, 410 U.S. 315 (1973), the Court upheld a judicially re-drawn Virginia apportionment plan because, in pertinent part, the plan originally devised by the General Assembly had divided Scott County voters into two separate districts, and Virginia Beach voters into two other districts, leaving all of the affected voters without a majority vote in any of the districts. 410 U.S. at 323-24. This is precisely the problem with Florida’s 2002 Plan as it affects Marion County,

dividing it among four separate Senate districts without giving Marion County voters a statistical majority in any of the four districts. The problem is exacerbated by the plan's division of Ocala, Marion County's largest municipality, into three separate districts. These divisions irrationally dilute Marion County's vote.

Faced with a similar flaw, the Supreme Court in Mahan rejected Virginia's General Assembly apportionment plan, noting that the plan rendered Scott County voters' "opportunity ... to champion local legislation ... virtually nil," and "effectively disenfranchised" Virginia Beach voters relegated to numerical minority status in an adjoining district. Id. at 324. This disenfranchisement of voters by relegating them to numerical minority status affects voters of every race and political party. An analogy to the problem of racially discriminatory districting is instructive in identifying and avoiding this problem. In the case of racial discrimination, courts have recognized that merely insuring that individual members of a minority class have the right to vote is not enough. To protect the efficacy of their right to vote, their voting districts must be drawn so as to give them a meaningful opportunity to elect their preferred candidates. While Marion County residents, as a whole, do not have the same legal status as minorities, they do have a right to votes not so diluted as to thwart any realistic opportunity to elect their own Senator. This important principle of protecting against vote dilution was

a significant factor in the Supreme Court's approval of Virginia's districts only after they had been judicially redrawn. Mahan, 410 U.S. at 324.

In upholding Virginia's districts as they were judicially redrawn, the Supreme Court relied upon its own precedents for the reasoning that "Local governmental entities are frequently charged with various responsibilities incident to the operation of state government." Id. at 321 (citing Reynolds, 377 U.S. at 580-81). See also In re Reapportionment, 2002 WL 100555 (Colo. Jan. 28, 2002) (invalidating reapportionment plan that crossed county lines and thus violated state constitutional preference for intact counties whenever possible to maintain five percent or lower level of numeric population deviation).

The Attorney General in his brief to this Court recognizes both the validity of respecting political subdivision boundaries per se, and the utility of such respect in defeating claims of improper racial gerrymandering. [AG Br. 13.] As the Attorney General notes, the Supreme Court looks to "traditional districting principles such as compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions" to weigh the validity of districting choices. Id. at 13-14 (quoting from Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630, 647 (1993)). See also Miller v. Johnson, 515 U.S. 900, 901 (1995) ("traditional race-neutral districting principles" can defeat claim of racial gerrymandering). The Attorney General further notes that public input during the redistricting process often specified a strong public preference for respecting



political subdivision lines. [AG Br. 17-18.] The Attorney General criticizes the 2002 Plan in part for its excessive distance between portions of Senate District 27 between Palm Beach County and Lee County [AG Br. 28], a distance far less than the reach of District 3 from Ocala in Marion County to Tallahassee in Leon County. The Attorney General cannot reconcile traditional districting principles with the 2002 Plan, and urges the Court to reject the 2002 Plan and require the Legislature to articulate consistent standards for redistricting decisions, specifically including “compactness, communities of interest, [and] respecting municipal and county boundaries.” [AG Br. 27-28.] Marion County agrees.

These authorities make the unassailable point that respect for political subdivision boundaries is not only a legitimate factor in state districting, but that it must take precedence over strict numerical equality among districts when necessary to protect and preserve the voting voice of the citizens of each political subdivision. In this case, however, the 2002 Plan elevates numerical equality over the political voice of Marion County’s voters. This slavish adherence to numbers in total disregard for political subdivision boundaries – evident not only from the division of Marion County among four Senate districts but further emphasized by the division of Ocala into three districts – cannot withstand scrutiny. Perhaps this phenomenon is the result of the ready availability of sophisticated computer technology, which makes near-perfect numerical equality fairly easy to achieve

with the proverbial push of a button. Perhaps it is simply the result of predictable partisan gerrymandering intended to protect incumbents. Whatever the reason for it, the Florida Legislature's slavish devotion to numerical accuracy at the expense of Marion County's political voice is contrary to governing principles of constitutional fairness and equality, and should not be allowed to stand. The Court should reject the 2002 Plan as it affects Marion County, and afford the Legislature the opportunity to redraw the Plan to address this consideration.

It can scarcely be gainsaid that Marion County is significant and unique in many respects, and that other counties with fewer such factors in their favor have long had resident Senators while Marion County has not. To summarize but a few factors about Marion County; it is among the state's largest counties in terms of both geography and population; it has significant populations of both senior citizens and families with school-age children; it is home to the vast majority of the state's significant horse farming industry and other major agricultural activities; and it encompasses significant and unique natural resources such as the Ocala National Forest and three First Magnitude Springs. Its political and civic leaders have put aside partisan politics to speak with a single voice in support of the effort to obtain a resident Senator to reflect fairly Marion County's unique local concerns. The legislature's decision to reject these factors and split Marion

County's voters into four separate districts, not having majority influence in any of the four, runs afoul of the Equal Protection Clause.

The Legislature's apparent desire to achieve near-perfect population equality among the districts was improperly elevated over Marion County's right to a meaningful political voice in the state Senate. It was not necessary to do so. Although certainly redistricting must honor the Fourteenth Amendment's requirement of one person, one vote, the law allows far greater statistical deviation than the 2002 Plan achieved, considering deviations of 10% or less so minor as not to even raise a constitutional question. Brown v. Thomson, 462 U.S. at 842. What the Legislature did to Marion County was utterly unnecessary to achieving a legally valid population density in the affected districts. Cf. In re Apportionment Law, 414 So. 2d 1040, 1045 (Fla. 1982) (noting that 1982 reapportionment plan had maintained the integrity of 44 of Florida's 67 counties, and split counties only where necessary "principally because population was greater than the ideal number of people per district," achieving a deviation more than three times greater than that achieved under the 2002 Plan). In a similar vein, there was no showing during the reapportionment process, and the evidence does not support a finding, that dividing Marion County among four senatorial districts was necessary to protect minority voting strength in the county or in surrounding areas. Cf. In re Constitutionality of Senate Joint Resolution 2G, 597 So. 2d at 285 n.14 (allowing

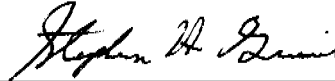
plan to split small cities into two districts because it was “an inevitable result of the legal requirements to draw district lines in such a manner as to provide significant minority voting strength”). Simply put, the Legislature had no good reason – no legally acceptable reason – to split Marion County into four state senatorial districts in a fashion that deprives Marion County voters of a resident Senator and any meaningful opportunity to influence the outcome of the Senate races in any of the four districts.

### **CONCLUSION**

Marion County is the only county in the state divided into four Senatorial districts in which the county’s voters do not have a majority vote in any one of the districts. Marion County and the City of Ocala urge the Court to reject the 2002 Plan as it relates to Marion County, and require the Legislature to redraw the plan to keep Marion County whole, thus affording its residents the opportunity to elect a resident Senator or a position of majority influence in at least one Senate district.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of April, 2002.

**HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP**



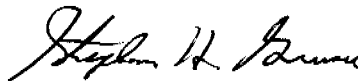
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing with its attached appendix was furnished by United States mail to the following, this 16th day of April, 2002.



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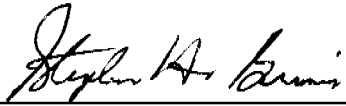
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**CERTIFICATE OF FONT**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this brief was prepared using the Times New Roman font in 14-point size, in compliance with the governing rules.

  
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Attorney

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# Appendix Part 1

# U.S. Census Bureau

State and County QuickFacts

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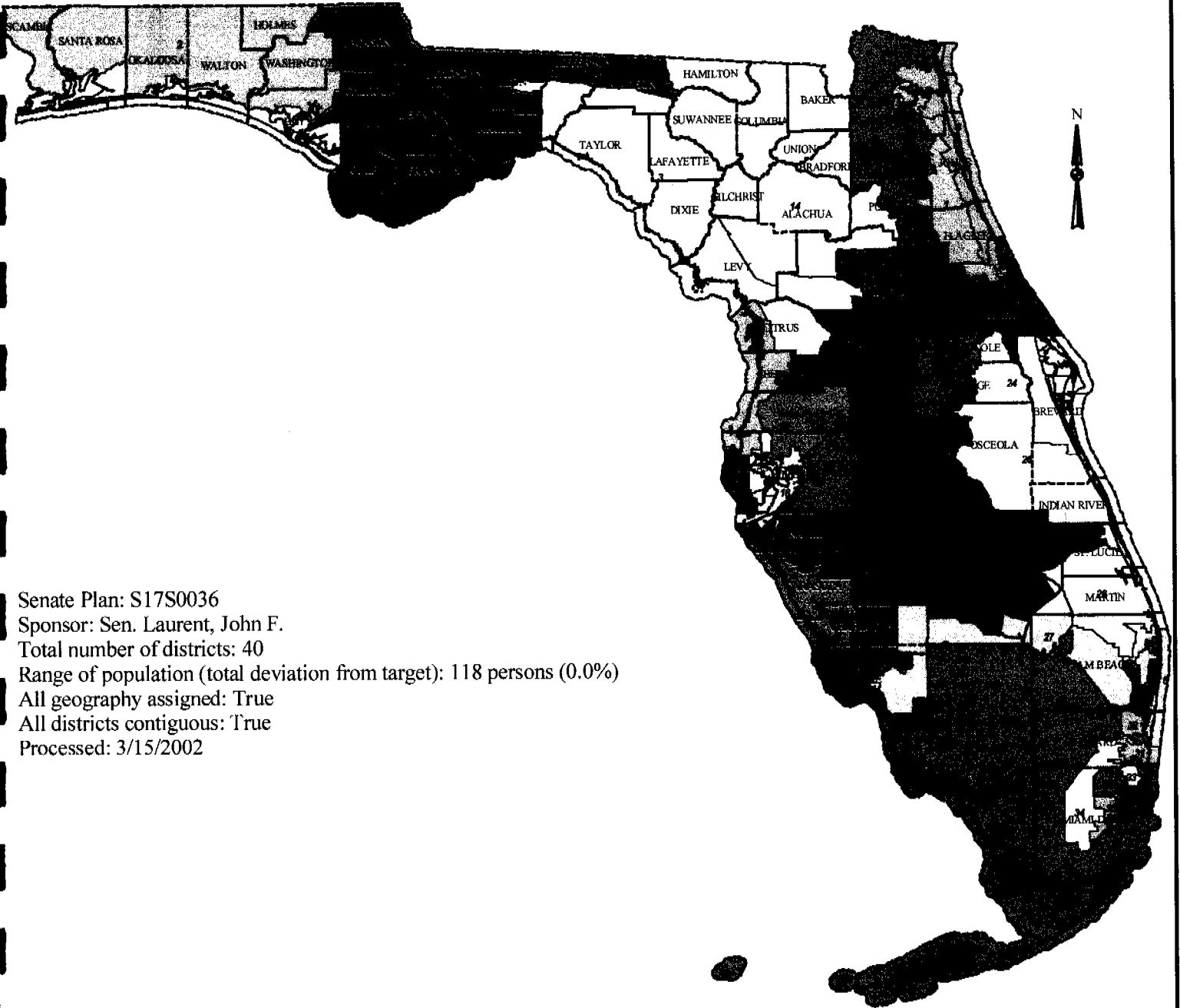
Florida - click on the map to select a county



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# Proposed Senate Districts Plan S17S0036 by Sen. Laurent



Senate Plan: S17S0036  
Sponsor: Sen. Laurent, John F.  
Total number of districts: 40  
Range of population (total deviation from target): 118 persons (0.0%)  
All geography assigned: True  
All districts contiguous: True  
Processed: 3/15/2002



The Florida Senate  
Committee on Reapportionment  
404 South Monroe Street, 103 S.O.B.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
Voice: 850/487-5855 Fax: 850/487-6458  
[www.leg.state.fl.us/senateredistricting](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senateredistricting)  
Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman

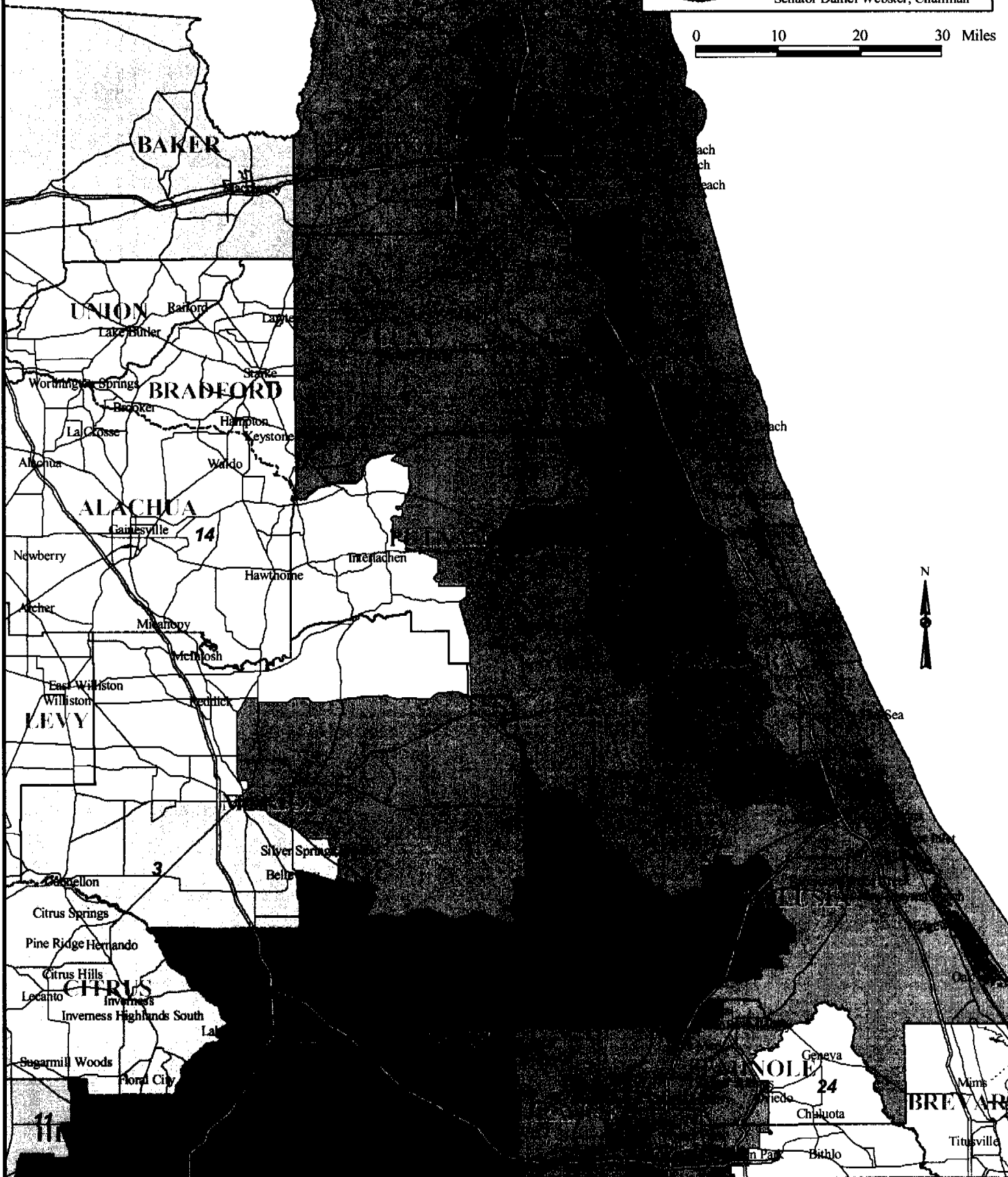
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Plan S17S0036 by Sen. Laurent



The Florida Senate  
Committee on Reapportionment  
404 South Monroe Street, 103 S.O.B.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
Voice: 850/487-5855 Fax: 850/487-6458  
[www.leg.state.fl.us/senateredistricting](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senateredistricting)  
Senator Daniel Webster, Chairman

0 10 20 30 Miles



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## APPENDIX PART 2

Marion County, with a current population of nearly 265,000, is expected to grow an additional 20% by 2010. Marion County's population, based on the 2000 census is greater than any of the adjacent Counties where a significant boundary is shared (Alachua, Citrus, Lake, Levy, Putnam and Sumter). Marion County's population, based on the 2000 census, accounts for approximately 27% of the total population in the seven County area.

Total Population

County	Population	Percent
Alachua	217,955	22.6
Citrus	118,085	12.3
Lake	210,528	21.8
Levy	34,450	3.6
<b>Marion</b>	<b>258,916</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Putnam	70,423	7.3
Sumter	53,345	5.5
Total	963,702	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

Marion County has within its boundaries 3 First Magnitude Springs. First Magnitude Springs are springs with discharge of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) or more. Marion County's 3 First Magnitude Springs are Silver Springs, Rainbow Springs and Silver Glen Springs. Combining the average discharge of these 3 springs results in a total of 1,695 cfs, significantly more than those located within any adjacent County. The combined total of all of the average discharge (cfs) from First Magnitude Springs in Alachua, Citrus, Lake, Levy, Putnam and Sumter is 2083 cfs.

First Magnitude Springs

County	Spring Name	Rank	Average Discharge (cfs)	Ownership Status
Alachua	ALA 112971	9	406	Private
	Hornsby Spring	23	163	Private
Total Alachua County Springs cfs			569	
Citrus	Crystal River (Kings Bay)	2	916	State
	Homasassa Springs	20	175	State
	Chassahowitzka Springs	28	139	State
Total Citrus County Springs cfs			1,230	
Lake	Alexander Springs	29	120	Federal
Total Lake County Springs cfs			120	
Levy	Manatee Spring	18	181	State
	Fannin Springs	34	103	State
Total Levy County Springs cfs			284	
Marion	Silver Springs	3	820	State/Private
	Rainbow Springs	4	763	State
	Silver Glen Springs	32	112	Federal
Total Marion County Springs cfs			1,695	
Putnam	N/A	--	--	--
Sumter	N/A	--	--	--

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, January 2000



Approximately 1/3 or 33.6 percent of Marion County's total acreage is listed as either a state or federal recreation site. This includes the Cross Florida Greenway and the Ocala National Forest, as well as, many other sites of smaller acreage.

**Marion County Total Acreage for State and Federal Recreation Sites**

	<b>Acreage</b>
State of Florida	69,686
Federal Government	276,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,706</b>

Source: Marion County Planning Department

Marion County has a larger number of farms and more acreage in farmland than surrounding Counties.

**Farmland Per Counties**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Farms</b>	<b>Number of Farms in Percent</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Acreage in Percent</b>
Alachua	1,086	17.8	198,193	17.6
Citrus	294	4.8	49,192	4.5
Lake	1,389	22.8	185,311	16.5
Levy	549	9.0	157,376	14.0
<b>Marion</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>265,572</b>	<b>23.6</b>
Putnam	391	6.4	85,794	7.6
Sumter	718	11.8	183,374	16.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,096</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,124,812</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: USDA Census, 1997

Marion County has a significant number of citizens age 60 and over.

Population 60 Years of Age and Over

County	Population	Percent
Alachua	27,563	10.3
Citrus	47,256	17.6
Lake	69,120	25.8
Levy	8,347	3.2
<b>Marion</b>	<b>79,142</b>	<b>29.5</b>
Putnam	17,009	6.3
Sumter	19,498	7.3
Total	267,935	100

Domestic self-supplied water use includes withdrawals by residential and small commercial users (churches, convenience stores, restaurants) that are not served by a public water supply. The largest amount of freshwater withdrawn for domestic self-supplied purposes in 1995 within the State of Florida was Marion County (20 mgd).

**Domestic Self-Supplied Water Withdrawals**

<b>County</b>	<b>Withdrawal (million gallons per day)</b>
Alachua	1-10 mgd
Citrus	1-10 mgd
Lake	1-10 mgd
Levy	1-10 mgd
<b>Marion</b>	<b>10-50 mgd</b>
Putnam	1-10 mgd
Sumter	0-1 mgd

Source: Water Resources Atlas of Florida, 1998

The number of households served by individual wells and septic tank systems is significantly higher in Marion County than in surrounding Counties.

**Households with Wells, 1990**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Alachua	5,000-15,000
Citrus	15,000-30,000
Lake	15,000-30,000
Levy	5,000-15,000
<b>Marion</b>	<b>45,000-60,000</b>
Putnam	15,000-30,000
Sumter	5,000-15,000

Source: Water Resources Atlas of Florida, 1998

**Septic Tanks, 1995**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Septic Tanks</b>
Alachua	10,000-50,000
Citrus	10,000-50,000
Lake	10,000-50,000
Levy	10,000-50,000
<b>Marion</b>	<b>50,000-100,000</b>
Putnam	10,000-50,000
Sumter	10,000-50,000

Source: Water Resources Atlas of Florida, 1998

## About Marion County

Marion County is the 5th largest county in the State of Florida encompassing 1,652 square miles or 1.03 million acres. It is ranked as the 19th fastest growing area in the nation with a current population of 258,916. Although mostly rural, there are five incorporated cities within the County; Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Reddick, and Ocala which is the largest. Approximately 78% of the population lives in the unincorporated area.

Recognized as an All-America City/Community and ranked by Money Magazine as the fifth best place to live, Marion County is best known for its crystal clear springs, unspoiled natural beauty, mild climate, and horses. Employment is primarily industrial, medical, and service related. It is centrally located with easy access to I-75, US 27, US 441, SR 40, and SR 200.

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Any questions, comments or suggestions  
about this site can be sent to the  
Marion County Webmaster  
revised 08/19/01 22:58:36*

COUNTY	1990 POP	2000 POP	POP # CHG	% CHG	PROJECTED GROWTH					LAND AREA	VOTING ELIGIBLE AGE 18+ 2000	VOTING ELIGIBLE AGE 18+ 2010	VOTING ELIGIBLE AGE 18+ 2015	NUMBER HOUSEHOLDS	SCHOOL AGE POPULATION	STATE TAXES COLLECTED 1999-2000	TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME (000)
					2010	2015	2020	2025	2030								
ALACHUA	181,596	217,955	36,359	20.0%	248,100	263,900	279,900	292,500	303,900	874.3 Mi <sup>2</sup>	174,017	201,215	213,453	87,509	32,777	\$61,248,146	\$5,090,682
CITRUS	93,513	118,085	24,572	26.3%	141,300	153,200	165,400	177,300	188,100	583.6 Mi <sup>2</sup>	97,755	121,291	132,917	52,634	15,861	\$62,477,800	\$2,379,370
LAKE	152,104	210,528	58,424	38.4%	264,800	292,900	321,900	350,300	376,600	953.1 Mi <sup>2</sup>	167,809	218,914	244,100	88,413	31,276	\$141,821,476	\$4,755,845
LEVY	25,912	34,450	8,538	32.9%	42,100	46,000	50,100	54,100	57,700	1,118.4 Mi <sup>2</sup>	26,319	33,474	36,817	13,867	6,156	\$15,675,352	\$592,814
MARION	194,835	258,916	64,081	32.9%	317,900	348,300	379,600	410,300	438,500	1,579 Mi <sup>2</sup>	203,491	254,612	281,107	106,755	41,937	\$185,295,297	\$5,439,723
PUTNAM	60,070	70,423	10,353	8.2%	75,400	78,000	80,600	83,200	85,600	772.2 Mi <sup>2</sup>	53,119	63,413	67,210	27,839	12,978	\$32,753,518	\$1,269,409
SUMTER	31,577	53,345	21,768	68.9%	71,200	80,300	89,800	99,200	107,800	545.7 Mi <sup>2</sup>	44,775	56,382	63,670	20,779	6,464	\$18,343,947	\$740,170
VOLUSIA	370,737	443,343	72,060	19.6%	512,000	574,700	618,800	618,800	650,700	1,105.9 Mi <sup>2</sup>	353,481	306,036	435,556	184,723	68,205	\$322,092,692	\$9,603,231

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- (1) Marion County has the largest population of all inland counties under consideration.
- (2) Marion County has had the largest growth in population of all inland counties under consideration.
- (3) Marion County is projected to be the most populated of all inland counties under consideration for the next 30 years.
- (4) Marion County is the largest county in land area of all counties under consideration.
- (5) Marion County has the largest number of eligible voters of all inland counties under consideration and continues that lead throughout 2015.
- (6) Marion County has the largest number of households of all inland counties under consideration.
- (7) Marion County has the largest school-age (K-12) population of all inland counties under consideration.
- (8) Marion County is the largest collector of State Taxes (sales & use, motor vehicle tags and pari-mutual wagering) of all inland counties under consideration.
- (9) Marion County has the largest amount of in-place personal income of all the inland counties under consideration.

## Appendix Part 3

**RESOLUTION 02-R- 27**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS**, Marion County is currently represented by four Senators, none of whom reside in Marion County; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County has a population of nearly 265,000 and clearly deserves at least one resident Senator; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County has been one of the fastest growing areas in the nation over the last 20 years and is expected to grow an additional 20% by 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County's population is 40% to 200% larger than surrounding counties but those surrounding counties have resident Senators; and


**WHEREAS**, Marion county is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County is "one community of interest" with unique environmental, economical and sociological issues, which are concerns shared by all of its citizens and a common desire to resolve those issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, does hereby resolve that it is in the best interest of Marion County and all of its citizens to have at least one resident Senator and urges the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide for this occurrence in the current reapportionment process.

**DULY RESOLVED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

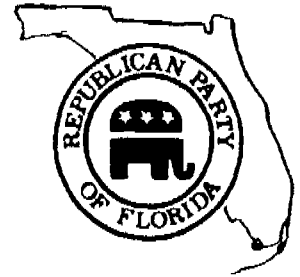
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RANDY HARRIS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID R. ELLSPERMANN, CLERK

# Marion County

## *Republican Executive Committee*



Harvey Klein  
State Committeeman

333 Northwest 3rd Avenue • Ocala, Florida 34475  
(904) 732-7750 • FAX: (904) 732-7754

February 13, 2001

Chairman and Committee Members  
Reapportionment Committees

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I recognize that this is only one of many letters that have been written to you in addition to various resolutions pleading that in the reapportionment process Marion County will be once again after many years in the position to have a State Senator who is a resident of Marion County.

The purpose for this request is that Marion County is a community of interests with unusual environmental, economical and sociological issues which are a concern by all of our residents.

Respectfully yours,

HARVEY KLEIN  
STATE COMMITTEEMAN

HRK/sg



MARION COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
P. O. Box 6476, Ocala, FL, 34478-6476  
(352) 402-9494  
[www.MarionCountyFloridaDems.org](http://www.MarionCountyFloridaDems.org)

January 23, 2002

The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL, 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators:

We speak for over sixty thousand Democrats in Marion County when we ask to have a voice in Tallahassee from our own community.

Marion County continues to grow and grow; yet for one of Florida's fifteen most populous counties, the proposed plan leaves our residents with little or no chance to elect a Marion Countian to the state Senate, giving in to interests in several smaller counties whose needs will be different than ours.

With issues such as protection of our water supply, the Rodman Reservoir, the equine industry, growth, and healthcare, Marion County's issues are as individual as the Senator that should speak to them in Tallahassee. We must not have our needs divided up among three or four senators who will place a higher priority on a larger block of voters.

On behalf our of committee, we strongly object to the current plan and ask that lines be re-drawn to provide Marion County with a voice in the State Senate.

Thank you,



Kenneth R. Nadeau, County Chairman



# Clerk of the Circuit Court

*Marion County*

Post Office Box 1030 • Ocala, Florida 34478-1030

**David R. Ellspermann**  
*Clerk of the Circuit Court*

Telephone (352) 620-3904

Facsimile (352) 620-3300

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Legislature of Florida  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

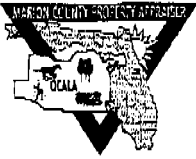
Dear Chairperson and Committee Members:

I support Marion County's efforts to obtain individual representation for a Marion County State Senate District. Marion County has unique economic, social and environmental issues that would best be addressed with at least one local Senator.

Sincerely,

David R. Ellspermann  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

DRE/ppm



VILLIE M. SMITH, CFA, ASA  
**PROPERTY APPRAISER**  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators:

Many problems facing Marion County today are problems unique to this county. Whether it's conserving our water resources, administering to our diversified agricultural community or working with State and Federal Agencies with their vast land holdings and projects. These problems can best be addressed by someone who lives in Marion County.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Florida Legislature to consider providing for at least one resident Senator in the current reapportionment process.

Sincerely,

Villie M. Smith, CFA, ASA  
Marion County Property Appraiser



# **SHERIFF**

## **Marion County**

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Senator:

As a Constitutional Officer of Marion County, I strongly support the resolution of the Board of County Commissioners 02-R-27 which resolves that Marion County needs one resident Senator and urges the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide for this occurrence in the current reapportionment process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Dean".

Ed Dean, Sheriff

D/w

**ED DEAN, SHERIFF**

P.O. Box 1987, Ocala, Florida 34478

Ph. (352) 732-8181

Civil (352) 620-3606 • Emergency Management (352) 622-3205 • Jail (352) 351-8077

# Office Of Tax Collector

Marion County Florida

Thomas "Mac" Olson  
Tax Collector

PH: 352.368.8200  
FAX 352.368.2979  
P.O. Box 970  
Ocala, Florida 34478-0970

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators:

As the Marion County Tax Collector, I strongly support the effort to provide for one resident Senator for Marion County. Our geographic location, importance to the horse industry and our growth seems to merit representation from a person who lives here.

Presently, we are represented by four Senators who live in smaller, distant counties. I respectfully ask the Florida Legislature to consider a reapportionment, which would allow for "local" representation.

Sincerely,



Thomas "Mac" Olson,  
Marion County Tax Collector

Main Office  
503 SE 25 Ave  
PO Box 970  
Ocala, FL 34478-0970  
(352) 368-8200  
8:00AM - 4:30PM  
Weekdays

Belleview Branch  
Northside Plaza  
10934 SW US 441  
Belleview, FL 34421  
(352) 245-3395  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Weekdays

Dunnellon Branch  
Food Lion Shopping Center  
11223 N Williams St  
Dunnellon, FL 34431  
(352) 489-4317  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Weekdays

Forest Branch  
Forest Center  
15956 E SR 40  
Silver Springs, FL 34488  
(352) 625-1950  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Weekdays

SR 200 Branch  
Jasmine Square  
6154 SW SR 200  
Ocala, FL 34476  
(352) 873-3113  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Weekdays

**CITY OF DUNNELLON**  
20750 RIVER DRIVE  
DUNNELLON, FLORIDA 34431



March 4, 2002

MAR - 7 2002

Marion County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Randy Harris, Chairman  
601 S.E. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34471

Dear Mr. Harris:

Pursuant to your letter dated February 1, 2002, enclosed please find an original Proclamation #02-02, a proclamation of the City Council of the City of Dunnellon, Florida, urging Florida's lawmakers to make Marion County the majority representative in a State Senate District.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda Roberts".

Amanda Roberts  
Assistant City Clerk

Ar;nob

Enc.

\\Dpdc\company\User.Nancy\m.cty.comm.rHarris.proc02.02.ltr.03.04.02.doc

PROCLAMATION #02-02

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA'S LAWMAKERS TO MAKE MARION COUNTY THE MAJORITY REPRESENTATIVE IN A STATE SENATE DISTRICT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Marion County School Board desires to lead the state in raising student performance; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida, creating large-scale transportation challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County's population continues to be among the fastest-growing counties in the state of Florida; and

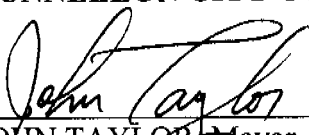
**WHEREAS**, the Marion County School Board desires a strong, primary voice for concerns of local importance; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County needs to be the majority representative in a Senate District to advocate concerns for Marion County;

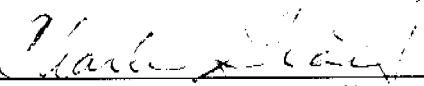
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the City Council of the City of Dunnellon, Florida urges Florida's lawmakers to make Marion County the majority representative in a State Senate district.

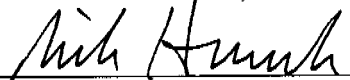
PASSED and PROCLAIMED this 25th day of February 2002.

**DUNNELLON CITY COUNCIL**

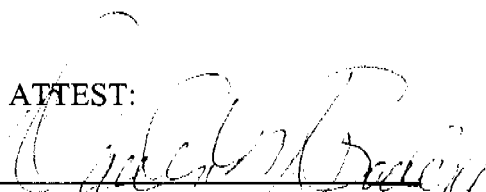
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN TAYLOR, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VALERIE PORTER-HANCHAR, Vice-Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES GRANT, Councilman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICK HANCOCK, Councilman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAWN M. BOWNE, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAN RUTKOWSKI, Councilman



# City of Ocala

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. BOX 1270, OCALA, FLORIDA 34478-1270

Office: (352) 629-8401

Fax: (352) 629-8391



February 14, 2002

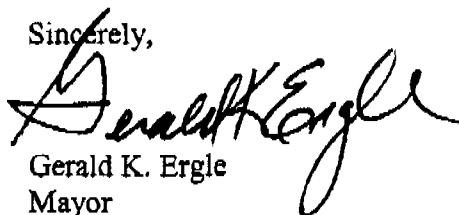
Honorable John F. Laurent  
Chairman, Senate Redistricting Committee  
Room 216, SOB  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Laurent:

Marion County is represented by four Senators, none of whom reside in Marion County. Our population is at least 40% larger than surrounding counties who have resident Senators and our population is expected to grow an additional 20% by 2010. Marion County is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida.

The Mayor of Ocala and the Ocala City Council feel that it is in the best interest of Marion County and all of its citizens to have at least one resident Senator. We urge the Senate Redistricting Committee to consider our prominence in the State when deliberating on the reapportionment process.

Sincerely,



Gerald K. Ertle  
Mayor



FEB-13-2002 WED 02:29 PM

FAX NO.



*City of Ocala*  
OCALA CITY COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 1270, OCALA, FLORIDA 34478-1270  
(352) 629-8401  
Fax (352) 629-8391 • Suncom 654-8401



January 23, 2002

The Honorable Representatives of the State of Florida  
Florida House of Representatives  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Representatives of the State of Florida:

Currently Marion County is represented by four Senators, none of whom reside in Marion County. Marion County has a population of 265,000 and has been, over the last 20 years, one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The population of Marion County is at least 40% larger than surrounding counties who have resident Senators. Marion County is expected to grow an additional 20% by 2010 and is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida.

The Mayor of Ocala and the Ocala City Council feel that it is in the best interest of Marion County and all of its citizens to have at least one resident Senator. We urge the Legislature of the State of Florida to consider our prominence in the State when deliberating on the current reapportionment process.

Sincerely,

*Gerald K. Ertle*  
Gerald K. Ertle  
Mayor

*Mike S. Amsden*  
Mike S. Amsden  
Council President

*Reuben Kent Guinn*  
Reuben Kent Guinn  
President Pro-Tem

*Kyle A. Kay*  
Kyle A. Kay  
Councilman

*Daniel Owen*  
Daniel Owen  
Councilman

*Mary S. Rich*  
Mary S. Rich  
Councilwoman



# CITY OF BELLEVIEW

5343 S.E. Abshier Boulevard • Belleview, Florida 34420

Telephone: (352) 245-7021 • Fax: (352) 245-6532

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators of the State of Florida:

I, Paul Anderson, Mayor of City of Belleview, Marion County, Florida, recommend that it would be in the best interest to the citizens of Marion County to have at least one resident senator. As it stands now, none of the present senators actually reside in Marion County.

I am sure you are aware that Marion County is growing at a rapid rate and is the fifth largest county in Florida. It seems not only advisable but also practical to have a resident senator for such a large populated area that will only continue to grow.

I urge the Legislature of the State of Florida to consider our request to have a resident senator in Marion County when discussions are held on the reapportionment process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul B. Anderson".

Paul B. Anderson  
Mayor

NATURE SAVER™ FAX MEMO 01616		Date 2/20/02	# of pages 1
To Bob	From Peggy		
Co./Dept.	Co City Belleview		
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax # 670-3392	Fax # 245-6532		

RESOLUTION 02-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BELLEVIEW MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Marion County currently has four Senators, none of whom reside in Marion County; and

WHEREAS, Marion County has been one of the fastest growing populations in the nation over the last 20 years and is expected to continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is larger than surrounding counties of which have resident Senators; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is the fifth largest county in Florida which creates challenges and issues to the county for its resources; and

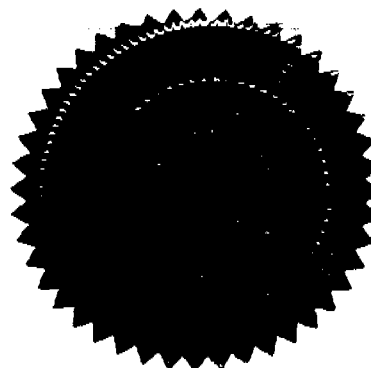
WHEREAS, Marion County, needs a strong voice for concerns of importance to its constituents.

Now, therefore, the Mayor and the Commissioners of the City of Belleview, of Marion County, Florida, do hereby resolve that it is in the best interest of Marion County and all of its citizens to have a resident Senator and would urge the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide for this request in the current reapportionment process. We have subscribed our names and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Belleview to be hereunto affixed on this 19th day of February, 2002.

Paul B. Anderson
PAUL B. ANDERSON
Mayor/Commissioner

ATTEST:

Sandi McKamey
SANDI McKAMEY, CMC, CPM
City Clerk/Administrator





VHA

Your Community Owned Hospital Since 1898

Munroe Regional Medical Center

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators of the State of Florida:

Marion County, Florida, has been one of the fastest growing areas in our nation over the past 20 years and is expected to see its current population of 265,000 increase by 20% by the end of this decade. At the present time Marion County is represented by four Senators, none of whom reside within the county. This is particularly perplexing given that the population of Marion County is at least 40% larger than surrounding counties who have resident Senators.

Munroe Regional Health System and the citizens of Marion County have a common desire that we be represented by at least one resident Senator. We ask that in your Senate re-districting process during this legislative session the errors in this process by the Senate 10 years ago not be repeated; that population, as a driving factor in designing legislative districts, not be ignored this time as it was then. We believe it is in the best interest of the Health System and of Marion County as "one community of interest" with unique environmental, economic and sociological issues shared by all of our citizens, that our citizens be represented by at least one resident Senator so that this community of interest can be kept whole.

We urge the Senate of the State of Florida to deal fairly and responsibly with Marion County during your deliberations during this 2002 reapportionment process. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MUNROE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

d/b/a Munroe Regional Medical Center

Dyer T. Michell,  
President/C.E.O.

**OCALA/MARION  
COUNTY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL**



*AN ENTERPRISE***FLORIDA** PARTNER

P.O. BOX 459  
OCALA, FLORIDA 34478-0459 USA  
(352) 629-2757  
(352) 629-1581 FAX  
www.ocalaedc.org  
marketing@ocalaedc.org

February 13, 2002

Honorable John F. Laurent  
Chairman, Senate Redistricting Committee  
and Committee Members  
Room 216, Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Chairman Laurent and members:

The Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Council is deeply interested in the issue recently raised by Randy Harris, our County Commission Chairman. In his letter of January 30, 2002, Commissioner Harris wrote about Marion County's need and desire to have a resident Senator.

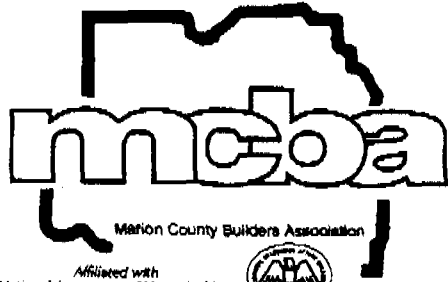
As the agency responsible for promoting Marion County for economic growth and vitality we certainly understand the desirability of having one our County's residents in a position to speak for the whole county. Currently Marion County is divided into three separate districts, each encompassing a small piece of Marion County and a section of one or more neighboring counties. Commissioner Harris, as well as his fellow commissioners, is charged with the task of providing leadership and vision to the residents of Marion County. To do so they must have support from the State's legislative bodies. An important part of that support comes from having a resident Senator responsible to the people of Marion County.

The existing apportionment causes Marion County's citizens to suffer from a lack of representation as it does citizens of those adjoining counties that currently share their Senator. With a 2000 Census of more than a quarter million people, (258,916) Marion County would seem to stand as a central location of representative redistricting rather than the out-skirts of some other area.

We hope you will consider Commissioner Harris' letter as well as ours when redistricting is considered.

Sincerely,

Peter Tesch  
President/CEO



Affiliated with  
National Association of Home Builders  
Florida Home Builders Association



[www.marioncountyba.com](http://www.marioncountyba.com)

**Marion County Builders Association**  
409 N.E. 36th Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34470  
(352) 694-4133  
FAX (352) 694-5971  
EMAIL: [marioncountyba.com](mailto:marioncountyba.com)

February 14, 2002

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 350 member firms of the Marion County Builders Association, we encourage you to use "common sense" and not "politics" in the Senate redistricting of Marion County.

It seems the Senate Redistricting Committee does not have the best interest, or any interest, in providing true representation for our County. Marion County is one of the fastest growing areas not only in Florida, but our nation. How do you justify that the fifth largest county in Florida with a population of 265,000 citizens, has no resident Senate representation?

Please reconsider and be fair in your decision. All that we ask is that we be treated fairly and equitably. The proposed Senate District Map for Marion County is unacceptable and if adopted most likely will end up in the judicial system for intervention. Lets save the taxpayer's dollar and do what is right!

Thank you for your time and consideration. The Marion County Builders Association looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*David L. Craft*

David L. Craft, President

*Mitzi G. Perry*

Mitzi G. Perry, Executive Officer



MARION COUNTY ROAD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 2973  
OCALA, FLORIDA 34478

February 13,2002

Dear Chairperson & Committee Members,


As a way of introduction I would like to say that we are a very active association in Marion County.

We have 85 members which represent well over 2000 jobs in the county.

We are in total support of senate redistricting for Marion County. We are one of the fastest growing counties in the state and we feel that being represented by senators that reside in our county is imperative to our future growth.

Randy Harris's position has the full support of our entire membership.

Sincerely,



Allan Ward  
President  
Marion County Road Builders Association  
Telephone # 352-873-3444

*Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce*  
*P. O. Box 868, Dunnellon, Florida 34430-0868*  
*(352)489-2320 Toll Free 1-800-830-2087*  
*Fax: (352) 489-6846*  
*Website Address: www.dunnellonchamber.org*



February 13, 2002

Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
601 S.E. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34471

Dear Mr. Harris,

The Dunnellon Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports your efforts as Chairman of the Marion County Commissioners in the Commissioners recommendation to the Florida legislature that residency be a requirement for representation of Marion County in the final reapportionment of senate districts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Koppler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'K'.

Don Koppler  
Executive Director

*Rural Community Award Winner and a Main Street Community*





A United Way Agency

# MARION COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES

1644 N.E. 22ND AVENUE • OCALA, FLORIDA 34470 • TELEPHONE (352) 629-8661 • FAX 629-6122

*"Assisting the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged residents of Marion County to maintain independent living status."*

February 13, 2002

Honorable Senators and Representatives  
The Florida Legislature  
404 South Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-1100

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Marion County has both the geographic and population size to deserve to rank high on the list of counties that should have resident representation. Additionally, of Marion County's population of nearly 265,000 citizens, nearly 32% are seniors—above the state average of 23% and well above the percentages of most of our surrounding Senate district counties. Such demographics truly define a unique "community of interest" in Marion County that deserves to be recognized with local representation.

Please consider the demographics of such a large constituency in your redistricting effort and create Senate district lines that will allow for a residential Senator from Marion County who can fully appreciate the interests of our citizens, including seniors, and represent those interests in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Cross".

Gail Cross, Executive Director



## MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

5800 S.W. 20th Street, Ocala, FL 34474 Phone (352) 237-2124

Feb 15, 2002

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members,

On February 11, 2002, the Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, representing over 4,200 members in Marion County, voted unanimously to support the efforts of the Republican and Democratic parties of Marion County and the Marion County commission to have a Senate seat for Marion County.

Under the present plan, Marion County has four senators and eight house members representing our citizens. District 24, currently held by Dennis Baxley, is the only seat which is represented by a resident of Marion County. Under the present plan only Dennis Baxley knows our needs for Marion County as he lives here and knows his constituency. Marion County should not be fragmented like we are.

Over 260,000 people live in our county with many rural and urban problems that need a resident senate seat representing Marion County in Tallahassee.

Marion County Farm Bureau believes we have not been treated fairly in the past and recommends that in the new districting plan we should have a senate district for Marion County with a resident senator living and representing our citizens in Tallahassee.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Barber".

Richard Barber  
Legislative Chairman  
Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

# Ocala Regional

MEDICAL CENTER

1431 SW First Avenue  
P.O. Box 2200, Ocala, Florida 34478  
(352) 401-1000  
www.ocalaregional.com

February 13, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

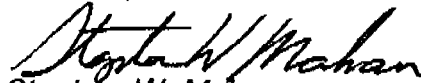
Dear Senators:

I feel it is in the best interest of Marion County to have at least one resident Senator. Currently four Senators, none of whom live in Marion County, represent this county.

With a population of approximately 265,000 and one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, Marion County is deserving of a resident Senator in Tallahassee. The population of Marion County is at least 40 percent larger than surrounding counties who have resident Senators. In addition, Marion County is expected to grow an additional 20 percent by 2010 and is geographically the fifth largest county in Florida.

I encourage you to ensure at least one resident Senator for Marion County as you deliberate on reapportionment.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Mahan  
Chief Executive Officer



**Central Florida Community College**  
Office of the President

February 14, 2002

The Honorable Senators of the State of Florida  
The Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Dear Honorable Senators of the State of Florida:

While the four Senators who have part of their district in Marion County do their best to represent the county, we have no Senator whose primary concern is for Marion County. Marion County has grown dramatically during the past decade, and will continue to do so.

On behalf of Central Florida Community College, I encourage you to redistrict the State in a way that provides at least one resident Senator for Marion County. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles R. Dassance".

Charles R. Dassance  
President

CRD/kd



February 13, 2002

Mr. Randy Harris  
Marion County Commission  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34471

Subject: Marion County Reapportionment

Dear Commissioner Harris:


The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce appreciates and acknowledges the efforts and work of our delegation in meeting a wide variety of interests from such a large population. We thank them for their diligence in meeting the many needs of our area.

As our community grows, the strain on our delegates increases. The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce has expressed concern for the allocation of representatives and senators to the Florida Legislature. To facilitate and assist our delegation, the Chamber has expressed the need for a majority of the constituent base of our representatives be from Marion County. Such an allocation will allow for a stronger Marion County voice in the positions offered by these representatives.

With a growing population approaching 300,000, it appears to be prudent and apparent that Marion County is qualified as its own Senatorial District. Our community is a dynamic and growing area in citizen residency and economic development. We do not expect this trend to be reduced in the near future.

The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce has shared this position with our delegates at community and reapportionment meetings. As always, the Chamber is here to assist the positive development of the Marion County community.

Sincerely,

  
Michael D. Malone  
President

## Appendix Part 4

# District by County Statistics

District	Percentages of District Populations/Voters by County and of County Populations/Voters by District (Census and Elections of 2000)														
	Total Population	% of District	% of County	Voting Age Population	% of District	% of County	Total Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Republican Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Democrat Reg Voters	% of District	% of County
<b>District 1</b>	399,563			290,285			210,881			47,409			137,610		
Duval	329,671	82.5%	42.3%	238,093	82.0%	41.5%	174,281	82.6%	41.1%	39,571	83.5%	26.0%	114,024	82.9%	53.9%
Flagler	6,380	1.6%	12.8%	4,699	1.6%	11.5%	3,353	1.6%	10.0%	1,036	2.2%	7.5%	1,818	1.3%	13.5%
Putnam	13,332	3.3%	18.9%	9,868	3.4%	18.6%	7,183	3.4%	17.8%	1,339	2.8%	12.9%	5,236	3.8%	20.5%
St. Johns	17,209	4.3%	14.0%	12,514	4.3%	13.2%	10,815	5.1%	12.1%	3,267	6.9%	7.4%	5,931	4.3%	19.8%
Volusia	32,971	8.3%	7.4%	25,111	8.7%	7.1%	15,249	7.2%	5.8%	2,196	4.6%	2.2%	10,601	7.7%	9.3%
<b>District 2</b>	399,543			299,064			239,263			92,090			119,173		
Bay	13,715	3.4%	9.3%	9,878	3.3%	8.8%	6,552	2.7%	7.1%	2,123	2.3%	6.2%	3,398	2.9%	7.7%
Escambia	193,859	48.5%	65.8%	146,594	49.0%	65.1%	109,907	45.9%	64.1%	40,588	44.1%	58.1%	55,730	46.8%	71.1%
Holmes	18,564	4.6%	100.0%	14,279	4.8%	100.0%	10,318	4.3%	100.0%	1,292	1.4%	100.0%	8,606	7.2%	100.0%
Okaloosa	49,877	12.5%	29.3%	36,204	12.1%	28.2%	33,484	14.0%	30.1%	17,887	19.4%	28.8%	10,259	8.6%	33.1%
Santa Rosa	71,691	17.9%	60.9%	52,432	17.5%	60.6%	45,315	18.9%	58.3%	22,192	24.1%	54.8%	18,209	15.3%	67.7%
Walton	30,864	7.7%	76.0%	23,609	7.9%	74.2%	19,304	8.1%	68.5%	5,252	5.7%	52.9%	12,279	10.3%	82.7%
Washington	20,973	5.2%	100.0%	16,068	5.4%	100.0%	14,383	6.0%	100.0%	2,756	3.0%	100.0%	10,692	9.0%	100.0%
<b>District 3</b>	399,512			316,022			254,485			81,201			140,734		
Baker	22,259	5.6%	100.0%	16,141	5.1%	100.0%	12,354	4.9%	100.0%	1,685	2.1%	100.0%	10,263	7.3%	100.0%
Citrus	108,444	27.1%	91.8%	89,552	28.3%	91.6%	74,554	29.3%	91.6%	30,548	37.6%	92.2%	30,733	21.8%	91.2%
Columbia	16,438	4.1%	29.1%	12,052	3.8%	28.6%	9,311	3.7%	29.9%	1,963	2.4%	23.9%	6,558	4.7%	33.1%
Dixie	13,827	3.5%	100.0%	10,772	3.4%	100.0%	10,460	4.1%	100.0%	1,088	1.3%	100.0%	8,959	6.4%	100.0%
Hamilton	13,327	3.3%	100.0%	10,190	3.2%	100.0%	7,103	2.8%	100.0%	719	0.9%	100.0%	6,112	4.3%	100.0%
Jefferson	4,008	1.0%	31.1%	3,080	1.0%	30.9%	2,617	1.0%	32.1%	381	0.5%	30.9%	2,053	1.5%	31.8%
Lafayette	7,022	1.8%	100.0%	5,499	1.7%	100.0%	4,034	1.6%	100.0%	319	0.4%	100.0%	3,608	2.6%	100.0%
Leon	36,611	9.2%	15.3%	29,123	9.2%	15.5%	24,302	9.5%	16.7%	6,583	8.1%	16.6%	14,932	10.6%	17.3%
Levy	12,305	3.1%	35.7%	9,595	3.0%	36.5%	7,206	2.8%	38.6%	1,783	2.2%	39.8%	4,762	3.4%	37.8%
Madison	1,891	0.5%	10.1%	1,454	0.5%	10.4%	1,110	0.4%	10.7%	178	0.2%	13.8%	892	0.6%	10.2%
Marion	109,280	27.4%	42.2%	87,564	27.7%	43.0%	68,611	27.0%	46.5%	29,807	36.7%	47.3%	27,167	19.3%	44.1%
Suwannee	34,844	8.7%	100.0%	26,475	8.4%	100.0%	20,519	8.1%	100.0%	4,459	5.5%	100.0%	14,585	10.4%	100.0%
Taylor	19,256	4.8%	100.0%	14,525	4.6%	100.0%	12,304	4.8%	100.0%	1,688	2.1%	100.0%	10,110	7.2%	100.0%
<b>District 4</b>	399,586			306,852			260,972			127,526			91,487		
Bay	122,625	30.7%	82.7%	93,907	30.6%	83.4%	80,254	30.8%	86.5%	30,946	24.3%	90.2%	36,819	40.2%	83.3%
Escambia	100,551	25.2%	34.2%	78,545	25.6%	34.9%	61,493	23.6%	35.9%	29,323	23.0%	41.9%	22,706	24.8%	28.9%
Okaloosa	120,621	30.2%	70.7%	92,161	30.0%	71.8%	77,903	29.9%	69.9%	44,272	34.7%	71.2%	20,691	22.6%	66.9%
Santa Rosa	46,052	11.5%	39.1%	34,042	11.1%	39.4%	32,463	12.4%	41.7%	18,313	14.4%	45.2%	8,702	9.5%	32.3%
Walton	9,737	2.4%	24.0%	8,197	2.7%	25.8%	8,859	3.4%	31.5%	4,672	3.7%	47.1%	2,569	2.8%	17.3%
<b>District 5</b>	399,573			292,315			233,528			113,752			86,524		
Clay	110,772	27.7%	78.7%	79,550	27.2%	78.4%	68,954	29.5%	79.4%	39,441	34.7%	80.9%	18,745	21.7%	75.7%
Duval	229,198	57.4%	29.4%	170,294	58.3%	29.7%	129,802	55.6%	30.6%	58,355	51.3%	38.4%	53,315	61.6%	25.2%
Nassau	38,429	9.6%	66.6%	27,785	9.5%	64.3%	19,987	8.6%	58.6%	7,518	6.6%	54.0%	10,409	12.0%	64.1%
St. Johns	21,174	5.3%	17.2%	14,686	5.0%	15.5%	14,785	6.3%	16.6%	8,438	7.4%	19.0%	4,055	4.7%	13.6%
<b>District 6</b>	399,586			309,011			234,060			48,879			162,459		

# District by County Statistics

District	Percentages of District Populations/Voters by County and of County Populations/Voters by District (Census and Elections of 2000)														
	Total Population	% of District	% of County	Voting Age Population	% of District	% of County	Total Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Republican Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Democrat Reg Voters	% of District	% of County
Bay	11,877	3.0%	8.0%	8,790	2.8%	7.8%	5,986	2.6%	6.5%	1,233	2.5%	3.6%	3,999	2.5%	9.0%
Calhoun	13,017	3.3%	100.0%	9,996	3.2%	100.0%	7,234	3.1%	100.0%	614	1.3%	100.0%	6,359	3.9%	100.0%
Franklin	9,829	2.5%	100.0%	7,840	2.5%	100.0%	7,578	3.2%	100.0%	1,039	2.1%	100.0%	6,127	3.8%	100.0%
Gadsden	45,087	11.3%	100.0%	33,168	10.7%	100.0%	26,229	11.2%	100.0%	2,636	5.4%	100.0%	22,311	13.7%	100.0%
Gulf	14,560	3.6%	100.0%	11,665	3.8%	100.0%	9,914	4.2%	100.0%	1,623	3.3%	100.0%	7,806	4.8%	100.0%
Jackson	46,755	11.7%	100.0%	36,306	11.7%	100.0%	23,979	10.2%	100.0%	3,919	8.0%	100.0%	18,951	11.7%	100.0%
Jefferson	8,894	2.2%	68.9%	6,892	2.2%	69.1%	5,541	2.4%	67.9%	853	1.7%	69.1%	4,394	2.7%	68.2%
Leon	202,841	50.8%	84.7%	159,322	51.6%	84.5%	121,198	51.8%	83.3%	33,123	67.8%	83.4%	71,208	43.8%	82.7%
Liberty	7,021	1.8%	100.0%	5,490	1.8%	100.0%	3,753	1.6%	100.0%	166	0.3%	100.0%	3,512	2.2%	100.0%
Madison	16,842	4.2%	89.9%	12,543	4.1%	89.6%	9,272	4.0%	89.3%	1,113	2.3%	86.2%	7,843	4.8%	89.8%
Wakulla	22,863	5.7%	100.0%	16,999	5.5%	100.0%	13,376	5.7%	100.0%	2,560	5.2%	100.0%	9,949	6.1%	100.0%
<b>District 7</b>	<b>399,552</b>			<b>317,415</b>			<b>236,829</b>			<b>95,030</b>			<b>102,646</b>		
Clay	30,042	7.5%	21.3%	21,879	6.9%	21.6%	17,905	7.6%	20.6%	9,332	9.8%	19.1%	6,023	5.9%	24.3%
Marion	80,430	20.1%	31.1%	61,931	19.5%	30.4%	44,239	18.7%	30.0%	20,016	21.1%	31.8%	18,161	17.7%	29.5%
Putnam	40,319	10.1%	57.3%	30,646	9.7%	57.7%	23,480	9.9%	58.3%	6,249	6.6%	60.0%	14,769	14.4%	57.9%
Volusia	248,761	62.3%	56.1%	202,959	63.9%	57.4%	151,205	63.8%	58.0%	59,433	62.5%	59.7%	63,693	62.1%	56.1%
<b>District 8</b>	<b>399,568</b>			<b>310,802</b>			<b>246,725</b>			<b>114,094</b>			<b>89,321</b>		
Duval	220,010	55.1%	28.2%	165,501	53.2%	28.8%	119,846	48.6%	28.3%	54,071	47.4%	35.6%	44,404	49.7%	21.0%
Flagler	43,452	10.9%	87.2%	36,208	11.6%	88.5%	30,113	12.2%	90.0%	12,722	11.2%	92.5%	11,621	13.0%	86.5%
Nassau	19,234	4.8%	33.4%	15,439	5.0%	35.7%	14,106	5.7%	41.4%	6,399	5.6%	46.0%	5,822	6.5%	35.9%
St. Johns	84,752	21.2%	68.8%	67,536	21.7%	71.3%	63,533	25.8%	71.3%	32,696	28.7%	73.6%	19,934	22.3%	66.6%
Volusia	32,120	8.0%	7.2%	26,118	8.4%	7.4%	19,127	7.8%	7.3%	8,206	7.2%	8.2%	7,540	8.4%	6.6%
<b>District 9</b>	<b>399,552</b>			<b>300,098</b>			<b>195,472</b>			<b>90,252</b>			<b>66,700</b>		
Orange	339,181	84.9%	37.8%	255,503	85.1%	38.1%	164,228	84.0%	40.7%	75,446	83.6%	46.9%	57,096	85.6%	34.6%
Osceola	31,442	7.9%	18.2%	23,333	7.8%	18.5%	13,857	7.1%	15.1%	4,794	5.3%	14.7%	5,219	7.8%	13.6%
Seminole	28,929	7.2%	7.9%	21,262	7.1%	7.8%	17,387	8.9%	9.1%	10,012	11.1%	10.9%	4,385	6.6%	7.0%
<b>District 10</b>	<b>399,547</b>			<b>297,572</b>			<b>207,551</b>			<b>83,893</b>			<b>83,764</b>		
Hillsborough	322,374	80.7%	32.3%	237,154	79.7%	31.8%	164,670	79.3%	33.2%	69,100	82.4%	38.0%	63,225	75.5%	28.7%
Pasco	49,643	12.4%	14.4%	41,226	13.9%	15.0%	29,314	14.1%	13.2%	11,782	14.0%	13.1%	11,845	14.1%	13.3%
Polk	27,530	6.9%	5.7%	19,192	6.4%	5.2%	13,567	6.5%	5.1%	3,011	3.6%	2.9%	8,694	10.4%	7.1%
<b>District 11</b>	<b>399,543</b>			<b>326,209</b>			<b>280,057</b>			<b>122,269</b>			<b>100,975</b>		
Citrus	9,641	2.4%	8.2%	8,203	2.5%	8.4%	6,826	2.4%	8.4%	2,597	2.1%	7.8%	2,983	3.0%	8.8%
Hernando	59,342	14.9%	45.4%	49,480	15.2%	46.6%	45,577	16.3%	47.7%	20,377	16.7%	50.0%	17,219	17.1%	45.2%
Pasco	183,430	45.9%	53.2%	151,105	46.3%	54.9%	124,066	44.3%	55.9%	50,576	41.4%	56.1%	49,919	49.4%	56.2%
Pinellas	147,130	36.8%	16.0%	117,421	36.0%	15.8%	103,588	37.0%	18.0%	48,719	39.8%	20.1%	30,854	30.6%	14.4%
<b>District 12</b>	<b>399,594</b>			<b>300,646</b>			<b>220,649</b>			<b>87,856</b>			<b>88,417</b>		
Hillsborough	287,902	72.0%	28.8%	217,726	72.4%	29.2%	152,219	69.0%	30.6%	59,998	68.3%	33.0%	61,298	69.3%	27.8%
Pasco	111,692	28.0%	32.4%	82,920	27.6%	30.1%	68,430	31.0%	30.9%	27,858	31.7%	30.9%	27,119	30.7%	30.5%
<b>District 13</b>	<b>399,563</b>			<b>332,772</b>			<b>258,133</b>			<b>115,388</b>			<b>90,410</b>		
Pinellas	399,563	100.0%	43.4%	332,772	100.0%	44.7%	258,133	100.0%	44.9%	115,388	100.0%	47.7%	90,410	100.0%	42.2%



# District by County Statistics

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	Total Population	% of District	% of County	Voting Age Population	% of District	% of County	Total Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Republican Reg Voters	% of District	% of County	Democrat Reg Voters	% of District	% of County
<b>District 14</b>	399,571			312,423			213,996			58,949			122,908		
Alachua	217,955	54.5%	100.0%	174,017	55.7%	100.0%	120,978	56.5%	100.0%	34,337	58.2%	100.0%	64,210	52.2%	100.0%
Bradford	26,088	6.5%	100.0%	20,363	6.5%	100.0%	14,311	6.7%	100.0%	3,011	5.1%	100.0%	10,075	8.2%	100.0%
Columbia	40,075	10.0%	70.9%	30,124	9.6%	71.4%	21,811	10.2%	70.1%	6,257	10.6%	76.1%	13,272	10.8%	66.9%
Gilchrist	14,437	3.6%	100.0%	10,908	3.5%	100.0%	6,879	3.2%	100.0%	1,396	2.4%	100.0%	4,967	4.0%	100.0%
Levy	22,145	5.5%	64.3%	16,724	5.4%	63.5%	11,463	5.4%	61.4%	2,702	4.6%	60.2%	7,825	6.4%	62.2%
Marion	48,657	12.2%	18.8%	37,177	11.9%	18.3%	22,212	10.4%	15.0%	7,638	13.0%	12.1%	11,389	9.3%	18.5%
Putnam	16,772	4.2%	23.8%	12,605	4.0%	23.7%	9,603	4.5%	23.8%	2,832	4.8%	27.2%	5,481	4.5%	21.5%
Union	13,442	3.4%	100.0%	10,505	3.4%	100.0%	6,739	3.1%	100.0%	776	1.3%	100.0%	5,689	4.6%	100.0%
<b>District 15</b>	399,559			305,225			228,184			88,983			99,265		
Hernando	71,460	17.9%	54.6%	56,596	18.5%	53.4%	50,050	21.9%	52.3%	20,415	22.9%	50.0%	20,891	21.0%	54.8%
Lake	8,795	2.2%	4.2%	6,539	2.1%	3.9%	4,351	1.9%	3.3%	1,865	2.1%	2.9%	1,393	1.4%	3.0%
Osceola	58,496	14.6%	33.9%	42,792	14.0%	33.9%	32,825	14.4%	35.8%	12,185	13.7%	37.4%	13,731	13.8%	35.7%
Polk	240,842	60.3%	49.8%	183,839	60.2%	50.3%	131,135	57.5%	49.2%	51,420	57.8%	49.4%	57,670	58.1%	46.8%
Sumter	19,966	5.0%	37.4%	15,459	5.1%	34.5%	9,823	4.3%	31.1%	3,098	3.5%	25.8%	5,580	5.6%	37.2%
<b>District 16</b>	399,549			318,022			236,884			98,455			90,604		
Hillsborough	129,800	32.5%	13.0%	102,645	32.3%	13.8%	77,583	32.8%	15.6%	32,347	32.9%	17.8%	31,251	34.5%	14.2%
Pinellas	269,749	67.5%	29.3%	215,377	67.7%	29.0%	159,301	67.2%	27.7%	66,108	67.1%	27.3%	59,353	65.5%	27.7%
<b>District 17</b>	399,577			306,584			217,006			83,441			107,003		
Desoto	29,068	7.3%	90.2%	22,344	7.3%	89.7%	13,884	6.4%	86.4%	3,023	3.6%	78.7%	9,319	8.7%	90.1%
Glades	6,431	1.6%	60.8%	5,132	1.7%	62.3%	3,677	1.7%	62.5%	703	0.8%	54.0%	2,694	2.5%	65.9%
Hardee	26,938	6.7%	100.0%	19,503	6.4%	100.0%	7,570	3.5%	100.0%	1,595	1.9%	100.0%	5,531	5.2%	100.0%
Highlands	87,366	21.9%	100.0%	70,622	23.0%	100.0%	52,964	24.4%	100.0%	23,619	28.3%	100.0%	22,365	20.9%	100.0%
Okeechobee	28,923	7.2%	80.5%	21,646	7.1%	80.6%	13,790	6.4%	79.0%	3,558	4.3%	76.7%	9,068	8.5%	80.5%
Polk	215,552	53.9%	44.5%	162,688	53.1%	44.5%	121,915	56.2%	45.7%	49,631	59.5%	47.7%	56,779	53.1%	46.1%
St. Lucie	5,299	1.3%	2.7%	4,649	1.5%	3.1%	3,206	1.5%	2.7%	1,312	1.6%	2.9%	1,247	1.2%	2.6%
<b>District 18</b>	399,553			291,551			170,492			35,702			106,375		
Hillsborough	258,872	64.8%	25.9%	188,285	64.6%	25.2%	102,244	60.0%	20.6%	20,463	57.3%	11.2%	64,417	60.6%	29.3%
Manatee	35,641	8.9%	13.5%	24,887	8.5%	11.9%	14,235	8.3%	8.3%	3,581	10.0%	4.5%	8,335	7.8%	14.2%
Pinellas	105,040	26.3%	11.4%	78,379	26.9%	10.5%	54,013	31.7%	9.4%	11,658	32.7%	4.8%	33,623	31.6%	15.7%
<b>District 19</b>	399,553			288,115			160,800			44,463			84,133		
Orange	352,501	88.2%	39.3%	254,398	88.3%	38.0%	136,348	84.8%	33.8%	37,454	84.2%	23.3%	72,450	86.1%	43.9%
Osceola	47,052	11.8%	27.3%	33,717	11.7%	26.7%	24,452	15.2%	26.7%	7,009	15.8%	21.5%	11,683	13.9%	30.4%
<b>District 20</b>	399,578			317,936			244,958			111,238			93,728		
Lake	201,733	50.5%	95.8%	161,270	50.7%	96.1%	126,473	51.6%	96.7%	62,365	56.1%	97.1%	45,190	48.2%	97.0%
Marion	20,549	5.1%	7.9%	16,819	5.3%	8.3%	12,615	5.1%	8.5%	5,500	4.9%	8.7%	4,839	5.2%	7.9%
Seminole	14,426	3.6%	4.0%	11,238	3.5%	4.1%	8,858	3.6%	4.6%	4,763	4.3%	5.2%	2,626	2.8%	4.2%
Sumter	33,379	8.4%	62.6%	29,316	9.2%	65.5%	21,719	8.9%	68.9%	8,904	8.0%	74.2%	9,439	10.1%	62.8%
Volusia	129,491	32.4%	29.2%	99,293	31.2%	28.1%	75,293	30.7%	28.9%	29,706	26.7%	29.8%	31,634	33.8%	27.9%
<b>District 21</b>	399,556			323,162			261,678			127,676			85,806		

# District by County Statistics

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Charlotte	25,728	6.4%	18.2%	21,417	6.6%	17.9%	16,627	6.4%	16.9%	7,890	6.2%	16.8%	5,876	6.8%	17.7%	
Desoto	3,141	0.8%	9.8%	2,555	0.8%	10.3%	2,178	0.8%	13.6%	816	0.6%	21.3%	1,022	1.2%	9.9%	
Lee	100,432	25.1%	22.8%	81,398	25.2%	23.0%	59,827	22.9%	23.7%	28,345	22.2%	22.9%	19,954	23.3%	25.0%	
Manatee	225,770	56.5%	85.5%	181,983	56.3%	86.9%	153,996	58.8%	90.3%	75,414	59.1%	94.0%	49,916	58.2%	84.8%	
Sarasota	44,485	11.1%	13.6%	35,809	11.1%	13.1%	29,050	11.1%	13.1%	15,211	11.9%	13.2%	9,038	10.5%	13.3%	
<b>District 22</b>	<b>399,568</b>			<b>306,270</b>			<b>206,772</b>			<b>97,119</b>			<b>71,321</b>			
Orange	118,515	29.7%	13.2%	94,864	31.0%	14.2%	64,264	31.1%	15.9%	30,938	31.9%	19.2%	22,253	31.2%	13.5%	
Seminole	281,053	70.3%	77.0%	211,406	69.0%	77.6%	142,508	68.9%	74.8%	66,181	68.1%	72.2%	49,068	68.8%	78.0%	
<b>District 23</b>	<b>399,561</b>			<b>337,510</b>			<b>276,653</b>			<b>140,166</b>			<b>86,766</b>			
Charlotte	115,498	28.9%	81.6%	97,704	28.9%	81.8%	81,519	29.5%	82.9%	39,097	27.9%	83.0%	27,344	31.5%	82.1%	
Manatee	2,591	0.6%	1.0%	2,485	0.7%	1.2%	2,347	0.8%	1.4%	1,270	0.9%	1.6%	636	0.7%	1.1%	
Sarasota	281,472	70.4%	86.4%	237,321	70.3%	86.9%	192,787	69.7%	86.9%	99,799	71.2%	86.8%	58,786	67.8%	86.7%	
<b>District 24</b>	<b>399,554</b>			<b>305,287</b>			<b>217,272</b>			<b>98,280</b>			<b>82,339</b>			
Brevard	272,619	68.2%	57.2%	211,364	69.2%	56.9%	156,394	72.0%	55.4%	70,572	71.8%	54.0%	62,398	75.8%	58.0%	
Orange	86,147	21.6%	9.6%	65,239	21.4%	9.7%	39,075	18.0%	9.7%	17,004	17.3%	10.6%	13,074	15.9%	7.9%	
Seminole	40,788	10.2%	11.2%	28,684	9.4%	10.5%	21,803	10.0%	11.4%	10,704	10.9%	11.7%	6,867	8.3%	10.9%	
<b>District 25</b>	<b>399,580</b>			<b>335,981</b>			<b>264,548</b>			<b>121,942</b>			<b>88,462</b>			
Broward	163,581	40.9%	10.1%	139,414	41.5%	11.2%	107,817	40.8%	12.1%	49,693	40.8%	18.6%	36,699	41.5%	8.0%	
Palm Beach	235,999	59.1%	20.9%	196,567	58.5%	22.1%	156,731	59.2%	24.0%	72,249	59.2%	31.4%	51,763	58.5%	17.6%	
<b>District 26</b>	<b>399,517</b>			<b>310,382</b>			<b>236,045</b>			<b>107,327</b>			<b>90,174</b>			
Brevard	203,611	51.0%	42.8%	160,167	51.6%	43.1%	126,060	53.4%	44.6%	60,203	56.1%	46.0%	45,131	50.0%	42.0%	
Indian River	99,030	24.8%	87.7%	78,882	25.4%	86.4%	59,413	25.2%	84.0%	29,754	27.7%	78.6%	20,271	22.5%	92.5%	
Osceola	35,503	8.9%	20.6%	26,437	8.5%	20.9%	20,558	8.7%	22.4%	8,622	8.0%	26.4%	7,856	8.7%	20.4%	
St. Lucie	61,373	15.4%	31.8%	44,896	14.5%	30.1%	30,014	12.7%	25.5%	8,748	8.2%	19.1%	16,916	18.8%	34.7%	
<b>District 27</b>	<b>399,568</b>			<b>315,868</b>			<b>219,625</b>			<b>86,686</b>			<b>88,917</b>			
Charlotte	401	0.1%	0.3%	320	0.1%	0.3%	228	0.1%	0.2%	109	0.1%	0.2%	68	0.1%	0.2%	
Glades	4,145	1.0%	39.2%	3,107	1.0%	37.7%	2,204	1.0%	37.5%	600	0.7%	46.0%	1,392	1.6%	34.1%	
Hendry	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	
Lee	160,198	40.1%	36.3%	130,664	41.4%	36.9%	92,158	42.0%	36.5%	47,674	55.0%	38.5%	26,301	29.6%	33.0%	
Palm Beach	234,824	58.8%	20.8%	181,777	57.5%	20.4%	125,035	56.9%	19.2%	38,303	44.2%	16.6%	61,156	68.8%	20.8%	
<b>District 28</b>	<b>399,573</b>			<b>314,238</b>			<b>262,431</b>			<b>126,888</b>			<b>83,306</b>			
Indian River	13,917	3.5%	12.3%	12,371	3.9%	13.6%	11,281	4.3%	16.0%	8,096	6.4%	21.4%	1,655	2.0%	7.5%	
Martin	126,731	31.7%	100.0%	103,108	32.8%	100.0%	86,499	33.0%	100.0%	48,042	37.9%	100.0%	23,238	27.9%	100.0%	
Okeechobee	6,987	1.7%	19.5%	5,213	1.7%	19.4%	3,657	1.4%	21.0%	1,080	0.9%	23.3%	2,201	2.6%	19.5%	
Palm Beach	125,915	31.5%	11.1%	93,979	29.9%	10.6%	76,328	29.1%	11.7%	34,044	26.8%	14.8%	25,657	30.8%	8.7%	
St. Lucie	126,023	31.5%	65.4%	99,567	31.7%	66.8%	84,666	32.3%	71.8%	35,626	28.1%	78.0%	30,555	36.7%	62.7%	
<b>District 29</b>	<b>399,534</b>			<b>285,032</b>			<b>173,881</b>			<b>28,655</b>			<b>119,365</b>			
Broward	240,205	60.1%	14.8%	170,733	59.9%	13.8%	106,173	61.1%	12.0%	15,446	53.9%	5.8%	76,002	63.7%	16.6%	
Palm Beach	159,329	39.9%	14.1%	114,299	40.1%	12.8%	67,708	38.9%	10.4%	13,209	46.1%	5.7%	43,363	36.3%	14.8%	
<b>District 30</b>	<b>399,553</b>			<b>330,694</b>			<b>246,089</b>			<b>79,053</b>			<b>119,221</b>			

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Broward	53,213	13.3%	3.3%	45,117	13.6%	3.6%	29,145	11.8%	3.3%	8,142	10.3%	3.1%	15,105	12.7%	3.3%
Palm Beach	346,340	86.7%	30.6%	285,577	86.4%	32.1%	216,944	88.2%	33.2%	70,911	89.7%	30.8%	104,116	87.3%	35.5%
<b>District 31</b>	399,544			313,113			222,717			66,930			115,567		
Broward	399,544	100.0%	24.6%	313,113	100.0%	25.2%	222,717	100.0%	25.1%	66,930	100.0%	25.1%	115,567	100.0%	25.3%
<b>District 32</b>	399,576			306,359			227,682			66,267			114,576		
Broward	399,576	100.0%	24.6%	306,359	100.0%	24.7%	227,682	100.0%	25.7%	66,267	100.0%	24.9%	114,576	100.0%	25.1%
<b>District 33</b>	399,552			279,282			155,587			22,484			112,456		
Miami-Dade	399,552	100.0%	17.7%	279,282	100.0%	16.5%	155,587	100.0%	17.5%	22,484	100.0%	6.7%	112,456	100.0%	28.6%
<b>District 34</b>	399,596			286,547			196,514			66,620			91,380		
Broward	292,943	73.3%	18.0%	211,114	73.7%	17.0%	159,376	81.1%	18.0%	51,756	77.7%	19.4%	78,136	85.5%	17.1%
Miami-Dade	106,653	26.7%	4.7%	75,433	26.3%	4.5%	37,138	18.9%	4.2%	14,864	22.3%	4.4%	13,244	14.5%	3.4%
<b>District 35</b>	399,563			321,191			171,145			46,405			91,140		
Broward	73,956	18.5%	4.6%	54,239	16.9%	4.4%	34,615	20.2%	3.9%	8,260	17.8%	3.1%	20,813	22.8%	4.6%
Miami-Dade	325,607	81.5%	14.4%	266,952	83.1%	15.8%	136,530	79.8%	15.4%	38,145	82.2%	11.4%	70,327	77.2%	17.9%
<b>District 36</b>	399,575			313,582			163,401			82,343			52,968		
Miami-Dade	399,575	100.0%	17.7%	313,582	100.0%	18.5%	163,401	100.0%	18.4%	82,343	100.0%	24.5%	52,968	100.0%	13.5%
<b>District 37</b>	399,552			322,420			218,057			116,338			60,106		
Collier	219,294	54.9%	87.2%	179,982	55.8%	89.3%	117,400	53.8%	95.3%	68,482	58.9%	97.4%	26,685	44.4%	91.2%
Lee	180,258	45.1%	40.9%	142,438	44.2%	40.2%	100,657	46.2%	39.8%	47,856	41.1%	38.6%	33,421	55.6%	41.9%
<b>District 38</b>	399,540			303,116			170,270			85,622			50,718		
Miami-Dade	399,540	100.0%	17.7%	303,116	100.0%	17.9%	170,270	100.0%	19.2%	85,622	100.0%	25.5%	50,718	100.0%	12.9%
<b>District 39</b>	399,606			282,433			170,928			43,717			98,730		
Broward	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%
Collier	32,083	8.0%	12.8%	21,454	7.6%	10.7%	5,761	3.4%	4.7%	1,861	4.3%	2.6%	2,568	2.6%	8.8%
Hendry	36,210	9.1%	100.0%	25,336	9.0%	100.0%	16,268	9.5%	100.0%	4,474	10.2%	100.0%	10,258	10.4%	100.0%
Miami-Dade	222,947	55.8%	9.9%	151,132	53.5%	8.9%	90,668	53.0%	10.2%	17,073	39.1%	5.1%	59,476	60.2%	15.1%
Monroe	79,589	19.9%	100.0%	65,984	23.4%	100.0%	48,460	28.4%	100.0%	18,934	43.3%	100.0%	18,946	19.2%	100.0%
Palm Beach	28,777	7.2%	2.5%	18,527	6.6%	2.1%	9,771	5.7%	1.5%	1,375	3.1%	0.6%	7,482	7.6%	2.5%
<b>District 40</b>	399,488			304,652			133,822			75,433			33,589		
Miami-Dade	399,488	100.0%	17.7%	304,652	100.0%	18.0%	133,822	100.0%	15.1%	75,433	100.0%	22.5%	33,589	100.0%	8.6%

## Appendix Part 5

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SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2002

5:30 p.m. - 6:40 p.m.

412 KNOTT BUILDING

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY

COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

*START HARRIS  
TESTIMONY  
PAGE 10 - 21*

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

1  
2 CHAIRMAN JOHN F. LAURENT  
3 SENATOR LISA CARLTON  
4 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE  
5 SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER  
6 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF  
7 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR.  
8 SENATOR ALFRED LAWSON, JR.  
9 SENATOR TOM LEE  
10 SENATOR KENDRICK B. MEEK  
11 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.  
12 SENATOR KEN PRUITT  
13 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS  
14 SENATOR ROD SMITH  
15 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS  
16 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ

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1 and Lee County that, seat would have a majority of the  
2 population in Lee County and then you would have a district  
3 that would be a Collier County seat.

4 And I'm putting those out there for the members'  
5 benefit -- how about going and back out -- and would ask  
6 for some input from the committee and see -- get your  
7 comments on the -- what we've done to date and if there is  
8 any questions. I'd be glad to answer any questions.

9 Okay. Are there any members from -- we have some  
10 public input. First is Bill Jones, League of Women Voters  
11 of Florida.

12 MR. JONES: When producers of films are looking for  
13 directors, directors are thinking about three things they  
14 shouldn't do. One would be work with special effects. The  
15 other working with animals or working with children,  
16 mistakes that could happen. In the third house they  
17 advised me that one of the things you shouldn't do is get  
18 involved in redistricting. But having done that for 30  
19 years ago as a volunteer in drawing by hand maps, and ten  
20 years ago all the way through the court process. I guess I  
21 haven't learned my lesson.

22 In kind of the comments here, what I wanted to do was,  
23 and this being a working product, we have -- and of course  
24 many of you know our plans that the League of Women Voters  
25 and Common Cause have prepared are on your web site and we

## PROCEEDINGS

1  
2 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I think we have a quorum. Will the  
3 Senate Reapportionment Subcommittee on Legislative  
4 Apportionment and Redistricting please come to order.  
5 Administrative assistant, please call the roll.

6 (Whereupon, the roll was called.)

7 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Members, you can look up on the  
8 screen. Since the last time we met, we asked for input at  
9 the last meeting and since the last meeting I've had an  
10 immense amount of input from folks in the Senate on maps.  
11 Some of the input we've not been able to get into the  
12 proposed maps that had to be filed by Tuesday evening.

13 These were two options that we had come up with. The  
14 maps are pretty much identical except for the -- for want  
15 of a better word is the Palm Beach seat, the area in south  
16 Florida. If you look at the map on the left which is 006,  
17 the major difference there, there is a coastal seat in Lee  
18 and Collier counties and then there is the interior part of  
19 Lee County, Collier County, Hendry Collier, and the  
20 interior part of Palm Beach County come together for a  
21 seat.

22 That seat, the largest county in that district is Palm  
23 Beach. It does not have an absolute majority in the  
24 district. Look to the right which is 005, that is a  
25 district which has a -- Palm Beach County, Hendry County,

1 thank you for that. These products were put out so that  
2 you had another perspective of how to draw redistricting  
3 plans according to various standards. And some of the  
4 standards we used was to try and hold as much as we could  
5 in the majority/minority districts intact and believing the  
6 same. I think, legal strategy that the Senate has used in  
7 preparing its House, Senate, and Congressional plans.

8 That may be where the similarities end and the  
9 differences start. If you look at your plans and knowing  
10 that ten years ago also there was a Senate produced plan  
11 that was at zero deviation as well and the remaining zero  
12 deviation plans that went to the courts, even though by law  
13 you've been instructed that there is certain deviation  
14 that's allowed within those districts, we would ask you to  
15 think about why those deviations are occurring in each of  
16 the districts, the reasons for that. Whether you are  
17 trying to keep a percentage in a majority/minority  
18 district.

19 For example, if you took our map, adjusted the change  
20 for majority/minority I might have, and Senator Holzendorf  
21 illustrated to me, Well, you didn't quite hit the same  
22 percentage I had in my district last time, a reason to  
23 deviate from a zero deviation plan that would be a good  
24 reason, trying to reach a legal principle or a principle of  
25 compactness where you kept county boundaries together or

1 intact in trying to reach that would be another good  
2 standard.

3 The Legislature, ten years ago, adopted standards as  
4 they drew these maps, standards that you could apply to why  
5 things were being drawn the way that they were being drawn.  
6 If you look at this map compared to the map that was drawn  
7 by our volunteers and the staff, blindly of course to the  
8 districts and the party and that information, you'll see  
9 that many of the districts are much more compact. You do  
10 not see some of the strange configurations that are there.

11 So we would encourage you as a body, as you proceed  
12 through this process, probably the fastest way into a court  
13 would be because you are deviating from zero deviation and  
14 do not have standards or reasons for that deviation or  
15 haven't stated those publicly.

16 We'd also state given this, you've got -- I see trying  
17 to meet some communities of interest like beach communities  
18 and other things. And then in other parts of the state, it  
19 looks like you were trying to achieve compactness. So  
20 that, again, the standards don't seem to apply throughout  
21 the state of what you were trying to achieve. But beyond  
22 that, towards your working product, we encourage you, we're  
23 not trying to pin any member to file our plan as such, as  
24 an amendment to yours or any of those kinds of things.  
25 They are out there, again, for your perspective to help you

1 These recommendations went on to our county commission and  
2 our county commission adopted a resolution which I  
3 understand has been distributed before you and have  
4 identified some of the issues that affect the citizens of  
5 Nassau County.

6 Nassau County is a fast-growth small county. The  
7 complexion of Nassau County is changing rapidly and what  
8 used to be a very agricultural west side is, in fact, fast  
9 becoming a residential commercial area. There is already  
10 several major developments proposed for west Nassau that  
11 would then again take our community towards a more  
12 residential-intensive pattern of growth over the next ten  
13 years.

14 The numbers of permits, the growth, the expansion of  
15 our commercial interest throughout the county cannot be  
16 ignored. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners  
17 has adopted a resolution that in essence requests that this  
18 body consider single-member representation as a guiding  
19 principle for redistricting for the citizens of the county.

20 Single member representation has served us well in the  
21 last ten years and our concern is by dividing the county  
22 between east and west will further divide the county among  
23 the issues that divide those populations.

24 We believe that single-member representation is the  
25 one item lacking in the current proposed plan. And whether

1 through what it could look like using compactness,  
2 contiguity, zero deviation for those individual plans.  
3 That's it, Mr. Chairman.

4 SENATOR LAURENT: Any questions? Any questions? Yes,  
5 Senator King.

6 SENATOR KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this  
7 is of only marginal interest to you and I can appreciate  
8 that, but do I have a district in your drawing?

9 THE WITNESS: I don't know where you live, Senator.

10 SENATOR KING: Well, that's fairly obvious.  
11 (Laughter.) That's fairly obvious. Because it looks like  
12 unless I move to Georgia, I'm in deep sushi here.

13 MR. JONES: Believe me, the individual we had working  
14 on this plan has no idea where any of you are living or any  
15 of your personalities. So don't take it personally.

16 (Laughter.)

17 SENATOR LAURENT: Did you furnish a copy -- do we have  
18 a copy of the plan? It's on the web but not in the packet,  
19 okay? Thank you very much.

20 Doug Adkins from the Nassau County GOP.

21 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Adams  
22 sends his regards to the committee members and the Nassau  
23 County Republican Executive Committee would like to applaud  
24 the Chairman's efforts to meet some of the objectives that  
25 the Nassau County REC had adopted several months ago.

1 it's Senate District 8, Senator King or Senator Wise, I  
2 think the county would be pleased with either Senator and  
3 certainly, you know, whichever Senator could best represent  
4 us is the one that we would want.

5 But the commissioners and the -- as well as the GOP  
6 leadership asked me to come today to bring this issue to  
7 your attention and to request your assistance in correcting  
8 this because Nassau County in northeast Florida quite  
9 frankly is the only legislative body, the elected  
10 legislative body, that has taken a position on this issue  
11 and has said, This is what we would like to see happen.

12 We had an ad hoc committee established that met from  
13 February to December, held public hearings, gathered input,  
14 listened to the local citizens. We went through a very  
15 thoughtful process, a large group of people. And I guess  
16 we just want to be heard. We just want to make sure that  
17 this well thought out approach to how we are represented in  
18 the Florida Senate is given consideration and would carry  
19 some weight.

20 So we would ask you to consider making that change,  
21 Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, and we would  
22 again strongly applaud your efforts to meet our other  
23 objectives which included affiliation with the Duval  
24 delegation and we also had other objectives that  
25 included -- that we be allowed to -- that we be allowed to

1 have single-member representation in Nassau County. Thank  
2 you.

3 SENATOR LAURENT: Thank you very much. Are there any  
4 questions? Thank you very much. The next speaker is Kurt  
5 Keller - excuse me, from Marion County.

6 MR. KELLY: Quite the dramatic entrance with the cane  
7 and the limp. I was out playing football with my kids at  
8 Christmastime, stepped in a hole and blew out both knees.  
9 When you hit 42, you don't need to act like Deion Sanders  
10 anymore.

11 I'm a member of the Marion County school board and I  
12 want to thank you for the opportunity to come to speak to  
13 you. Tonight I want to talk about the impact of these maps  
14 that we currently see as well as our concerns.

15 On behalf of the Marion County school board, the  
16 superintendent of schools, Jim Warford, the nearly 5200  
17 employees, the 40,000 students, and nearly 300,000  
18 residents of Marion County, we have taken serious the  
19 charge of this legislative body, the Governor, the House,  
20 the Senate, we have taken the charge in raising student  
21 performance. In fact, Marion County has committed to, by  
22 the year 2005 to be the leader in raising student  
23 performance in the state of Florida.

24 Marion County is the fifth largest geographical area  
25 in Florida - county. Our community interest extends from

1 community leader and a member of Marion County school  
2 board. I urge you to establish a Senate seat that best  
3 represents Marion County's community interest.

4 I thank you. We have passed a resolution from the  
5 school board. It is signed by our chairman, Ron Crawford,  
6 our superintendent of school, Jim Warford, school board  
7 member Cheryl Appelquist, Steve Hering, Kurt Kelly, and  
8 Kathie Rushlow. And I know that the Marion County and this  
9 community is very concerned about this. We know you've got  
10 a major task before you but we would appreciate it if you  
11 would look at us and say, This county is growing and it's  
12 time for us, once again, to have someone join this body  
13 from Marion County. Thank you.

14 MR. CHURCHHILL: Thank you very much. Are there any  
15 questions? Okay. If you'll leave that - did you want to  
16 leave the resolution?

17 MR. KELLY: I'll have it -

18 SENATOR LAURENT: Thank you very much. Randy Harris.  
19 He's from the Marion County Commission.

20 MR. HARRIS: Thank you for the opportunity to come and  
21 share some of our concerns. I wear two hats. I come as  
22 chairman of the Marion County commission. I have served as  
23 a county commissioner for about seven and a half years. I  
24 also wear the hat of chairman of the Republican executive  
25 committee. But virtually everyone in Marion County is

*Randy Harris*

1 Dunnellon in the southwest, to Wacahoota in the northwest,  
2 to Hog Valley and Fort McCoy in the northeast. I can give  
3 you some more names if you'd like them. Wiersdale in the  
4 southeast. We include some of the fastest-growing areas in  
5 the state.

6 We transport nearly 30,000 students on our buses a day  
7 and we cover nearly 50,000 miles a day to do that.  
8 Transportation concerns are major for us. While Marion  
9 County is dramatically larger than its contiguous  
10 neighbors, less Volusia County, it is currently divided  
11 into four Senate seats. And we see on these maps we have  
12 today that it's divided into three Senate seats.

13 Each of these pieces are incongruent and inconsistent  
14 with our general community interest. Marion County has not  
15 had a resident Senator that represents the majority of our  
16 county in over 20 years. And quite frankly, in that period  
17 of time, while we've had representatives who have done a  
18 fine job for us and we could go to them, we have not had  
19 someone in this great emerging county that would be our  
20 advocate here in Tallahassee.

21 We are thankful to those Senators who have  
22 representatives and we recognize the need for the primary  
23 resident advocate. We need those -- that advocate to help  
24 us achieve this goal and that is raising student  
25 standard -- or student performance. Therefore, as a

1 concerned with what has existed in Marion County for many,  
2 many years.

3 We have a 12-member legislative delegation. That fact  
4 has been shared with other counties as this discussion and  
5 meetings have gone on about reapportionment and it has been  
6 sold to other counties as the greatest thing since sliced  
7 bread. Look at all the wonderful representation that  
8 Marion County has. And I'm not suggesting for a moment  
9 that we don't have wonderful Senators and Representatives  
10 because we do. Many of which have worked with us very  
11 closely on some of our issues.

12 However, as my good friend from the school board  
13 noted, it is difficult to have adequate representation when  
14 our legislative delegation members are so terribly  
15 handicapped because they live in other areas. You see, in  
16 Marion County we have, for the most part, long-distance  
17 representation. We have for the most part absentee  
18 representation, if you will. It's almost easier for me to  
19 come to Tallahassee to see my Representatives, my Senators  
20 than it is to try to find them in their resident counties.  
21 Very difficult to do.

22 We have major concerns with what has existed in the  
23 past and even what we have seen with the most recent maps  
24 the Senate is proffering. We have approximately 265,000  
25 residents. We'll be at 300,000 residents very soon. What



1 that really means is we have a 40 percent greater  
2 population than all of those contiguous counties which have  
3 resident Senators.

4 In the infinite wisdom of some years ago, Marion  
5 County was carved up like a pie. Our population was used  
6 to push into other districts. I'm not sure what the wisdom  
7 really was, but I'm certain that there was a purpose.

8 Let me share with you a very recent example of the  
9 problem that we wrestle with. As you know, you-all came  
10 back for a special session and you wrestled with the issues  
11 of insufficient funding. You're going to wrestle with that  
12 again. We had -- I had actually come up and visited many  
13 of you and many other of our legislative delegation members  
14 to have discussions prior to your final decisions.

15 But then after that, we knew that you were going to  
16 come back and wrestle with this once again. So I sent a  
17 letter out, Please come visit with us before you go back to  
18 your regular session. Most of the responses that I  
19 received indicated that it was too problematic to get 12  
20 people back together to meet with the Marion County  
21 commission, the district that is represented by these 12  
22 people. Too problematic, too many schedules to wrestle  
23 with, not enough time to coordinate all of those schedules,  
24 and that's understandable. That is a constructive  
25 criticism.

1 We only request that this committee consider the  
2 dilemma that Marion County experiences and has experienced  
3 for many, many years. We recognize in Marion County the  
4 difficulty. We only hope that you recognize the difficulty  
5 and work with us to ensure that we have, to the greatest  
6 extent, an opportunity to have a resident Senator.

7 We'll continue to work with those of you that are  
8 incumbents. We'll go right back and knock on your doors  
9 for assistance when we need it. But we certainly desire,  
10 if at all possible, a resident Senator. Thank you.

11 SENATOR LAURENT: Senator Lawson.

12 SENATOR LAWSON: Sir, earlier you stated that, and I  
13 think the school board representative stated, that you-all  
14 are very pleased with the representation that you-all  
15 receive from both the House and the Senate members but  
16 you-all are concerned about the way you-all are split up.  
17 Are there issues that affect the county that those Senators  
18 and Representatives are not addressing?

19 MR. HARRIS: Sir, I can tell you that if Marion County  
20 travels to our Representatives, we can get them to respond  
21 to specific issues we bring to their attention, the benefit  
22 as all of you know in residing within the counties that you  
23 reside in is you are familiar with the day-to-day issues  
24 and concerns of your constituency, that's the handicap that  
25 our delegation members have as a result of residing in

1 other counties.

2 I am certain that those delegation members would have  
3 to admit that they are far more familiar with the issues  
4 that are day-to-day concerns within their resident counties  
5 than they are with those concerns of day-to-day issues we  
6 wrestle with within Marion County simply because of the  
7 location in which they reside, the daily newspapers, the  
8 radio shows, the constituency that they are dealing with  
9 that can walk in and discuss things with them on a regular  
10 basis.

11 SENATOR LAURENT: Senator King.

12 SENATOR KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm one of  
13 those Senators that represents a portion of Marion. And I  
14 guess it begs the question, and I don't have an answer to  
15 it, I know how it played out this last legislative session  
16 in projects. And let's face it, a lot of times districts  
17 judge how well we represent them by what we've been able to  
18 do for the district in terms of projects or schools or  
19 treatment for the elderly or whatever. And I believe, if  
20 I'm not mistaken, there are five -- four Senators that  
21 represent Marion now?

22 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

23 SENATOR KING: If -- what happened last year was each  
24 of us was given assurances that if the project was worthy  
25 and whatever, we could get one project per county pretty

1 much without running the risk of automatic veto and it  
2 still had to meet the merits.

3 Now in that situation if you'd had one seated  
4 Senator -- and don't have the population to even have  
5 that -- so you could have one seated Senator and you could  
6 have maybe one other Senator to make up your 400,000 that  
7 we have to represent. So if that was the case, you'd have  
8 fared far less at least financially than you did with four  
9 of us making sure that a major project got included in what  
10 we were trying to do for Marion.

11 Have you-all thought about that? Sometimes I wonder  
12 whether in the quest for residency you lose maybe some  
13 sight of what actually good is happening to the county that  
14 has the multiple representation. I think you had a total,  
15 if you have the House and Senate members, what was it, 12?

16 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir.

17 SENATOR KING: You had 12 different people that were  
18 fighting the good fight for Marion County on issue after  
19 issue. And to be honest with you, you'd have to judge it  
20 because you see it as a -- as the whole mosaic. I'm only  
21 one of the tiles on that mosaic. But I really thought your  
22 county, our county, did fare better than virtually any of  
23 the others in the surrounding area or any of the others,  
24 other than maybe Dade just because of its population  
25 factor. Do you not consider that to be the case or does it

1 make no difference anyway?

2 MR. HARRIS: Surely I will gest, and you'll understand  
3 this. but being the good statesman that all of our  
4 legislators in the state are. I'm confident that we would  
5 have some equality and balancing in the acceptance or  
6 receiving of those projects that you are speaking to.

7 There is the issue of fairness that I'm confident all  
8 of our Legislators attempt to assure when projects are  
9 being requested and being awarded. If you'll recall, when  
10 the legislative delegation met at Central Florida Community  
11 College, I proffered an idea at the time. If you look at  
12 those lists, for example, of projects, what we call  
13 projects, we'll all realize that state roads are listed on  
14 that list of projects. State roads are a responsibility of  
15 the state to begin with.

16 They find their way to a list and sometimes 15 to 20  
17 years later, based on funding, which is the same in all  
18 counties, that isn't a criticism, those projects get done.  
19 I wouldn't call those special projects. I would call those  
20 maintenance and responsibility of the appropriate entity.

21 But in the case of projects, there really are very  
22 few. I'm not confident that that's the issue at all. Let  
23 me give you example. I'm not going to name the particular  
24 Senator that came into a meeting with our constituency, it  
25 was hosted at the -- and I'm going to come back to CFCC.

1 That way, there is no josting, there is no wrestling,  
2 there is no dependency on seniority any longer for those,  
3 what we'll call special projects, to be funded. Everyone  
4 gets their proportionate share. That, of course, would not  
5 do away with the donor county issue that we all face for  
6 those of us that are large enough to send money and less of  
7 it comes back than was sent to Tallahassee. I don't know  
8 if that adequately answers your question but -- is that it?

9 SENATOR LAURENT: Thank you very much.

10 MR. HARRIS: I also have a resolution from the City of  
11 Ocala and the Marion County commission, the city council,  
12 the Marion county commission making the same requests that  
13 I just entered into the record. Thank you.

14 SENATOR LAURENT: Thank you. Cheryl Appelquist,  
15 Marion County school board.

16 MS. APPELQUIST: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.  
17 I'm here this evening, again, to share the concern and from  
18 the school board, also from our constituents that we were  
19 cut up with four Senators and eight House members in the  
20 last reapportionment. It makes it very difficult for us to  
21 get our message out.

22 I agree, Senator King, you can understand and carry  
23 our wand when necessary. But still, the issue stands. As  
24 we look at this map that's drawn and we look over there at  
25 the more detailed map, between our two largest high schools

1 I'm not going to forget that.

2 We had a specific piece of legislation that was  
3 requested from our local constituency. You know in our  
4 demographics we have a large segment of retirees and gated  
5 communities. That piece of legislation got dropped for  
6 whatever reason. Later, it was picked up and there were  
7 attempts to get it through and it failed.

8 That large constituency was very frustrated with their  
9 Representative. Because, again, I think that the -- what  
10 I'm calling a handicap, not the fault of the Representative  
11 perhaps, but because of the location that they reside in  
12 and their familiarity on a day-to-day basis with their  
13 constituency there, they were at a serious disadvantage and  
14 it just slipped their minds. Big problem for those that  
15 are looking forward to the fulfillment of a promise that  
16 was made.

17 Back to CFCC and the projects. I suggested at that  
18 time that rather than using the archaic system that we have  
19 jockeying or josting for funding for our specific projects  
20 within districts, that we fund all of those state  
21 responsibilities throughout the budget committees, bring  
22 them into the appropriate houses, make your decisions, and  
23 then take the balance and then return that back to the  
24 constituency from which it was taken on a proportionate  
25 basis.

1 and inner cities of Ocala, we've got three Senators if you  
2 look there.

3 In the city of Ocala, there will be three different  
4 Senators representing that city. Is that good? Yes. Do  
5 any of them even know that they have cut up the city of  
6 Ocala so drastically? I'm not quite sure. Is there a  
7 larger city in an entire district? I'm not sure there  
8 either.

9 So I would say, think about what you're doing and  
10 please be aware and if there is no one from Ocala, from  
11 Marion County sitting on this reapportionment, then  
12 possibly you need to call or talk with not only the school  
13 board, but the superintendent, the county commission. We  
14 really encourage you to have at least one sitting member  
15 from our district that is a Senator representing at least a  
16 portion of it.

17 Right now, no one representing Marion County lives in  
18 Marion County. We are asking. We've been cut up for the  
19 last 20 years. We're asking for a little unity. I thank  
20 you for your time and your attention. And I do commend the  
21 Senators and Representatives that we do have, but we just  
22 want one that lives there and knows the issues. Thank you.

23 SENATOR LAURENT: Thank you very much. Janet Olin,  
24 Leon County supervisor of elections.

25 MS. OLIN: Hi, I'm Janet Olin. I am the assistant

*Cal*

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT MEETING

MARCH 12, 2002

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

412 KNOTT BUILDING

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

MONA L. WHIDDON

COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

*START HARRIS  
TESTIMONY ON  
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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE  
 2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL WEBSTER  
 SENATOR GINN, BROWN-WAITE  
 3 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.  
 SENATOR LISA CARLTON  
 4 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE  
 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN  
 5 SENATOR VICTOR D. CRIST  
 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA  
 6 SENATOR BUDDY DYER  
 SENATOR RUDY GARCIA  
 7 SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER  
 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF  
 8 SENATOR DARYL L. JONES  
 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR.  
 9 SENATOR RON KLEIN  
 SENATOR JACK LATVALA  
 10 SENATOR JOHN F. LAURENT  
 SENATOR ALFRED LAWSON, JR.  
 11 SENATOR TOM LEE  
 SENATOR KENDRICK B. MEEK  
 12 SENATOR LESLEY MILLER, JR.  
 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.  
 13 SENATOR BILL POSEY  
 SENATOR KEN PRUITT  
 14 SENATOR DEBBY P. SANDERSON  
 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS  
 15 SENATOR JIM SEBESTA  
 SENATOR RONALD A. SILVER  
 16 SENATOR ROD SMITH  
 SENATOR DONALD C. SULLIVAN, M.D.  
 17 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS  
 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ

18  
 19  
 20  
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 22  
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 25

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1 THE SECRETARY: Senator Geller.  
 2 SENATOR GELLER: Here.  
 3 THE SECRETARY: Senator Holzendorf.  
 4 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Here.  
 5 THE SECRETARY: Senator Jones.  
 6 SENATOR JONES: Here.  
 7 THE SECRETARY: Senator King.  
 8 SENATOR KING: Here.  
 9 THE SECRETARY: Senator Klein.  
 10 SENATOR KLEIN: Here.  
 11 THE SECRETARY: Senator Latvala.  
 12 SENATOR LATVALA: Here.  
 13 THE SECRETARY: Senator Laurent.  
 14 SENATOR LAURENT: Here.  
 15 THE SECRETARY: Senator Lawson.  
 16 SENATOR LAWSON: Here.  
 17 THE SECRETARY: Senator Lee.  
 18 SENATOR LEE: Here.  
 19 THE SECRETARY: Senator Meek.  
 20 SENATOR MEEK: Here.  
 21 THE SECRETARY: Senator Miller.  
 22 SENATOR MILLER: Here.  
 23 THE SECRETARY: Senator Peaden.  
 24 SENATOR PEADEN: Here.  
 25 THE SECRETARY: Senator Posey.  
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1 PROCEEDINGS  
 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Ladies and gentlemen, if  
 3 we could have your attention, the Senate Committee  
 4 on Reapportionment is called to order. The  
 5 Secretary will call the roll.  
 6 THE SECRETARY: Senator Webster.  
 7 SENATOR WEBSTER: Here.  
 8 THE SECRETARY: Senator Brown-Waite.  
 9 SENATOR BROWN-WAITE: Here.  
 10 THE SECRETARY: Senator Campbell.  
 11 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Here.  
 12 THE SECRETARY: Senator Carlton.  
 13 SENATOR CARLTON: Here.  
 14 THE SECRETARY: Senator Constantine.  
 15 SENATOR CONSTANTINE: Here.  
 16 THE SECRETARY: Senator Cowin.  
 17 SENATOR COWIN: Here.  
 18 THE SECRETARY: Senator Crist.  
 19 SENATOR CRIST: Here.  
 20 THE SECRETARY: Senator Diaz de la Portilla.  
 21 SENATOR DIAZ de la PORTILLA: Here.  
 22 THE SECRETARY: Senator Dyer.  
 23 SENATOR DYER: Here.  
 24 THE SECRETARY: Senator Garcia.  
 25 SENATOR GARCIA: Here.  
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1 SENATOR POSEY: Here.  
 2 THE SECRETARY: Senator Pruitt.  
 3 SENATOR PRUITT: Here.  
 4 THE SECRETARY: Senator Sanderson.  
 5 SENATOR SANDERSON: Here.  
 6 THE SECRETARY: Senator Saunders.  
 7 SENATOR SAUNDERS: Here.  
 8 THE SECRETARY: Senator Sebesta.  
 9 SENATOR SEBESTA: Here.  
 10 THE SECRETARY: Senator Silver.  
 11 SENATOR SILVER: Here.  
 12 THE SECRETARY: Senator Smith.  
 13 SENATOR SMITH: Here.  
 14 THE SECRETARY: Senator Sullivan.  
 15 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Here.  
 16 THE SECRETARY: Senator Villalobos.  
 17 SENATOR VILLALOBOS: Here.  
 18 THE SECRETARY: Senator Wasserman Schultz.  
 19 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Here.  
 20 THE SECRETARY: A quorum is present.  
 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Members of the  
 22 committee, we have, under Tab 1, a substitute for  
 23 Senate Joint Resolution 580. During the  
 24 subcommittee, Tab 2 was what was passed in Senator  
 25 Laurent's subcommittee, that's S17S009. That is  
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1 Original Florida," or "The Other Florida," Madison  
2 County.

3 We are very thankful for the work of our  
4 legislative delegation, Senator Mitchell, Senator  
5 Lawson, and Representative Stansel. And we also  
6 thank the Florida Legislature for what they have  
7 done for Madison County.

8 I am the Clerk of the Circuit Court there.  
9 We appreciate your funding for schools, for  
10 recreation, and small county courthouse funding,  
11 we appreciate it very much. But -- our delegation  
12 from north Florida does a real good job in  
13 relaying the needs of north Florida and rural  
14 north Florida because of their knowledge of our  
15 needs and also the knowledge of our opportunities,  
16 knowledge that comes mainly from their roots in  
17 north Florida.

18 It's my concern that with the proposed map  
19 16, the population shift to central Florida along  
20 the Marion/Citrus County corridor, that we will  
21 lose that representation in the future after  
22 Senator Mitchell's term limit is up.

23 Our legislative delegation understands that  
24 rural counties are trying very hard to enhance our  
25 economies, our image and our quality of life.

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1 Executive Committee of Marion County.

2 But let me just say, and you will understand  
3 as I continue, that I'm not here on behalf of  
4 partisan politics, I'm here representing everyone  
5 that lives in Marion County.

6 I would love to ask the question, except I  
7 think that we would get the same answer that we  
8 heard asked before, What criteria has been used to  
9 draw the map?

10 If you would, please zoom in on Marion  
11 County, perhaps the most intriguing county of the  
12 entire state. Four Senate districts and we have  
13 followed the maps that went from three to four to  
14 five back to four, but if we were to use the same  
15 criteria in trying to cause to fit the responses  
16 that were used previously, you would find that  
17 none of the responses would work.

18 Let me say as well that we had public  
19 testimony, we had a public hearing in Marion  
20 County at Central Florida Community College, many  
21 of you attended. I think that what those in  
22 Marion County heard was that this occasion comes  
23 around about every ten years and population is the  
24 formula, the primary formula, used to determine  
25 where these lines are drawn.

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1 oftentimes competing with the state of Georgia,  
2 which I would like to add, the only time that we  
3 are beating them is on the football field in Doak  
4 or in the Gator Bowl. And we need our rural  
5 representatives to help, with your help, for  
6 expanded revenues and employment opportunities for  
7 our people.

8 Our representatives also understand that we  
9 need to make the most of the limited economic  
10 resources that we have in rural North Florida.  
11 And it's my hope, ladies and gentlemen, that you  
12 would relook at this map 16, the proposed District  
13 3, and hopefully shift it back to a more rural  
14 north Florida setting.

15 Thank you very much for your time. Good day.  
16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.  
17 Commissioner Randy Harris.

18 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have  
19 got some copies of documents that some of you have  
20 seen before. We hand-delivered many of these to  
21 the members, we mailed others, and brought some  
22 extra copies today.

23 And this isn't -- I'm here for Marion County,  
24 by the way, I'm chairman of the Marion County  
25 Commission, also am chairman of the Republican

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1 So, the truth is, we have had ten years to  
2 draw these maps, haven't we? This whole drawing  
3 process didn't just begin, we have had many, many  
4 years to draw all of these, we've had many years  
5 of information, all the criteria has been in place  
6 on the population, the densities that exist in all  
7 these districts. But let me go through what I  
8 heard today and make sure that I didn't  
9 misunderstand anything.

10 The criteria that's been cited today that's  
11 been used in drawing these maps were the  
12 population formula. I testified in a previous  
13 meeting that Marion County has a 40 percent  
14 greater population than neighboring counties that  
15 have resident Senators, 40 percent greater  
16 population.

17 If you look at this map, you will see that we  
18 have been carved up in order that our population  
19 would be split up and pushed into other counties  
20 in order to justify those particular districts.  
21 It is very obvious that that has happened, which  
22 leads us to the next criteria that was used, that  
23 of keeping a community whole.

24 Is there a member on this committee that can  
25 explain that to us? How do we keep a community

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1 whole when we have sliced it up like a pie? It is  
2 a very interesting concept. How do we preserve a  
3 community of interest? It is very intriguing  
4 that, and I didn't know that they would be here,  
5 all of our neighboring counties that surround  
6 Marion County have all stood up here and testified  
7 that they don't have anything in common with  
8 Marion County.

9 It's very obvious, we have an entirely  
10 different economic base, we have different social  
11 issues. We could go down that laundry list, but  
12 you have already heard them. We stand separate  
13 and apart from our neighbors because we are so  
14 different and you have heard them testify to that  
15 today.

16 So, how do we respond to the people in Marion  
17 County when we argue here today, many of your own  
18 members on this committee have said, Oh, but we  
19 have attempted to retain communities of interest.  
20 Very obviously, that doesn't apply to Marion  
21 County. Very obviously, neither does the criteria  
22 of keeping a county whole, apply to Marion County.  
23 Very obviously, and this was repeated by many  
24 members that we went to these communities and we  
25 listened to public testimony, and we have  
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1 used in Marion County, not one. And I have  
2 listened very patiently.

3 I have a letter here that I'm going to enter  
4 into the record and I apologize. I don't have  
5 copies for all of the members, some very specific  
6 statistics on Marion County. And by the way, let  
7 me say as well that I'm speaking to the issue of  
8 District 3 and District 7 and District 20 and  
9 District 14, all of which have a piece of our  
10 population within Marion County, our neighboring  
11 counties.

12 These are statistics, these are real personal  
13 parcels, property parcels, real and personal  
14 property parcels, within Marion County. There are  
15 253,000 different parcels of property.

16 Now, listen to me carefully, the closest  
17 county to us that is within these districts is  
18 Lake County, and they have at least 100,000 fewer  
19 parcels. Levy County only has just under 50,000.  
20 Putnam's at 101, Alachua is at 96,776. We have  
21 253,000 parcels.

22 Tag transactions, we are at 354,000. Closest  
23 you can get with any of these other counties is  
24 273,000. It goes on and on and on the statistics  
25 from the tax collector's office and the property  
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1 attempted to cause to reflect their concerns in  
2 these maps that we have drawn. We have heard that  
3 in the amendments that were offered earlier and we  
4 have heard it again since then.

5 We listened to public testimony and we drew  
6 these maps to the best of our ability in  
7 accordance to the desires of those constituents  
8 who live in those communities. At no time, ladies  
9 and gentlemen, in Marion County when you had the  
10 public testimony did anyone stand up and say,  
11 Please to the best of your ability carve us up  
12 four or five different ways and use our population  
13 to prop up or justify Senate districts that  
14 combine neighboring counties. All of which,  
15 again, I'll remind you, said together today that  
16 they had nothing in common with us.

17 So, all of this criteria, that of the  
18 population being used, we have the greatest  
19 population of all of our neighbors, so that  
20 population criteria wasn't used. Keeping a  
21 community whole wasn't used, preserving,  
22 recognizing, honoring a community's special  
23 interests was not used.

24 I can't think of any criteria that was shared  
25 here today in your previous discussions that was  
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1 appraiser's office. All of these statistical  
2 criteria that measure the size, the magnitude, the  
3 activity within a community suggests that Marion  
4 County has all of this in abundance, far more than  
5 any of its neighboring counties, yet our  
6 population has been carved up, fragmented,  
7 fractured, split up, dissected, if you will, to  
8 justify Senate districts in other communities.

9 There's no single criteria, not one, that you  
10 have used in your deliberations for many months  
11 now that's been applied to Marion County to  
12 justify what has happened on your map, not one.

13 Senator King asked me a question when I was  
14 here last time, he said, But, Commissioner, with  
15 all of the budget restraints, you would think that  
16 perhaps with multiple Senators in Marion County,  
17 you would at least get your special projects  
18 funded, what do you think of that?

19 And I responded, citing a statement that I  
20 had made at Central Florida Community College  
21 sometime back when we had our legislative  
22 delegation meeting and I suggested that we needed  
23 to do away with the archaic system of jousting, if  
24 you will, with our seniority to try to get a piece  
25 of the action at the end of the budget year, but  
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1 we probably won't do that.  
 2 So, probably the best way to answer that  
 3 question would be to ask Senator King to help me  
 4 in answering the question, because it was a very  
 5 good question. Did Marion County fare better by  
 6 having multiple Senators during the budget  
 7 restrictions of last year actually, more  
 8 specifically as they pertain to special projects?

9 And I don't want to put you on the spot, but  
 10 you helped me make a point last time and I'm going  
 11 to appreciate it if you would oblige me now.  
 12 Which special project was funded in Marion County  
 13 by our, or even requested, by our Senate  
 14 legislative delegation last year?

15 I wouldn't expect, Senator King, that you  
 16 would be able to answer the question. If you can,  
 17 I will commend you. But I wouldn't expect that  
 18 any Senator could answer that question and  
 19 probably no House member could answer the  
 20 question.

21 But it helps beg the question that you stated  
 22 on the record the last time I was here, Does  
 23 Marion County fare better by having multiple  
 24 Senators? The answer to the question obviously is  
 25 no. But more importantly, as it pertains to the

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1 breakdown now, you can find those.  
 2 I have a letter here - letters from  
 3 constitutional officers, the Marion County  
 4 Commission Resolution, Clerk of the Circuit Court,  
 5 Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Marion County Tax  
 6 Collector. There are letters or resolutions in  
 7 here from the City of Dunnellon, City of Ocala,  
 8 City of Belleview.

9 We have local business leaders, associations,  
 10 the newspaper, the Republican Executive Committee,  
 11 the Democratic Executive Committee in Marion  
 12 County as well. Their last statement is on behalf  
 13 of our committee. We strongly object to the  
 14 current plan and ask that lines be redrawn to  
 15 provide Marion County with a voice in the State  
 16 Senate.

17 The Monroe Regional Medical Center, Marion  
 18 County Economic Development Council, Marion County  
 19 Builders Association, the Road Builders  
 20 Association, the Dunnellon Area Chamber of  
 21 Commerce, Marion County Senior Services.

22 We have an editorial from our local  
 23 newspaper, Kurt Kelly, school board member, guest  
 24 column, another star banner article. Marion  
 25 County Farm Bureau, Ocala Regional Medical Center,  
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1 formulas that you are bound by, that you were  
 2 supposed to utilize, formulas that Marion County  
 3 didn't create, we didn't participate in that  
 4 process.

5 All of that criterion that are used by this  
 6 committee, Do they pertain to Marion County, and  
 7 if not, what special criteria are we going to use  
 8 for Marion County? Because if you can share that  
 9 with me and put it in writing, I'll be glad to  
 10 take that back and share it with the 260,000  
 11 people that live in my county. And I think that  
 12 those people deserve an answer to the question.

13 Again, I said that I'm not here on behalf of  
 14 partisan politics. I'm going to read simply the  
 15 index page here of a packet that I will leave for  
 16 the record. Many of you already have it. These  
 17 are letters protesting what's been going on with  
 18 these maps in Marion County, those that would  
 19 support, in fact, the previous argument that we  
 20 made in testimony that we deserve the possibility  
 21 of having a resident Senator in Marion County.

22 These maps would preclude that from ever  
 23 taking place. And if you go to your statistic  
 24 section on your computer, you will find that is  
 25 the case and I'm not give you all the population  
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1 Central Florida Community College of Ocala, Marion  
 2 County Chamber of Commerce consistently requests  
 3 the same consideration that these other counties  
 4 have been given that have resident Senate seats.

5 Not one has asked that we carve Marion County  
 6 up into this fashion. I listened to the testimony  
 7 earlier that we have attempted to preserve the  
 8 Senate seats of incumbents. I'll tell you that  
 9 those in Marion County that I serve with and work  
 10 with that speak to us have no problem with the  
 11 personalities of those Senators that represent  
 12 Marion County. We appreciate and respect each and  
 13 every one of them.

14 Ten years is a long time. Our population is  
 15 almost at 300 now, but the population formula has  
 16 been ignored. I would request, respectfully  
 17 request, that you use the same criteria for Marion  
 18 County that's been used in these other areas. I  
 19 only wish that we had some of the problems that I  
 20 listened to in the last meeting, concerns with  
 21 splitting a district on one side of a street or an  
 22 avenue. Wouldn't that be a pleasant problem to  
 23 have?

24 But ladies and gentlemen, I think that you  
 25 would all agree that Marion County has been used  
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1 as a bank, a pool of population, to be carved up  
2 in order to help justify other districts. I will  
3 leave these copies for the record and, again, I  
4 appreciate the opportunity to be here. Thank you.

5 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You are recognized for a  
7 question.

8 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Mr. Commissioner, I  
9 believe that you have probably made a statement  
10 that we all should take heart to, which should be  
11 that Florida should have an independent agency  
12 doing this whole process. Would you agree with  
13 that?

14 MR. HARRIS: Yes, sir, I would.

15 SENATOR CAMPBELL: And isn't it kind of silly  
16 though that when we have partisan politics, we  
17 have a lot of good Republicans, a lot of good  
18 Democrats up here that we use words that we are  
19 trying to follow the Supreme Court guidelines, but  
20 actually it doesn't look like it's working out  
21 that way?

22 MR. HARRIS: I would have to agree with that  
23 as well, sir.

24 SENATOR CAMPBELL: So, would you recommend  
25 the next time around that we try to have an

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1 those who came to speak and will continue to speak  
2 and enter documents into the public record is  
3 simply for the purpose of posturing for the  
4 courts.

5 Now, anyone that would stand up and say they  
6 disagree with that is being disingenuous. I've  
7 talked to enough of you to know better. It is a  
8 shame, however, that the public has to be put  
9 through what they have had to be put through to  
10 get to this point.

11 Many times, the meetings have been canceled  
12 and rescheduled and canceled and rescheduled. The  
13 public in many cases has given up on trying to  
14 even come and testify any longer. But it is a sad  
15 process.

16 SENATOR JONES: Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Jones, you are  
18 recognized for a question and hopefully a brief  
19 response.

20 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 It's not really a question, it's actually a  
22 comment, maybe a little bit of trivia.

23 You talked about Marion County being split up  
24 into four different districts and whether or not  
25 that was a good thing or a bad thing, and then

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1 independent commission to do this, so that, in  
2 fact, we could put away the partisan politics and  
3 vote on representatives for areas as they should  
4 be represented?

5 MR. HARRIS: Sir, I would agree with putting  
6 away the partisan politics. Let me emphasize  
7 though that I am convinced that they are  
8 well-intended members that serve on this committee  
9 --

10 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Very well intended.

11 MR. HARRIS: -- that only have the best  
12 interests for those constituents and all of those  
13 of that state. I do believe -- I am a staunch  
14 conservative Republican, I am very partisan in  
15 some venues, but let me just tell you that I have  
16 tried to be as open with this process as possible,  
17 inviting all of the public input from Democrats  
18 and Republicans and Independents and otherwise in  
19 Marion County to come and communicate their  
20 message, we have their resolutions and letters  
21 here supporting our position.

22 But I think most of the committee members  
23 have realized that much of this is going to  
24 actually take place in the courts anyway, and most  
25 of this testimony that's being offered by many of

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1 ultimately came to a conclusion that it was a bad  
2 thing. I'll tell you that I can only give you one  
3 instance when something like that was a good  
4 thing, and that was the City of Homestead after  
5 Hurricane Andrew.

6 And the population at the time of about  
7 25,000 people represented by three Congressmen,  
8 two State Senators, three State Representatives  
9 and two county commissioners in single-member  
10 districts had their concerted effort to try to  
11 help them after the hurricane, and that was a good  
12 thing at the time.

13 Now, since then, that's become a detriment to  
14 that community because now that they have  
15 recovered, they haven't gotten the same attention  
16 from all of their elected representatives as they  
17 did at that time. In the same way, Marion County  
18 being very close to the geographical center of the  
19 state will probably not fare well, as you have  
20 indicated, under this particular scenario that is  
21 up here before us today.

22 And so, I just want to commend you for coming  
23 here and expressing your mind about this  
24 particular plan and the detriment that it would  
25 have in your community. I think that you are

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1 correct, that your projects probably will not be  
2 funded, that it'll be very difficult for you to  
3 get a lot out of this Legislature and so, all of  
4 us have to represent the areas that we are  
5 assigned.

6 And so, thank you for coming up here  
7 representing Marion County and giving it your best  
8 shot. It is important for us, I think, to make  
9 sure that we represent the interests of the people  
10 that elect us. And, in particular, the public  
11 testimony that we receive, yours is some of the  
12 most substantive that we have received post any  
13 map being drawn at all. And I appreciate you  
14 coming up.

15 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, sir.  
16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.

17 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.  
18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Crist.

19 SENATOR CRIST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
20 guess in listening to Mr. Harris' presentation, I  
21 have a few comments I'd like to just go ahead and  
22 get out there. You know, we only have 40 Senate  
23 positions, we have, what, 67 states - 67 counties  
24 in this state. So, it isn't going to be possible  
25 for every county to have a Senator as a resident  
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1 MR. KRISHNANER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 it's Kartik Krishnaner just for the record and I'm  
3 speaking on behalf of the Orange County Democratic  
4 party today.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I did my best.  
6 MR. KRISHNANER: I just wanted to come and  
7 address the committee on the proposed map that  
8 Senator Laurent has submitted and he's done a  
9 yeoman's job throughout this process as have all  
10 of you on the committee, but there are concerns  
11 the Democratic party in the Orlando area has  
12 regarding this map.

13 And it resolves basically around the issue of  
14 Hispanic representation in central Florida. As  
15 I'm sure everyone on this committee is aware of,  
16 the Hispanic population of both Orange and Osceola  
17 Counties has shot up since 1990, and in that, that  
18 is a community that's looking for representation  
19 in the State Legislature.

20 And the State House in the map that they  
21 passed last week, Senator - excuse me,  
22 Representative Byrd's plan drew two new  
23 Hispanic-influence districts for the State House.  
24 What we see in plan 16 is specifically that  
25 there's been a packing of communities that are not  
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1 in that particular county.  
2 Right now, I represent two counties and under  
3 the proposed plans, all of them, I will continue  
4 to represent at least two counties. And I know  
5 from my perspective and I know from watching many  
6 of you who also serve in my region, we work  
7 extremely hard to try and meet the needs of the  
8 people in the other county that we may not live  
9 in.

10 And to say that it's an advantage to have a  
11 resident Senator in that county is false because  
12 up here, it isn't having one person as your  
13 spokesperson that gets you what you want, it's  
14 having more than one voting for what you want.  
15 Having three Senators voting for an issue on  
16 behalf of Pasco County or Hillsborough County or  
17 Pinellas County is a lot more strength than having  
18 one Senator voting on your behalf even though they  
19 happen to be a resident there.

20 And we don't represent counties, we represent  
21 people, people, and I think we need to get back of  
22 what this whole mission is about and that is  
23 people.  
24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Next we have Kartik  
25 Krishnaner.  
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1 communities of interest in a single district, it  
2 is a district that resembles District 14 currently  
3 represented by Senator Dyer.

4 We have got communities as separate in their  
5 interest as Zellwood, which is a historic  
6 African-American community which has been an area  
7 populated by African-Americans for over a hundred  
8 years and areas like Kissimmee, where the Hispanic  
9 population growth has taken place in the last five  
10 to ten years.

11 So, in that district, we have two very  
12 distinct communities which don't have the same  
13 interests that need to be represented in their  
14 State Senator, and they are at about an equal  
15 population balance in the district and we are  
16 probably going to have a very, very divisive  
17 election between these two ethnic groups.

18 It is also a district which could create some  
19 sort of polarity between those two communities,  
20 both the Hispanic community in central Florida  
21 growing at a rapid rate as the 2000 census  
22 reflected, and the African-American community in  
23 Orange and Osceola Counties, pretty staggering in  
24 this population.

25 The district drawn in the proposed plan  
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