

**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF FLORIDA**

Case Number: SC12-1

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IN RE: JOINT RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT

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**COMMENT SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA  
STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS**

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Ronald A. Labasky, Esquire  
Florida Bar No. 206326  
BREWTON PLANTE, P.A.  
225 South Adams Street, Suite 250  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Telephone: 850-222-7718  
Facsimile: 850-222-8222  
*General Counsel for the Florida  
State Association of Supervisors of Elections*

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## **SUMMARY OF THE COMMENT**

This Comment is provided on behalf of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, Inc., in response to the Court's Orders dated January 4, 2012, and February 14, 2012, regarding the validity of the Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 1176 that apportions the Florida House of Representatives and Senate based on the population figures established in the 2010 census. This Comment is intended to be a guide to the Court as to the applicable timeframes that Florida's Supervisors of Elections are mandated by Florida Statutes to comply with upon validation of SJR 1176.

## **COMMENT**

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, Inc. ("FSASE"), is a Florida Not-for-Profit corporation which is organized and established with the purpose to assist its members to conduct fair, honest, and accurate elections and to assist Florida citizens to become better informed about voting and being prepared to participate in the electoral process. Its membership consists of 66 of the 67 county Supervisors of Elections in Florida. This Court has received the Joint Resolution of Legislative Apportionment filed under the above case number. The Supervisors of Elections in the respective 67 counties in Florida are required, after the completion of this Court's review and the determination of an appropriate plan for Legislative Apportionment, to complete the responsibility of creating precinct

lines and assigning voters, within their respective counties, to the appropriate House and Senate districts, as provided for in the approved Legislative Apportionment plan.

While this Court is moving expeditiously with respect to the Legislative Apportionment plan as submitted, the FSASE, on behalf of its members, seeks to provide the Court with the following timeframes which are relevant to the Supervisors of Elections' responsibilities in their counties. This information is provided for the Court's assistance in the event that these times and deadlines become relevant to the Court's considerations and determinations herein. With respect to the state election activities to be carried out following the approval and completion of the Legislative Reapportionment, the following timeframes are mandatory with respect to election activities in the state. These mandatory timeframes are as follows:

1. June 4 – June 8, 2012: Qualifying date for all Federal, State, County, and District candidates pursuant to Section 99.061, F.S.
2. June 15, 2012: Deadline for the Department of State to certify the ballot to all Supervisors of Elections throughout the state pursuant to Section 99.061, F.S.

3. June 30, 2012: Mandatory deadline for Supervisors of Elections to mail overseas absentee ballots to Florida voters pursuant to Section 101. 62, F.S.
4. August 14, 2012: Primary election date pursuant to Section 100.061, F.S.

In order for the above absentee ballot deadline to be met, ballots must be ordered no later than June 18, 2012. The determination of the ballot styles and numbers of ballots to be utilized within in each of the new districts that are created involves a significant amount of time following the conversion of data from the Legislative Apportionment plans and those preparations must be accomplished immediately after the ballot is certified.

In the event that the Court's contemplated time for its decision on the Legislative Apportionment plans extends further than currently stated, the foregoing is submitted for its consideration. The FSASE respectfully requests this Court to continue its expeditious consideration of the Legislative Reapportionment plans.

## CONCLUSION

The FSASE respectfully submits the foregoing dates and information to the Court for its use, as necessary, in its determinations going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ronald A. Labasky  
Ronald A. Labasky, Esquire  
Florida Bar No. 206326  
BREWTON PLANTE, P.A.  
225 South Adams Street – Suite 250  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Telephone: 850-222-7718  
Facsimile: 850-222-8222  
*General Counsel for the Florida State  
Association of Supervisors of  
Elections*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished by U.S. Mail to the following parties listed below on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012. Service was made to all parties appearing on the most recently revised service list at the time of service.

***Counsel for the Florida Senate***

Michael A. Carvin  
Jones Day  
51 Louisiana Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/879-7643

Andy Velosy Bardos  
The Florida Senate  
404 S. Monroe Street; Suite 409  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850/487-5229

Cynthia Skelton Tunnicliff  
Pennington, Moore, et al.  
215 S. Monroe Street; Second Floor  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850/222-3533

***Counsel for the Florida House of Representatives***

Miguel A. DeGrandy  
Miguel DrGrandy, P.A.  
800 S. Douglas Road; Suite 850  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305/444-7737

Charles Talley Wells  
Gray Robinson, P.A.  
301 E. Pine St.; Suite 1400  
Orlando, FL 32801  
407/843-8880

George T. Levesque  
General Counsel  
Florida House of Representatives  
422 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850/488-0451

George N. Meros, Jr.  
Gray Robinson. P.A.  
P.O. Box 11189  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/577-9090



Jason L. Unger  
Gray Robinson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 11189  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/577-9090

Allen C. Winsor  
Gray Robinson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 11189  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/577-9090

Charles Burns Upton  
Gray Robinson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 11180  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/577-9090

***Counsel for Honorable Pamela Jo Bondi***

Timothy David Osterhaus  
Office of Attorney General  
The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850/414-3687

***Counsel for the Florida Democratic Party***

Joseph W. Hatchett  
Akerman Senterfitt  
106 E. College Ave.; Suite 1200  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/224-9634

John M. Devaney  
Perkins Cole, LLP  
700 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW; Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202/654-6200

Abha Khanna  
Perkins Cole, LLP  
1201 Third Avenue; Suite 4800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206/359-8312

Kevin J. Hamilton  
Perkins Cole, LLP  
1201 Third Avenue; Suite 4800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206/359-8741

Marc Erik Elias  
Perkins Cole, LLP  
700 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW; Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202/434-1609

Jon L. Mills  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP  
100 SE Second St.; Suite 2800  
Miami, Florida 33131  
305/539-8400

Karen Caudell Dyer  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP  
121 S. Orange Ave.; Suite 840  
Orlando, FL 32801  
407/425-7118

Elan Michelle Nehleber  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP  
121 S. Orange Ave.; Suite 840  
Orlando, FL 32801  
407/425-7118

***Counsel for Common Cause Florida***

Ronald Gustav Meyer  
Meyer, Brooks, Demma & Blohm  
P.O. Box 1547  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/878-5212

Michael B. Desanctis  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Kristen M. Rogers  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Jessica Ring Amunson  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

J. Gerald Hebert  
J. Gerald Hebert, P.A.  
191 Somerville St.; Unit 415  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703/628-4673

Paul M. Smith  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

***Counsel for National Counsel of La Raza***

Ronald Gustav Meyer  
Meyer, Brooks, Demma & Blohm  
P.O. Box 1547  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/878-5212

Kristen M. Rogers  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Jessica Ring Amunson  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Michael B. Desanctis  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

J. Gerald Hebert  
J. Gerald Hebert, P.C.  
191 Somerville St.; Unit 415  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703/628-4673

Paul M. Smith  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

***Counsel for City of Lakeland, Florida***

David Allen Theriaque  
Theriaque & Spain  
433 N. Magnolia Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
850/224-7332

Steven Brent Spain  
Theriaque & Spain  
433 N. Magnolia Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
850/224-7332

Christopher Busch  
Theriaque & Spain  
433 N. Magnolia Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
850/224-7332

Timothy James McCausland  
City of Lakeland  
228 S. Massachusetts Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
863/834-6010

***Counsel for League of Women Voters of Florida, Inc.***

Ronald Gustav Meyer  
Meyer, Brooks, Demma & Blohm  
P.O. Box 1547  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
850/878-5212

Michael B. Desanctis  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Jessica Ring Amunson  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

Kristen M. Rogers  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

J. Gerald Hebert  
J. Gerald Hebert, P.C.  
191 Somerville St.; Unit 415  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703/628-4673

Paul M. Smith  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
1099 New York Ave. NW; Ste. 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202/639-6000

/s/ Ronald A. Labasky  
Ronald A. Labasky, Esquire