

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES REPORT

Explanation of Political Boundaries Report

Article III, Section 20 of the Florida Constitution states that “districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographic boundaries.” “[P]olitical boundaries” include municipality and county boundaries. *In Re: Senate Joint Resolution of Legislative Apportionment 1176*, No. SC12-1, ___ So. 3d ___, 2012 WL 753122, at *40 (Fla. Mar. 9, 2012).

The charts below summarize the extent to which the State’s Senate plan, S9030, utilizes political boundaries as compared to the Coalition’s SPUBS0178 Senate plan. The larger chart shows the number of counties, cities, and VTDs¹ that are kept whole under both the Legislature’s and the Coalition’s plans. They also show the number of each political unit split between two districts, or three or more.

In the smaller chart, the “split counties” value denotes how many of Florida’s 67 counties are split between two districts; the “county splits” value denotes how many total times each map splits counties into different districts. For example, a county may be split into two districts, but in doing so, the district line may oscillate over the county boundary several times; the number of split counties will then be one, but the number of county splits will be higher. Finally, the number of “split cities” shows the number of cities that are cut into more than one district.

¹ Voting districts, or VTDs, are defined by the United States Census Bureau as a “generic name for a geographic entity , such as an election district, precinct, or ward, established by state, local and tribal governments for the purpose of conducting elections.” U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Management Division Glossary, *available at* <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/glossary.html#V>, last visited March 22, 2012.

Utilizing Political and Geographic Boundaries: Senate Map Comparison						
Political/ Geographical Unit	Number Kept Whole		In 2 Districts		In 3 or More Districts	
	Coalition	Legislature	Coalition	Legislature	Coalition	Legislature
Counties	45	43	14	13	8	11
Cities, Towns, & Villages	375	369	34	39	6	7
VTDs	9,188	9,155	244	274	3	6

	Coalition	Legislature
Split Counties	22	24
County Splits	62	69
Number of Split Cities	40	46