

**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF FLORIDA**

IN RE: JOINT RESOLUTION  
OF LEGISLATIVE  
APPORTIONMENT

Case Number: SC12-460

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

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**Table of Contents**

Table of Citations.....Pg. 3

Summary of the Comment .....Pg. 4

Comment.....Pg. 4

Conclusion .....Pg. 7

Certificate of Service.....Pg. 8

**TABLE OF CITATIONS**

**FLORIDA STATUTES**

Section 99.061, Florida Statutes.....Pg. 5

Section 101.62, Florida Statutes.....Pg. 5

Section 100.061, Florida Statutes.....Pg. 5

**OTHER**

SJR-2B.....Pg. 4,6

## **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 March 13, 2012, regarding the validity of the Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) that apportions the Florida 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-2B.

## **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 for state Senate districts, to complete the responsibility of creating precinct lines and assigning voters, within their

respective counties, to the appropriate Senate districts, as provided for in the approved Senate Legislative Apportionment plan.

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 plan. Those preparations must be accomplished immediately after the ballot is certified. Immediately after approval of the final apportionment plan, precincts must be created in each county for all voters throughout the state to assign them to the new legislative seats created.

In the event that the Court's decision on the Legislative Apportionment plans for state Senate districts extends into May 2012, the foregoing is submitted for its consideration. The FSASE respectfully requests this Court to continue its expeditious consideration of SJR-2B.

## 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,

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**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 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012. Service was made to all parties appearing on the most recently revised service list at the time of service.

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