



FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

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DRAFT

August 11, 2015

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Senator Bill Galvano, Chair
Reapportionment Committee
330 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Representative Jose Oliva, Chair
Select Committee Redistricting
418 Capital
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Galvano and Representative Oliva:

The Florida Legislature is undertaking the difficult process of creating new lines for numerous Congressional Districts in Florida. Upon the conclusion of that redistricting process, the Supervisors of Elections in each county in Florida will be required to review the new district lines and make changes to their county map and align precinct lines to the new district lines. With that in mind, the Supervisors throughout the state would like to reinforce concerns or issues which will be important in having the new plan in effect for the Presidential Preference Primary in March 2016.

- The Legislature should strive to draw lines maintaining intact communities and draw lines along county lines whenever possible. When district lines come close to political boundaries, but are not the same, it creates pockets of voters who are isolated from other community residents and precincts become difficult to locate for them. In 2011 the staff of the Legislature worked with election and census officials to establish "Voting Tabulation Districts" which took into consideration intact communities, traffic patterns and physical barriers. These are excellent guidelines to consider when drawing lines.
- Supervisors of Elections must begin issuing overseas military ballots 45 days prior to an election. Following the receipt of new district maps and creation of new precincts, those changes must be submitted to each counties Board of County

of Commissioners which must approve the precinct changes. In order for the foregoing to take place, the Supervisors will need to have final district maps no later than December 1, 2015.

We appreciate your consideration of the foregoing and look forward to a successful redistricting process and 2016 elections in Florida. If we can be of assistance or there are any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Labasky
General Counsel