



2022

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#YourVoteYourVoice


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The Year of Reapportionment and Redistricting

“One Person One Vote”

The idea that the voting power of each voter be as equal as possible to the vote of any other is as old as our country itself. Set forth in the U.S. Constitution, the idea of equal representation was paramount to our founding fathers. These defining principles are the very ones that continue to make our country great.

With the decennial census of 2020 completed and it being the basis for reapportionment of government representation by state, the process of redistricting is currently occurring. Of note, the census serves as the cornerstone for the political and economic system for years to come, and influences allocations by the federal government for such things as education, senior services, housing, law enforcement, and transportation.

In the case of reapportionment, the 2020 census resulted in Florida gaining an additional congressional district for a total of twenty-eight statewide. Our office provides voting precinct data for Pasco County to the House and Senate Reapportionment Committees to assist them in creating districts that comply with both the Florida Constitution and Federal law. The Florida Legislature is charged with “Redistricting” of the Congressional districts, as well as the State Senate and State House districts. These plans will be approved by the state legislature in the 2022 session, and then on to the Attorney General who petitions the Supreme Court for judgment. If there are no objections, the new districts will take effect within 60 days of the judgment, or approximately June 2022. Just in time for the August primary and November general election.

For additional information on reapportionment and redistricting visit the U.S. Census redistricting website: www.census.gov.

FAQs

What is reapportionment?

Reapportionment refers to the allocation of the number of congressional seats (currently 435) among the states, or legislative seats among the counties. It's referred to as reapportionment because this process is carried out every ten years. Apportionment is determined at the federal level using the Method of Equal Proportions adopted in 1941.

What is redistricting?

Once apportionment is established, it is up to each individual state to draw its own congressional and state legislative boundaries (e.g., State Senate and State House of Representatives). This process is called redistricting, and it involves adjusting established electoral district boundaries in response to population shifts. Conventional thinking is that areas of faster growth are entitled to more representation, with the opposite being true as well.

Locally, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners as well as the Pasco County School Board also redistrict the boundary lines for the existing five districts. However, with school board members and county commissioners are elected "at large" or countywide, it's more for designation of constituent services.

What is the basis for these allocations?

The population numbers of the decennial census conducted in 2020 by the U.S. Census Bureau is the basis for apportionment, and plays a major role in the redistricting process.

Why is this done?

To ensure equality of government representation among the states proportional to the population, Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution established that the apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives shall be based upon a national census. The first census was taken in 1790, with the 2020 census being the twenty-fourth census in the history of our country and completed during a pandemic.

What is the Supervisor of Elections' responsibility in this process?

The Supervisor of Elections provides data, such as election results and voting history, to the Florida State Senate and House Reapportionment Committees. This data is used for evaluating districts and calculating district statistics. Based on recommendations by the committee and in accordance with the delineation of the representative districts, the Supervisor of Elections with the approval of the board of county commissioners maps the voting precincts within their county.

What does this mean to me?

At most, your legislative district, precinct boundary, or polling place may change. If you reside within an area of change, you will be notified via an updated voter information card. Relocation of a polling place is a decision that is never taken lightly by the Supervisor of Elections' Office but may be necessary based on the outcome of redistricting. As always, voting by mail and early voting are available options for all registered voters in Florida.