

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PERRY, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

6:00 P.M.

201 E. GREEN STREET

TAYLOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

OLD POST OFFICE

THE CHAIR CALLED THE WORKSHOP MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
1	CHAIR	JAMIE ENGLISH	IN PERSON	ALL
2		JIM MOODY	IN PERSON	ALL
3	V-CHAIR	MICHAEL NEWMAN	IN PERSON	ALL
4		PAM FEAGLE	IN PERSON	ALL
5		THOMAS DEMPS	IN PERSON	ALL

A FULL BOARD BEING PRESENT.

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
CO ADMINISTRATOR	LAWANDA PEMBERTON	IN PERSON	ALL
ASST. CO ADMIN.	MARSHA DURDEN	IN PERSON	ALL
COUNTY ATTORNEY	CONRAD BISHOP	IN PERSON	ALL

COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS ATTENDED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOW ATTENDED</u>	<u>PORTION ATTENDED</u>
CLERK OF COURT	GARY KNOWLES	IN PERSON	ALL
DEP CLERK OF COURT	SALINA GRUBBS	IN PERSON	ALL

COMMISSIONER DEMPS LED THE BOARD IN PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG. BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED AS FOLLOWS:

THE CHAIRMAN READ INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFERENCE CALL-IN LINE.

WORKSHOP ITEMS:

3. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS OVERVIEW OF TAYLOR COUNTY REDISTRICTING.

DISCUSSION:

NICHOLAS WARREN, ACLU PRESENTED THE BOARD WITH A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION. THE LAW REQUIRES THIS MAP TO BE CHANGED AND UPDATED. THE REDISTRICTING MAP WILL NEED TO BE DONE BY FEBRUARY 8, 2024. TAYLOR COUNTY IS CURRENTLY AT 47% DEVIATION AND IT SHOULD BE AT 10%.

4. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS MOORING IN THE STEINHATCHEE RIVER.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN- DURING HURRICANE IDALIA, VESSELS CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE STEINHATCHEE BRIDGE. UNDER THE BRIDGE THERE ARE SEWER AND WATER LINES. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE DONE TO THE BRIDGE, BUT WE MAY NEED AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MOORING AREA WITHIN THE RIVER.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-WE DID REACH OUT TO FWC, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE WHICH DIRECTION TO DO. EITHER ESTABLISHING A MOORING AREA, OR JUST NOT ALLOW ANY MOORING IN THE RIVER.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN-I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN ORDINANCE NOT ALLOWING MOORING IN THE STEINHATCHEE RIVER.

DAVID OSTEEN- DIXIE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUPPORT REMOVING AND NOT ALLOWING MOORING IN THE RIVER.

DAVID JENSEN-I AM A DIXIE COUNTY RESIDENT. WE RODE OUT THE STORM. THE DOCKS AND DOCK HOUSES BREAKING LOOSE IS WHAT'S CAUSING THE DAMAGE. PEOPLE ARE REBUILDING DOCKS WITHOUT PERMITS.

ROBERT "CRICKET" WATSON- IEM MINISTRIES- WE HAVE TWO DOWN IN STEINHATCHEE. IT'S NOT FAIR TO PUNISH THE ONES THAT ARE UP TO CODE AND CORRECTLY ANCHORED.

RAYMOND BIDEAU-IEM MINISTRIES- WE HAVE HAD BOATS ON THE RIVER FOR 20 YEARS.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE-THERE IS A LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM EVERYONE. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MORE PEOPLE ON THIS.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN-WE CAN BRING BACK TO ANOTHER MEETING. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MORE PEOPLE ALSO.

BRING BACK ON THE OCTOBER 24TH WORKSHOP.

5. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS AD VALOREM TAX INCENTIVES.

DISCUSSION:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PRESENTED THE BOARD WITH A MATRIX PRESENTATION.

COMMISSIONER DEMPS- WE DO NEED TO HAVE DISCRETION OF WHAT BUSINESS THAT DO COME IN.

COUNTY ATTORNEY- THIS IS AN ORDINANCE THAT DOES GIVE DISCRETION.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE-WE DO NEED SOME BUSINESS TO REPLACE GP.

6. THE BOARD TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

DISCUSSION:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR- DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE- WE NEED TO STAY AWAY FROM USING THE RESERVES.

GRANTS WRITER- THESE ARE 100% PROPRIATIONS.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR- WHAT ARE THE FIRESTATIONS HURRICANE RATED?

GRANTS WRITER- THERE ARE RATED FOR A CAT 3, BUT WE WOULD REQUEST FOR THEM TO BE RATED FOR A CAT 5 HURRICANE.

BOARD AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES.

- 1) STEINHATCHEE FIRE STATION
- 2) SHADY GROVE FIRE STATION
- 3) KEATON BEACH FIRE STATION
- 4) ARENA COVERING AT THE FOREST CAPITAL HALL
- 5) EXPANSION OF EOC
- 6) GENERATORS FOR THE COURTHOUSE AND ROAD DEPARTMENT

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE- GETTING CALLS ABOUT GRANGER BRIDGE BEING UNSAFE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR- FDOT HAS INSTRUCTED THAT THE GRANGER BRIDGE MUST BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC AND REQUESTING TO REMOVE DECKING FROM THE BRIDGE TO ENSURE NO TRAFFIC AT ALL.

COMMISSIONER FEAGLE- GETTING CALLS AGAIN ABOUT MOSQUITOES.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND PLAN TO FOLLOW UP.

COMMISSIONER DEMPS-THERE IS A BIG TREE THAT FELL ON A COUNTY LOT.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR- WE WILL BRING AN INVENTORY OF COUNTY PROPERTY.

COMMISSIONER DEMPS- CASH STREET HOUSE IS ABOUT TO BE BLOWN DOWN AND NO ONE CAN FIND THE OWNER.

COMMISSIONER NEWMAN-THANKFUL TO SEE CAREER SOURCE AND SECOND HARVEST AND ALL THEIR EFFORTS.

COMMISSIONER MOODY-RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS ABOUT GETTING THE DEBRIS OUT OF THE HIGHWAY. I'VE TOLD PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE MORE PICKUPS COMING.

CHAIR ENGLISH-WHO DO WE CALL ABOUT AN INSPECTION IN A HOME FOR BLACK MOLD AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE HOME?

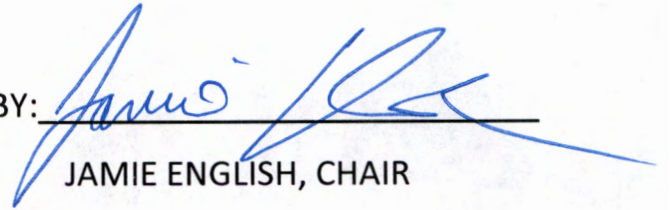
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-SEND IT TO ME AND I WILL HAVE IT LOOKED INTO.

THE HOUR BEING APPROXIMATELY 8:32 P.M., AND THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE WORKSHOP WAS ADJOURNED.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

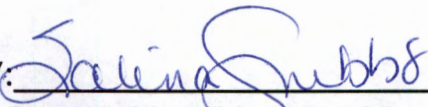
BY:



JAMIE ENGLISH, CHAIR

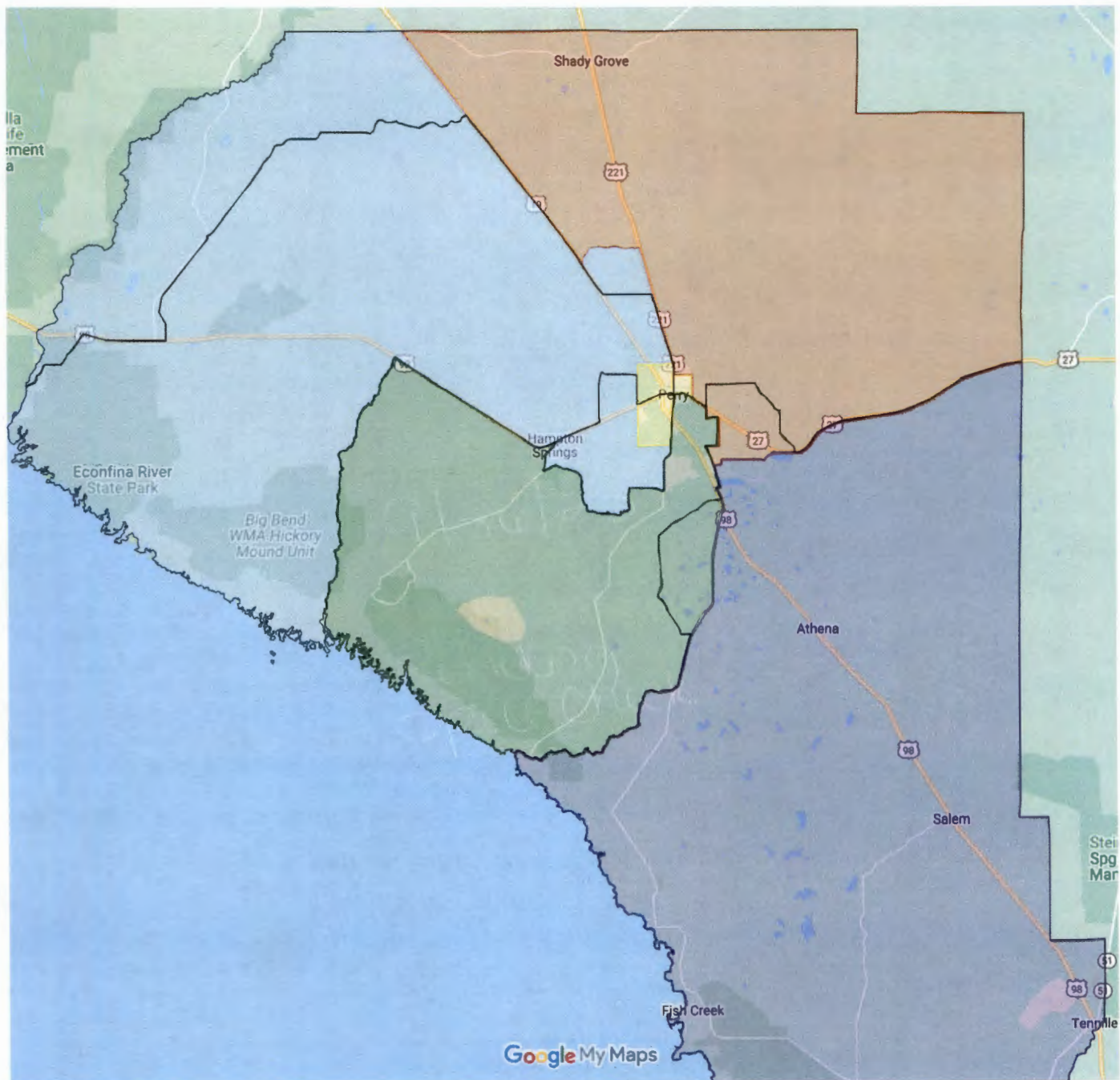
ATTEST:

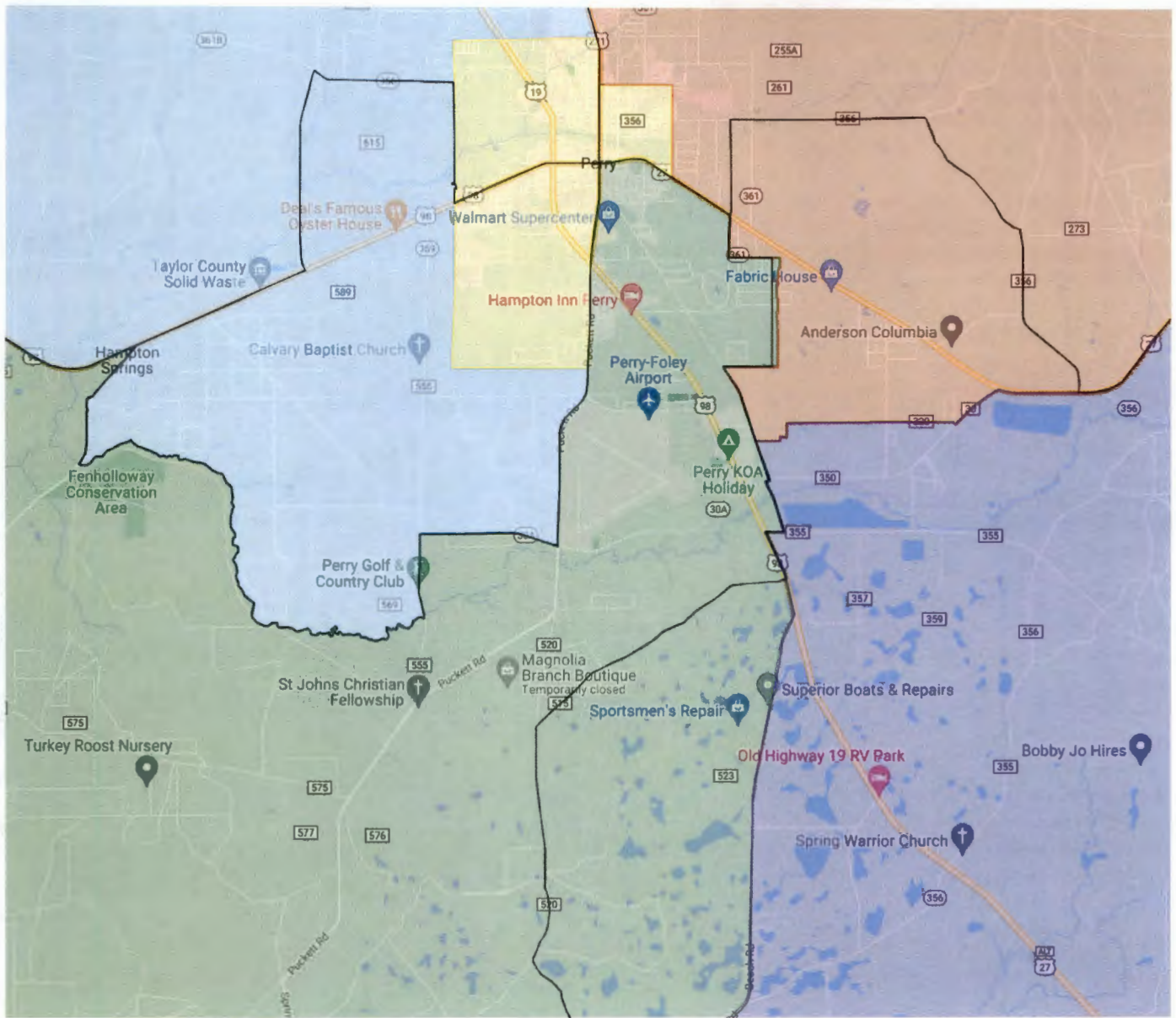
BY:



SALINA GRUBBS, D.C. FOR
GARY KNOWLES, CLERK OF COURT

Concept Map with Existing Map Overlaid in Black Lines





Taylor County Redistricting Workshop

August 29, 2023

Nicholas Warren, ACLU of Florida

ACLU

Florida

Overview & Roadmap

- Redistricting process and timeline
- Equal population: “one person, one vote” requirement
- The Voting Rights Act and *Bellamy* consent decrees
- State ban on gerrymandering
- Concept draft map

The Redistricting Process

Redistricting Process



County Commission Redistricting – Fla. Const. Art. VIII, § 1(e)

- *After each decennial census the board of county commissioners shall divide the county into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable.*

School Board Redistricting – Fla. Stat. § 1001.36(1)

- *For the purpose of electing district school board members, **each district shall be divided into at least five district school board member residence areas, which shall be numbered one to five, inclusive, and which shall, as nearly as practicable, be equal in population.***

Timing: 9-Month Buffer Before Election

- *Changes made in the boundaries of county commissioner districts may not be made in the 270 days before a regular general election for the board of county commissioners.*

—Fla. Stat. § 124.01(3)

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- School Boards: Fla. Stat. § 1001.36

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- School Boards: Fla. Stat. § 1001.36
- February 8, 2024

Equal Population:

“One Person, One Vote”

Equal Population

- **“The Equal Protection Clause requires substantially equal representation for all citizens, of all places as well as of all races.”**

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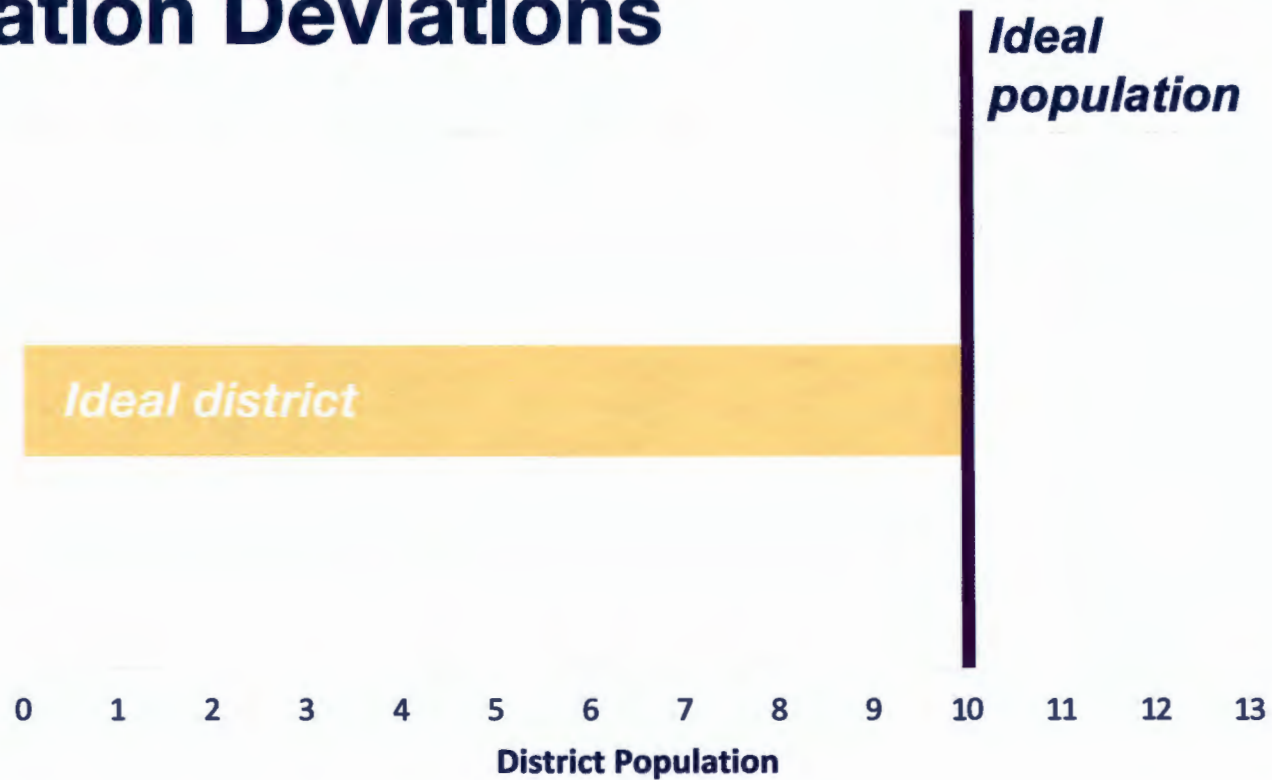
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 - *Gaffney v. Cummings*, U.S. Supreme Court, 1973

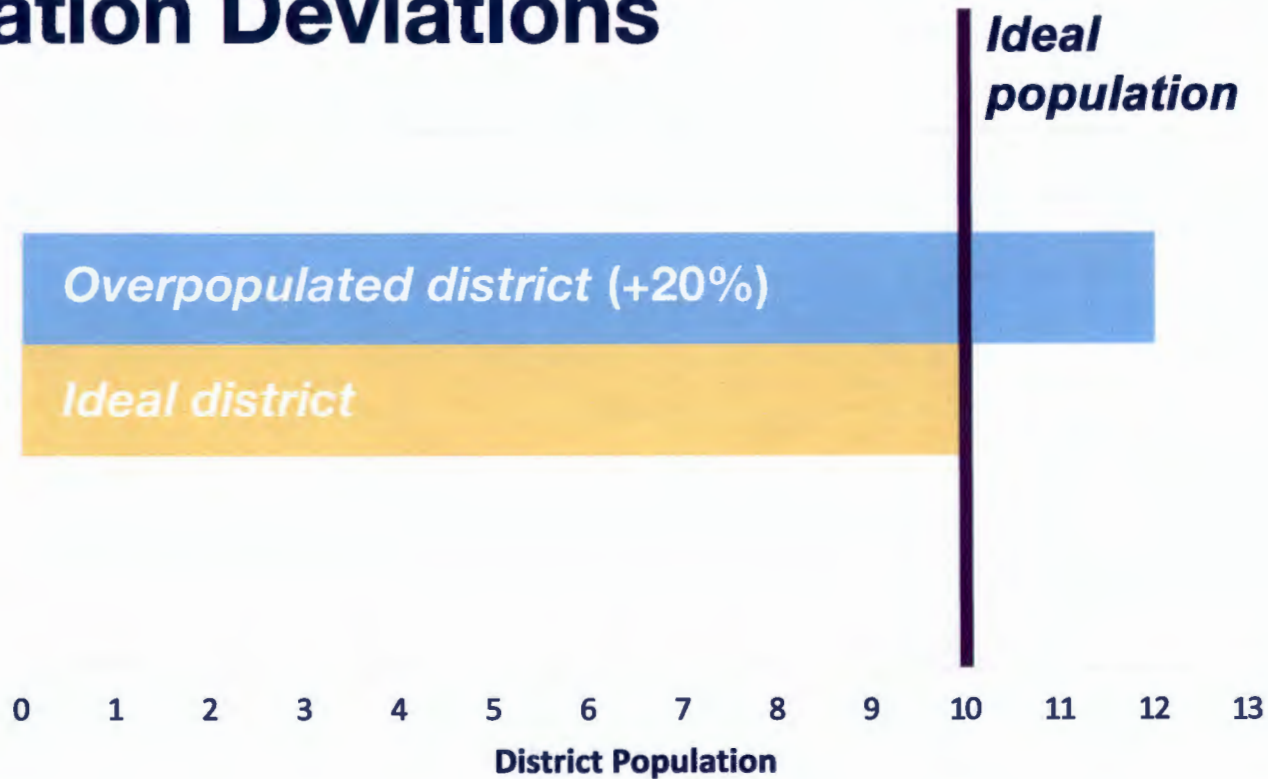
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- Deviations over 10% are presumptively unconstitutional
 - *Brown v. Thomson*, U.S. Supreme Court, 1983

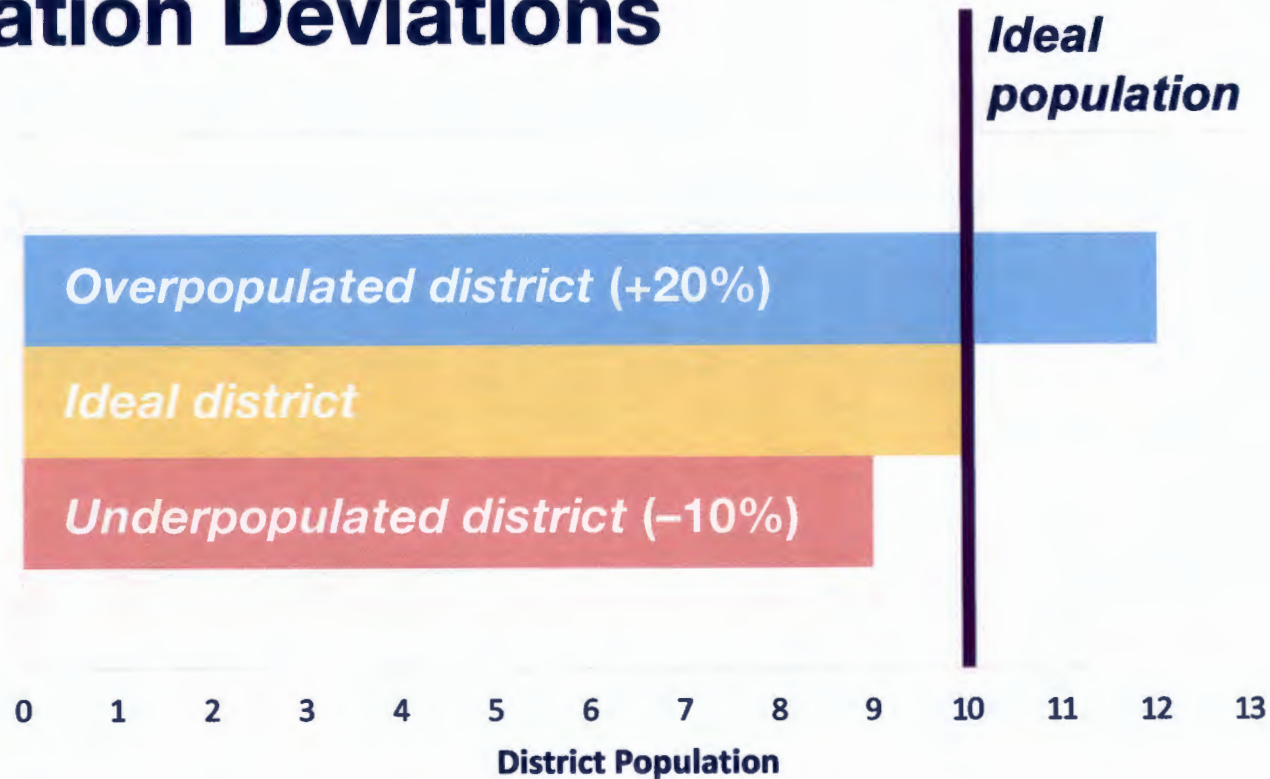
Population Deviations



Population Deviations



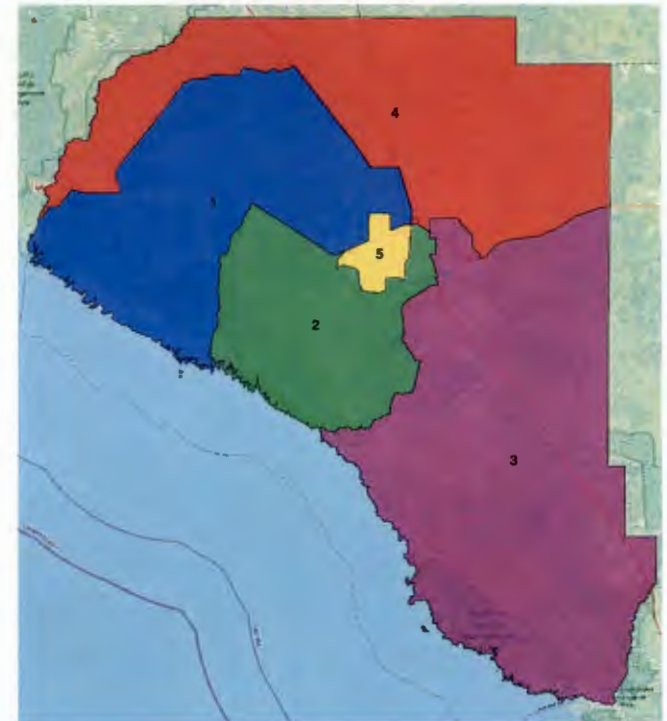
Population Deviations



Taylor County's District Populations

- Overall Deviation Range: 47.6%

District	Resident Population	Deviation	Percent Deviation
1	3,657	-250	-6.4%
2	3,558	-349	-8.9%
3	4,933	+1,026	+26.3%
4	4,314	+407	+10.4%
5	3,073	-834	-21.3%
County	19,535		



Other Legal Requirements:

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

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52 U.S.C. § 10301

(a) No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color ...

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52 U.S.C. § 10301

*(b) A violation of subsection (a) is established if, based on the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or political subdivision are not equally open to participation by members of a class of citizens protected by subsection (a) in that its **members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.***

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

The “Totality of the Circumstances” Test

Gingles Preconditions:

1. Minority group “sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district.”
2. Minority political cohesion
3. White bloc voting

The *Bellamy* Consent Decrees

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE DIVISION

AMOS BELLAMY, TOMMY B. WILLIAMS,)
WILLIE E. JOHNSON, CHARLIE MAE)
MILLER, ESSIE MAE ANDERSON, LILLIE)
M. JONES, LESSIE M. JOHNSON, MERY)
ANN JONES, ANNIE LEE PIGFORD,)
SHIRLEY G. CURRY, VELETA CURRY,)
E. K. "JACK" SCOTT, RANDOLPH)
WOODFAULK, and WALLACE NESBITT, on)
behalf of themselves and all others)
similarly situated,)

Plaintiffs,)

vs)

TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA; WALTER ROWELL,)
DELTON E. LUNDY, WALTER EDWIN HENDRY,)
ALBERT JOHNSON, JR., and JACKIE SHAW,)
County Commissioners of Taylor County,)
Florida, their seccessors and agents,)
all in their official capacities,)

Defendants.)

CIVIL ACTION NO.
TCA 83-7126 MMP

FINAL JUDGMENT

The *Bellamy* Consent Decrees

FINAL JUDGMENT

On April 29, 1983, the above named Plaintiffs filed their Complaint against the above named Defendants alleging that at-large county-wide voting for members of the Taylor County Commission under the Commission form of government in Taylor County excludes black representation and participation and minimizes and cancels out black voting strength in violation of their rights secured by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, Pub. L. No. 97-205, § 3, 96 Stat. 134 (1982), amending 42 U.S.C. §1973, et seq. (hereafter "Voting Rights Act").

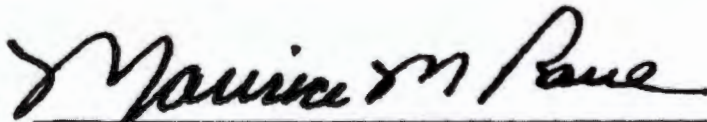
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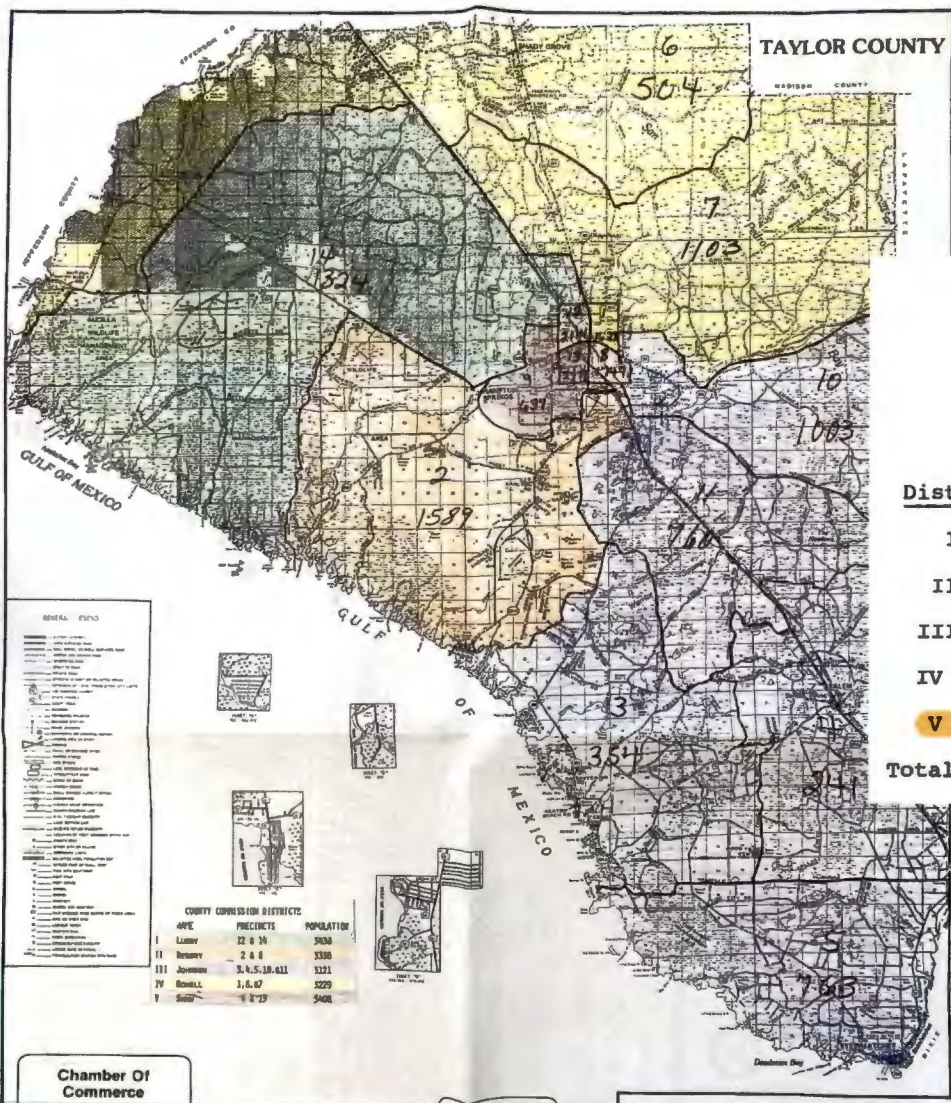
4. That due to a series of factors including a history of official racial discrimination within Taylor County and the State of Florida and racially polarized voting in elections within Taylor County, the at-large election systems for the Taylor County Commission has had the effect of denying the black citizens of Taylor County an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their own choice in violation of Plaintiffs' rights under the Voting Rights Act.

The *Bellamy* Consent Decrees

6. The attached "Election Plan", Appendices 1 through 3, sets forth the mechanism and plan for Taylor County, Florida, to conduct elections for the members of the County Commission in accordance with the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, the Court finds that the "Election Plan" as submitted is a proper remedy in this action, and is adopted and incorporated by reference into this Final Judgment as attached.

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED this 7th day of December, 1983.


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA REFLECTING POPULATION AND
VOTER REGISTRATION BY PROPOSED COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

District	Population				Registered Voters			
	Total	White	Black/other		Total	White	Black/other	
I	3,438	2,862	549	27	1,521	1,372	142	7
II	3,336	3,248	21	67	1,276	1,261	7	8
III	3,121	3,011	85	25	1,251	1,235	14	2
IV	3,229	2,688	500	41	1,617	1,459	153	5
V	3,408	1,023	2,368	17	1,134	463	669	2
Totals	16,532	12,832	3,523	177	6,799	5,790	985	24

Other Legal Requirements:
State Ban on Gerrymandering

Fla. Stat. §§ 124.01, 1001.36

H.B. 411 (2023)

Districts may not be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a candidate for county commission/school board or an incumbent county commissioner/school board member based on the candidate's or incumbent's residential address.

Fla. Stat. §§ 124.01, 1001.36

H.B. 411 (2023)

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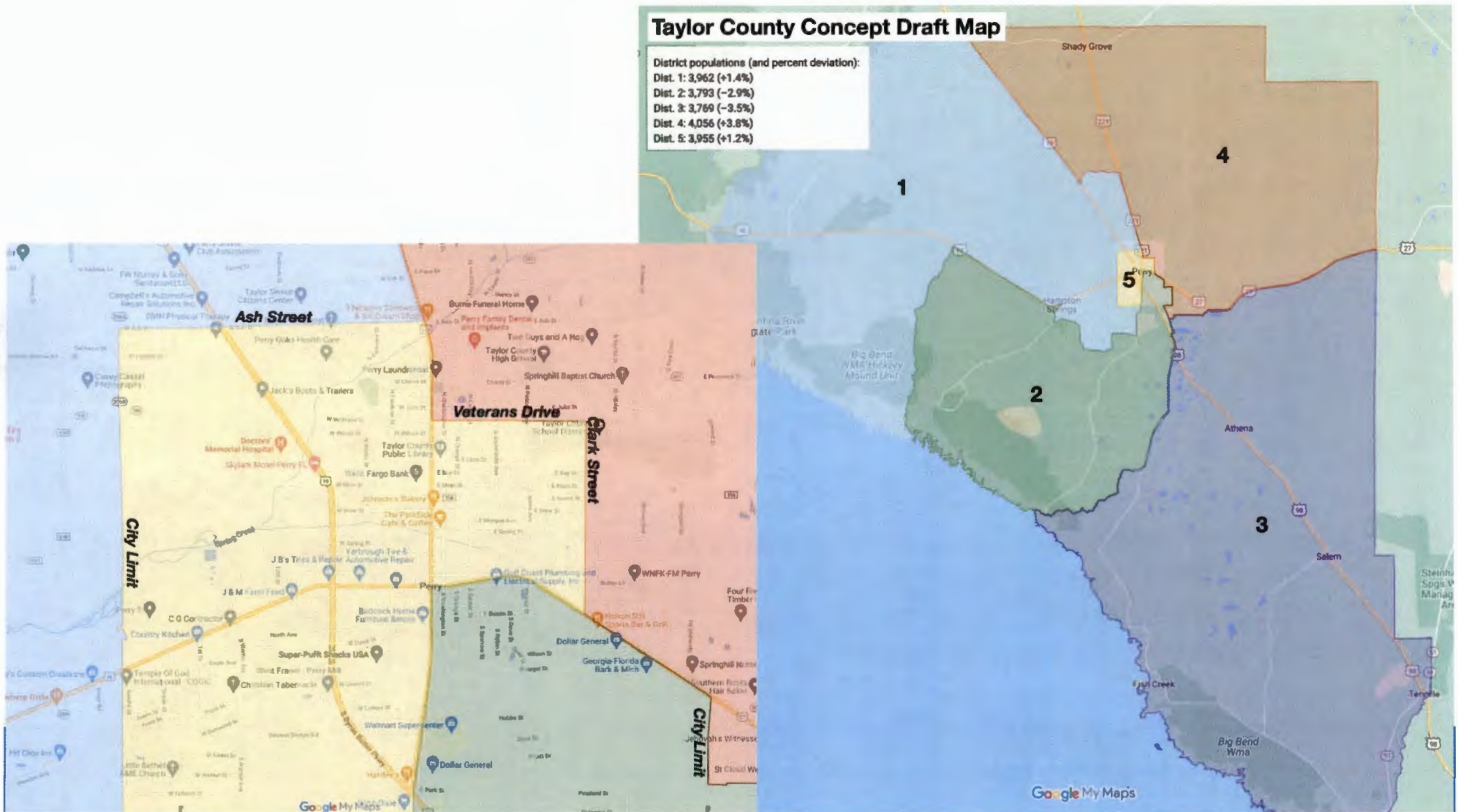
Bottom Line: Don't take candidate or incumbent addresses into account

Concept Draft Map

Taylor County Concept Draft Map

District populations (and percent deviation):

- Dist. 1: 3,962 (+1.4%)
- Dist. 2: 3,793 (-2.9%)
- Dist. 3: 3,769 (-3.5%)
- Dist. 4: 4,056 (+3.8%)
- Dist. 5: 3,955 (+1.2%)





For more information:

Nicholas Warren, Staff Attorney
nwarren@aclufl.org

ACLU

WE THE PEOPLE

Hurricane Idalia^① Steinhatchee FI 2023

