Florida lawmakers begin redistricting process

The Florida Senate recently released four staff produced maps that carve out Florida's new congressional district in an area between Tampa and Orlando, but otherwise left most districts intact beyond necessary changes to add what will be the state's 28th congressional district. Florida's population growth of 2.7 million new residents between 2010 and 2020 led to the new seat in the once-every-decade redistricting process, according to a report published by MSN.com.

While the maps appear to adhere to a voter-approved constitutional amendment, the process is far from over. The House also has to propose maps, and senators can decide to scrap its staff recommendations and approve completely different maps.

The Senate has vowed to follow the constitution, which requires contiguous districts that aren't drawn to favor a political party or incumbent. That promise was made after a three-year court battle the last time the state drew political maps.

Source: www.floridaredistricting.gov

According to a report in the Tampa Bay Times, the House will draw the map for its 120 districts, and it has announced no plans to release drafts.

The biggest changes to the congressional maps appear to be in Central Florida, where Florida's congressional District 9, held by Democratic Rep. Darren Soto, grew faster than any other congressional district in the nation over the last decade as the region became home to many new residents who accounted for the state's 2.7 million net increase in population since 2010, the Times reported.
Florida set to receive more than $19 billion from infrastructure bill

On Monday, Pres. Joe Biden signed the $1 trillion infrastructure bill, a historic piece of legislation that will pour money into upgrading bridges, roads, transit, and utility systems across the country.

According to a fact sheet from the White House, Florida is in line to receive just over $19 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which got final approval last week from the U.S. House. In addition to money for roads, bridges, airports and broadband, the package will provide money for such things as electric-vehicle charging networks, wildfire protection, cyber security and water improvements over the next five years.

The bill will allow states to compete for additional money tied to highways, bridges and electric-vehicle charging stations. Florida should also draw some of the $3.5 billion designated for a national weatherization program intended to reduce energy costs for families.

Source: CBSMiami.com

Breakdown of Florida Infrastructure Money

- $13.1 billion for highway programs and $245 million for bridge replacements and repairs
- $2.6 billion to improve public transportation across the state
- $1.6 billion for water improvements
- $1.2 billion for airport development
- $198 million to expand an electric vehicle charging network
- A minimum of $100 million to expand broadband coverage, with a projection that it will provide access to at least 707,000 Floridians
- $29 million for cybersecurity
- $26 million to protect against wildfires

Source: CBSMiami.com

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 continues to be a global health emergency. As coronavirus cases continue to increase, it’s important to stay informed.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control’s website for more information on preventing and preparing against COVID-19.
Bookmark the Florida Department of Health’s COVID-19 Response website to retrieve coronavirus information and resources specific to the state of Florida.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

TREATMENT

Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection—in this case, SARS-CoV-2—and are given to patients directly with an infusion. That’s why mAb treatment may help patients who are at high risk for serious symptoms or having to stay in the hospital.

TESTING

Free testing for COVID-19 is available statewide at designated locations. Testing also is available at CVS, Quest Diagnostics, and Walgreens.

For additional assistance, reach out to your local County Health Department.

VACCINATION

Florida has many sites that are providing COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective, and free.

Appointments may be required, and specific vaccine types and brands may not be available at all sites.

HOUSING RESOURCES

Evictions are underway in light of the Supreme Court’s recent decision to strike down the Biden Administration’s eviction moratorium.

There is help for renters facing eviction. OURFlorida.com is Florida’s federally-funded emergency rental assistance relief program to support residents and businesses as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
continue to recover and rebuild.

More information, including a tenant checklist and documentation needed to apply, is available on the OurFlorida website.

CONTINUUM OF CARE

Continuums of Care (CoC) are organizations composed of representatives of nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, etc.

The Florida Department of Children and Family Services has compiled a list of CoC contacts. Follow the link to contact a local lead agency.

LEARN MORE

TENANT'S RIGHTS

According to the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, landlords must notify a tenant in writing of any perceived noncompliance except for the failure to pay rent.

Each eviction case is unique, so be sure to obtain legal advice. A landlord MAY NOT evict solely in retaliation for the tenant complaining to a governmental agency about code violations or asserting other tenant rights.

Visit the FLDACS website for more information about evictions and tenant's rights.

LEARN MORE

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Got some good news to share about your agency? Complete the form to share events and happenings with the FACA network.

FORM

FACA SOCIAL MEDIA

FACA is now on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter! Follow us today for news and updates about organization events, people, and partners.