

REAPPORTIONMENT, REDISTRICTING AND REPRECINCTING

Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections

January 18, 2011

Some very important events will be happening from now until fall 2012 that will impact our elections in Orange County as well as the rest of the United States. These events are reapportionment, redistricting and reprecincting.

Reapportionment: As required by the U. S. Constitution, every 10 years a count is made of every man, woman and child in the country by the Census Bureau. These population counts are used to decide how many of the 435 congressional seats each state gets in the U. S. House of Representatives. As a result of the 2010 Census, Florida gained 2 more seats for a total of 27. The largest congressional delegation is California with 53, Texas is second with 36, and Florida and New York with 27 each are tied for the third and fourth. Those 27 congressional seats, combined with our 2 U. S. Senate seats, equals 29 Electoral College votes for Florida.

Redistricting: It is the responsibility of each State Legislature to use the population counts released by the Census Bureau (per Public Law 94-171) to create the actual congressional districts that contain approximately an equal number of people. The legislature will also use these PL 94-171 census counts to redraw the State Senate and State House into equal districts.

The Florida legislature will hold statewide public hearings in the summer and fall of 2011 and begin their work on the Federal and State districts when the session starts on January 10, 2012. Those new districts must be through all Governor, Supreme Court and Justice Department reviews in time for federal and state candidate qualifying to begin on June 18th, 2012.

Here in Orange County, those same census population numbers will be used to create new single member county and several city districts. This year Redistricting Advisory Committees (RAC) will be appointed to begin working on the Orange County Commission, Orange County School Board, City of Orlando, and if needed, City of Winter Garden and City of Ocoee districts and should be completed by the fall of 2011

Reprecincting: All of these district line changes must then be reflected in the county and city voting precinct lines that are used by the Elections office to determine where a person votes and what ballot they will receive. New city districts will be in effect for the spring 2012 city elections and new county districts will be in effect for the fall 2012 county elections. Before the elections, every voter in Orange County will be notified of these changes.

In summary, as a result of reapportionment, redistricting and reprecincting, a voter in Orange County could be assigned to a new precinct, go to a new polling place and be in a new district with a new set of elected officials.

Websites: These websites have information about census, redistricting and elections:

www.census.gov

www.census.gov/rdo

www.ncsl.org

www.doe.dos.state.fl.us

www.ocfelections.com

United States Census Bureau

Census Bureau redistricting website

National Conference of State Legislatures

Florida Division of Elections

Orange County Supervisor of Elections

Orange County, Florida
State and Local Redistricting Timeline 2011-2012

(All dates are subject to change)

2011

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| January | <u>Census Bureau</u> geography (TIGER) data release |
| February - March | <u>Census Bureau</u> population (PL 94-171) data release |
| Early 2011 | <u>Redistricting Advisory Committees</u> begin creating new county and city districts |
| July – October | <u>Florida Legislature</u> holds Statewide Public Hearings |
| Fall 2011 | <u>Redistricting Advisory Committees</u> completed, new districts submitted and approved (may need to be earlier for cities) |

2012

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| January 10 | <u>Florida Legislature</u> regular session convenes, begins creating Federal and State districts |
| January – March | <u>Supervisor of Elections</u> can evaluate state plans and provide feedback and suggested changes |
| March 9 | <u>Florida Legislature</u> regular session ends, final districts approved |
| March – June | <u>Governor, Supreme Court and Department of Justice</u> review of state plans |
| June | <u>Florida Legislature</u> releases final district lines to Elections Office |
| June 18-22 | Federal, State, and Local candidate qualifying |
| June – early July | <u>Supervisor of Elections</u> creates new county precincts to match redrawn Federal, State, and County district lines |
| August 18 | <u>Supervisor of Elections</u> conducts Primary Election, first election with new districts |
| November 6 | <u>Supervisor of Elections</u> conducts General Election with new districts |
| November 2012 to January 2013 | – elected officials sworn in and begin serving on new districts. Effective dates based on each jurisdiction. |