

ADVOCACY TRAINING



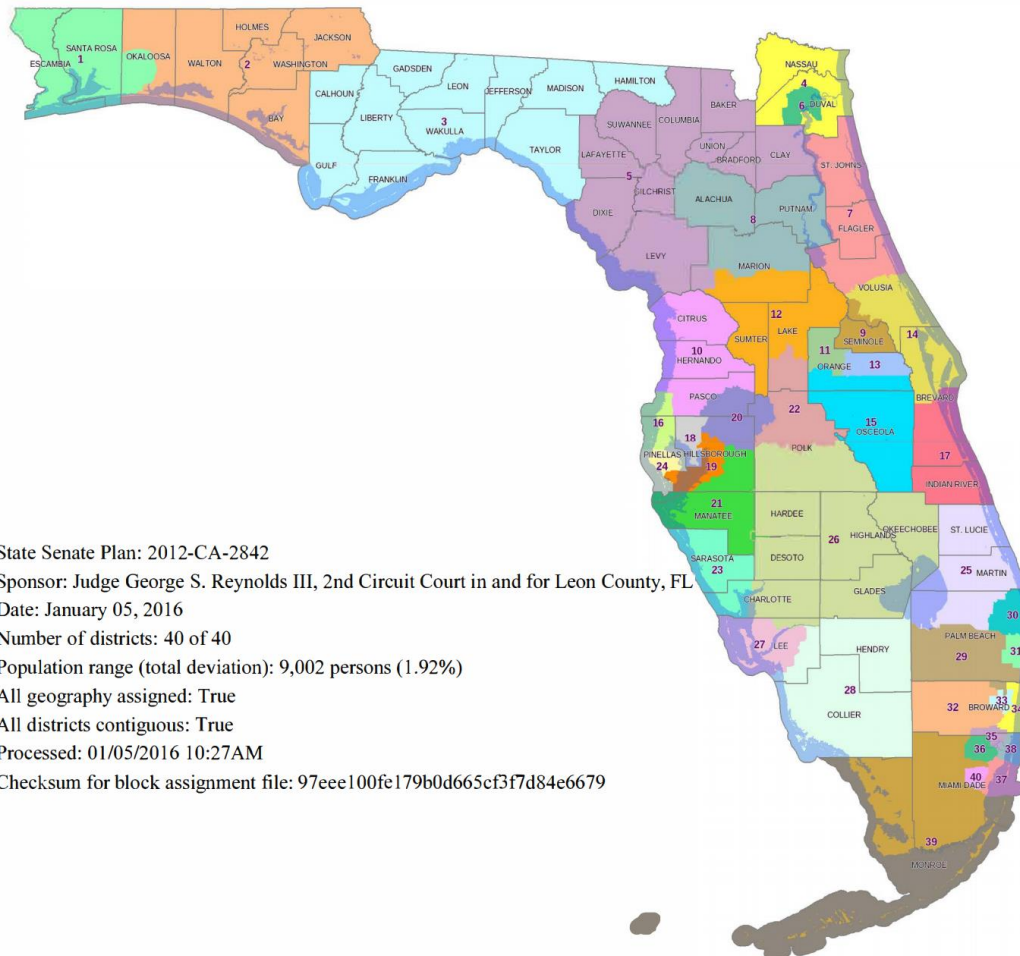
AARP[®]
Real Possibilities

AARP

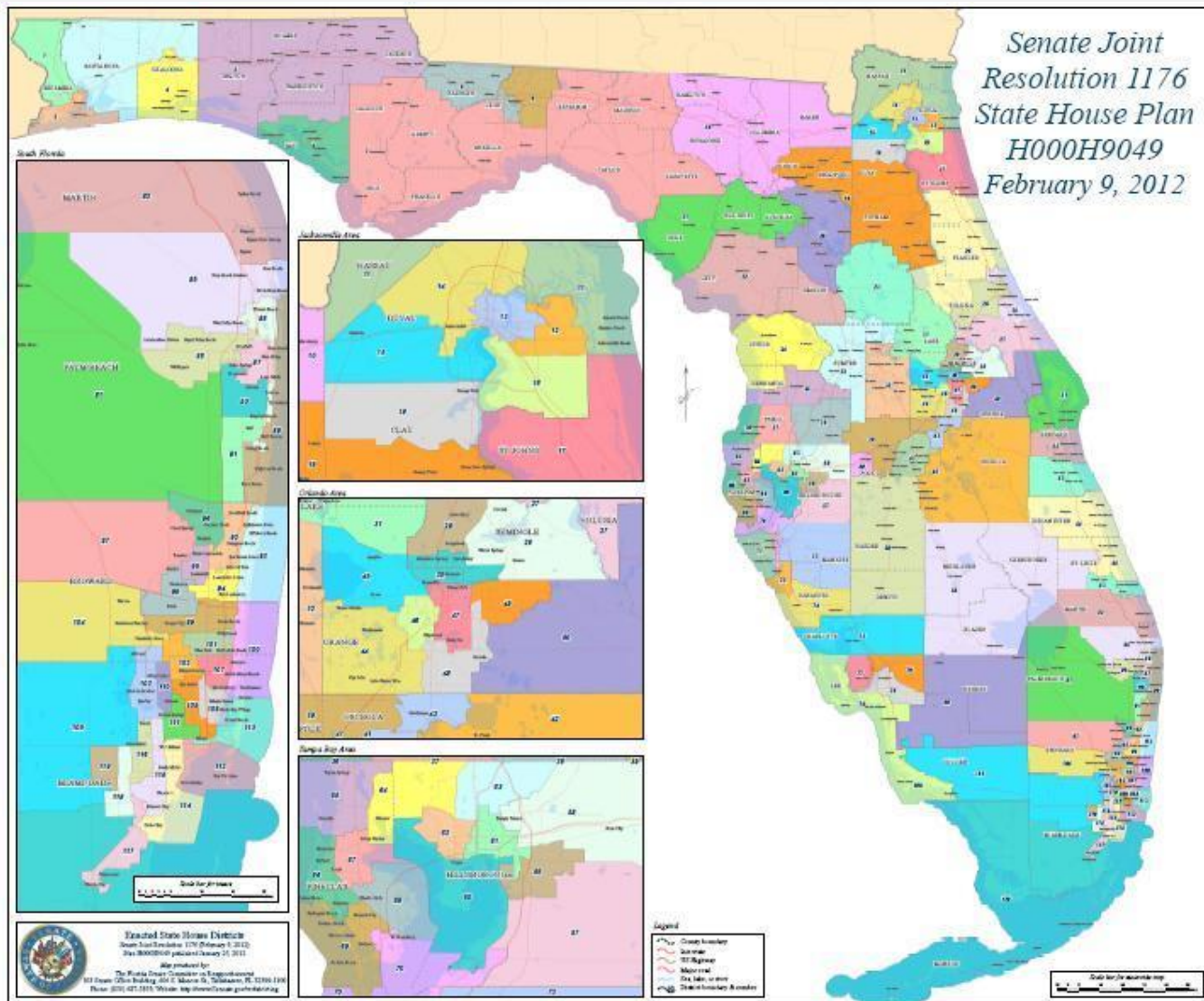


Map of Florida State Senate Districts

Florida State Senate Districts State Senate Plan: 2012-CA-2842 Judge George S. Reynolds III 2nd Circuit Court in and for Leon County, FL



Map of Florida State House Districts



Florida Legislative Process



Florida Legislature Basics



- The Florida Legislature meets once a year for 60 days
- Total of 160 members:
 - 40 Senators
 - 120 Representatives
- Term limits: House members may be elected for up to four terms (eight years) and Senate members two terms (eight years)
- Each House member may file up to six bills
- There is no bill limit for Senators

Legislative Leaders



President of the Senate

The **President of the Senate** presides over the Senate, and the **Speaker of the House** presides over the House of Representatives.

- appointing members to committees.
- appointing chairs of committees.
- choosing which committees will hear bills.
- ruling on procedural matters during sessions.



Speaker of the House

President Pro Tempore and **Speaker Pro Tempore** are defined by the President or Speaker and the Senate or House Rules.

Meeting with an Elected Official

**Before you meet,
know your
audience, as
much as
possible.**

Familiarize yourself with the issue(s)

Organize your material & thoughts

Be yourself and be honest

Be energetic

Mind your manners, even when you
disagree

Remember your reason for being there

Legislative Advocacy Tips

Remember

- Elected officials work for us!
- Contact is key

Increase Impact

- Spread your message
- Writing is powerful

Things to do

- Do your homework
- Manage expectations

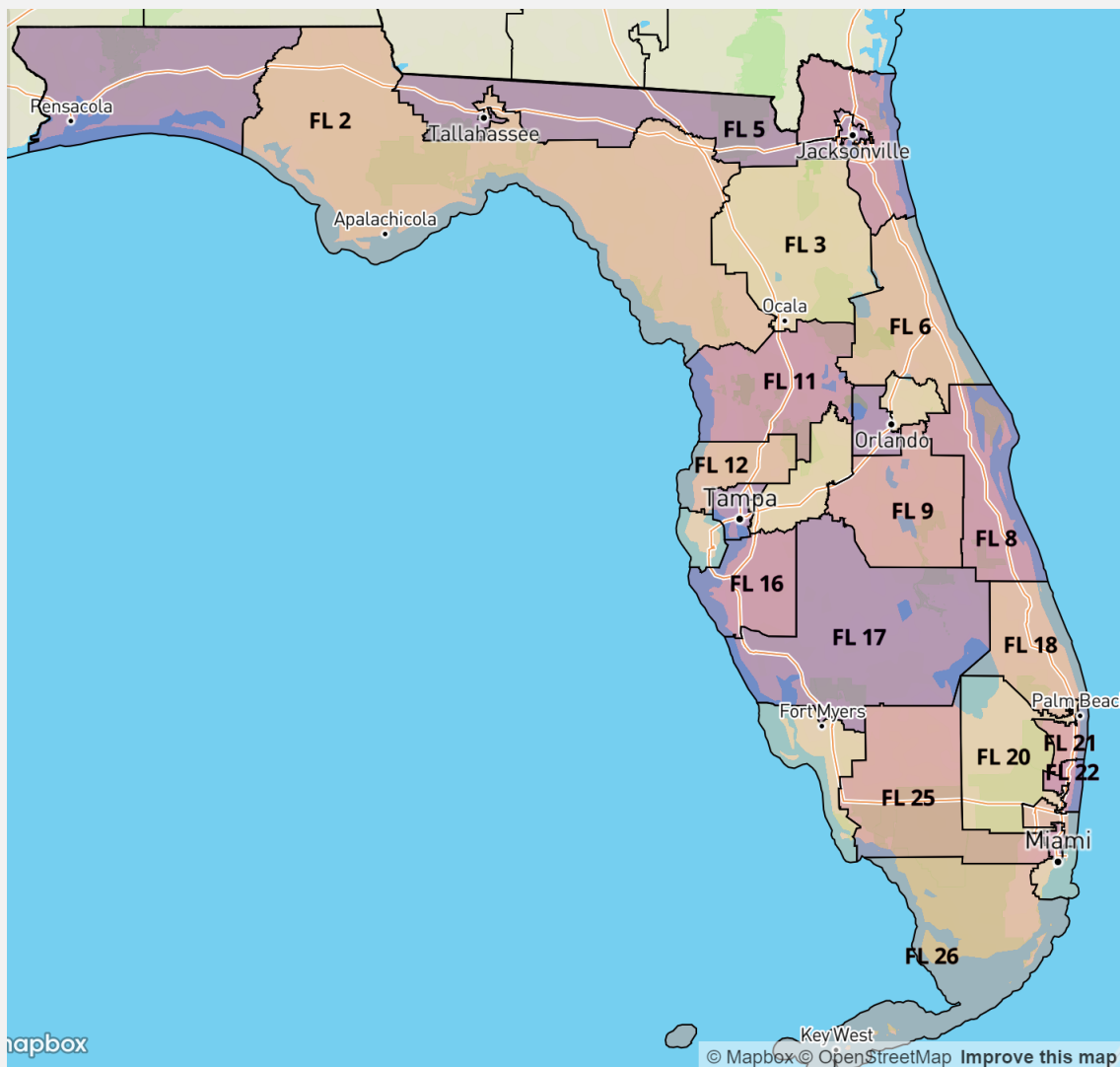
After meeting

- Take your notes
- Report back to AARP staff

How a bill becomes a law (Federal)



Map of Florida Congressional Districts



- FL 1: **Matt Gaetz** (R) (2017)
- FL 2: **Neal Dunn** (R) (2017)
- FL 3: **Ted Yoho** (R) (2011)
- FL 4: **John Rutherford** (R) (2017)
- FL 5: **Al Lawson** (D) (2017)
- FL 6: **Michael Waltz** (R) (2019)
- FL 7: **Stephanie Murphy** (D) (2017)
- FL 8: **Bill Posey** (R) (2009)
- FL 9: **Darren Soto** (D) (2017)
- FL 10: **Val Demings** (D) (2017)
- FL 11: **Daniel Webster** (R) (2011)
- FL 12: **Gus Bilirakis** (R) (2007)
- FL 13: **Charlie Crist** (D) (2017)
- FL 14: **Kathy Castor** (D) (2007)
- FL 15: **Ross Spano** (R) (2019)
- FL 16: **Vern Buchanan** (R) (2007)
- FL 17: **Greg Steube** (R) (2019)
- FL 18: **Brian Mast** (R) (2017)
- FL 19: **Francis Rooney** (R) (2017)
- FL 20: **Alcee Hastings** (D) (1993)
- FL 21: **Lois Frankel** (D) (2010)
- FL 22: **Ted Deutch** (D) (2013)
- FL 23: **Debbie Wasserman** (D) (2005)
- FL 24: **Frederica Wilson** (D) (2011)
- FL 25: **Mario Díaz-Balart** (R) (2003)
- FL 26: **Debbie Mucarsel-Powell** (D) (2019)
- FL 27: **Donna Shalala** (D) (2019)



The FREA Mission

- ♦ To safeguard the strength of the Florida Retirement System
- ♦ To support public education in Florida
- ♦ To provide fellowship opportunities
- ♦ To encourage community involvement
- ♦ To be a source of information and materials

**FREA is an important resources for its members,
Both as a provider of information and
also as a conduit for guiding effective advocacy.**

The Federal Legislative Process

- Retiree voices REALLY matter – Legislators WANT to know what real people, especially their constituents, think about policy issues.
- Retired educators are leaders in their communities.
- Retired educators influence policymakers on issues related to their pensions and health care.

Advocacy Volunteer Roles

Issues Specialist

- Expertise in priority legislative issues

Grassroots Advocacy

- Creates a visible presence for **FREA** in a district

Congressional or State Volunteer

- Dedicated to visiting state and/or Congressional legislators

Eposodic

- Attends rallies, contracts elected via phone, email or social media

Key Contact

- Uses personal relationship with elected

Speakers Bureau

- Represents **FREA** at community events & functions*

What Can We Do?

Three steps for REAs:

1. Contact Senators and Congress. If you cannot go to a Congressman or Senator's District Office, you can reach out via phone, email, or set up virtual meetings.
2. Deliver your key messages via coordinated Letter Writing Campaigns.
3. Consider strategic media ads, LTEs, and Op-eds in local papers.



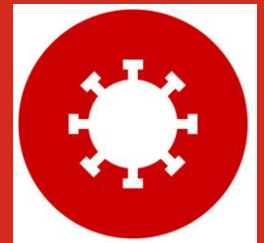
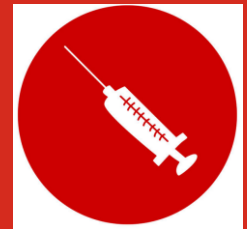
Real Possibilities



Success in 2020

Despite the challenges with traditional advocacy in 2020, our volunteers and retirees have seen success on both the state and federal level. On the Federal level specifically, through coordinated efforts early in 2020 we saw wins on issues like:

- Medicare
- Increased Funding to Improve Safety and Telehealth Services
- PPE for Nursing Homes
- State and Local Funding
- Increased SNAP Benefits



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Real Possibilities



Questions



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