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Community Advocacy Network Alert



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Our legislators are back and back again to the drawing board. This week, our legislators returned to Tallahassee and submitted their third attempt in as many years to redraw many of the state congressional districts required by the Florida Supreme Court. The "Supremes" recently ruled on July 9th that the 2010 legislature's re-districting was "Unconstitutional and Discriminatory, " violating the Voting Rights Act of 1964. We've reported on this before ([click here](#) to see CAN Alert: Crayons Anyone?), but now we're in the middle of another Special Session and tensions are flaring. Today's CAN Alert will bring you up to speed on the drama in the statehouse (Big House).

The proposed map of new districts will lead to a dramatic shift of Florida's political landscape, and many incumbent legislators-democrats and republicans alike-are not happy. While the Special Session ends August 21st, lawsuits are now being filed on both sides of the aisle as legislators try to hold on to their preferred previously drawn lines in the sand. A spokeswoman for Jacksonville Democrat Corrine Brown told the Tampa Bay Times she would file a lawsuit to keep District 5 as it currently stands. Republicans are just as outraged. U.S. Congressional Representative Republican Daniel Webster implored the state representatives to vote down the new map as well.

Florida State Senate Democratic Leader Arthenia Joyner of Tampa, dismissed both republican and democratic complaints, said it best to a reporter from the Tampa Bay Times: "Politics. Everyone wants to protect their own territory. That's how we got into this mess."



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But there's more of a "mess" to report! An upcoming CAN Alert will outline another Special Session in October, which will include redistricting ALL 40 of the Florida State Senate Districts. With ongoing litigation beginning to boil, the Florida Supreme Court's decision might affect these lawsuits concerning the senate districts.

Usually state legislators are enjoying their summer vacations right now, but instead they're filing law suits and making scathing speeches in the statehouse. We'll keep you updated on any more developments in the Florida State House and the Senate!

Warmest personal regards.

Yours in community,

Alan B. Garfinkel, Esq.
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and Community Advocacy Network, Chairman

The Community Advocacy Network (CAN) is Florida's leading voice for the interests of 60,000 community associations statewide, leading the fight against over-regulation of private residential communities by state and local governments. Each year since its inception in 2007, CAN spearheads important State legislative reforms designed to protect and enhance Florida Community association living, CAN continues to foster financial stability and operational integrity to all common-interest ownership communities statewide.

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