

FairDistricts Amendments 5 and 6: A Vote to Restore Real Democracy in Florida

This November, vote for government
that serves the people, not the politicians.

Vote for fair representation
at the state and federal levels.

VOTE YES ON AMENDMENTS 5 AND 6!

On November 2, 2010, we have a chance to make a real difference in Florida by voting YES on Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6. These are called the **FairDistricts Amendments** and our **YES** votes will impact our state for generations to come.

Every ten years, Florida legislators redraw Congressional and state legislative district lines (House and Senate). When they do, they have no rules to follow so they design districts to protect themselves and ensure their own reelections. To accomplish this, they meet in back rooms, look up voter registrations and how folks voted in previous elections, decide which voters would be favorable to them, and put those voters into "sure win" districts. Legislators have no real opposition to worry about. In the last ten years, out of 505 incumbent legislators up for re-election, only 10 have been defeated! Yes, over 98% of incumbent legislators have won re-election!

As a result, while the politicians are almost guaranteed re-election, the citizens of Florida lose. Districts are bizarrely shaped and it is not uncommon for a politician to live over a hundred miles from some of the people they represent. Districts sometimes go from the Atlantic to the Gulf. These rigged districts senselessly splinter Florida's communities. Some small towns have four different members of Congress representing them. Instead of voters choosing their representatives, politicians have been choosing their voters.

FairDistricts Amendments 5 and 6 will put an end to this self-interested practice. These amendments will prohibit the drawing of lines to benefit incumbents and political parties. They will also require politicians to draw districts that are compact and follow existing city, county and geographical boundaries. And they will create strong protections for minority voting rights.

The FairDistricts Amendments have been widely endorsed by nonpartisan groups, including the Florida League of Cities, Florida League of Mayors, Florida Association of Counties, League of Women Voters of Florida, Florida NAACP, Democracia Ahora, and numerous others. ♦

**For more information about
Amendments 5 and 6, please visit
www.fairdistrictsflorida.org**



The senator lives in his district in Palm Beach County but the district also spans 115 miles across the state to Ft. Myers and covers parts of five counties.

Florida newspapers unanimously support the
FairDistricts Amendments.
Here is what some of them say:

**"Amendments 5 & 6 will give control of elections
back to Florida's voters, where it belongs."**

- *The Miami Herald*

**"Opponents of the amendments should just be
honest about it and admit they don't want to change
a system that helps them hold on to power."**

- *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*

**"This bipartisan campaign deserves
broad bipartisan support."**

- *Palm Beach Post*

**"End the political gerrymandering
that harms democracy."**

- *Florida Today*



The Pinellas part
of this district does not
touch any other land
in the district!
It is only connected
by a causeway over
Tampa Bay.

Vote YES on Amendments 5 & 6

The founding fathers intended
for voters to choose their
politicians -- not the other way around.
Let's restore true democracy to Florida!

JOIN US!

