



Daytona Regional

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

05/07/2022

Federal Court Won't Hear the Florida Redistricting Map Before Midterm

Most Floridians know that Florida has picked up a new congressional seat, bringing the total to 28 after the results of the 2020 census. The real debate started with where that seat was going to end up.

The redistricting process was charged to the Florida Legislature to create the new Florida House, Senate, and Congressional maps during the 2022 legislative session. After completing the maps, the maps take two different paths for approval. The Florida House and Senate maps go before the Florida Supreme Court for approval, whereas the Congressional maps go to the Governor's desk.

The Florida Supreme Court ratified the new House and Senate maps, substantiating the new districts for the next ten years. The Congressional maps were sent to Governor DeSantis for approval, but he ultimately vetoed them.

The Governor called for a special session to create new congressional maps following his veto. The new congressional maps were passed and signed by the Governor.

Following the passage of the congressional maps, multiple lawsuits were filed, claiming that the new maps violated the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

After the plaintiffs changed the argument brought before the court, the federal judge canceled the trial slated to start on May 12th, stating there was not enough time before the May 13th deadline election officials required to prepare for the midterm.

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The congressional maps can still be challenged in court. Lee County Supervisor of Election Tommy Doyle pointed out that a lawsuit was filed back in 2012 over district lines, but the matter didn't get settled until the 2016 election. Outside of the federal lawsuit, separate state cases have been filed disputing the maps.

Based on the current maps, Volusia County is poised to have two congressional districts; districts 6 and 7.

