



TampaNewsAndTalk.com

Al Mccray
Managing Editor

Minority voting districts hurts Minorities

Tis the season to finalize the voting districts in Florida and across the nation. This is an every decade event due to the census results. The voters' districts are realigned because of population growth, folks moving around and politics. Some states may actually lose districts and other may gain districts. This is especially true with congressional seats.

The party in power tries to have the lines drawn to their advantage to protect their power base. The party out of power does what it can to strengthen and expand their districts. Or they simply want to make sure they don't have less after reapportionment.

In the planning and creation of minority voting districts, to insure a minority get elected, the Democrats are more than eager to accommodate minorities for one main reason; throw them a bone to keep them on the liberal gravy chain. The Republican on the surface, because their conservative voter base, generally are not helpful with creating these districts.

When you elect a minority from a minority pack voting district, minorities lose influence in the surrounding districts. Unsuspecting minorities fall for this disenfranchise scheme all the time. Now more than any time since the 'War Between the States', minority elected officials are more ineffective, lack influence, and can't get any bills passed by themselves. Even though minority candidates are just as smart

and talented as their counter parts, being one out of five won't project the same influence.

These ineffective minority representatives are left to minor and marginal roles like show boating, providing lip service to their district and co-sponsoring bills with their White counter parts. Being heavily outnumbered in the legislature, what else can they do?

Let me break it down. In the creation of a minority voting districts, it required drawing the district lines in such a way that you snare minorities in significant numbers into a concentrated area or be drawn in weird patterns that captures minorities. The result is that the surrounding districts are left with so few minorities that the elected officials can simply ignore the issues effecting minorities. Politicians respond to campaign donations and voters head count. If the surrounding districts are left with a minority head counts in the singular digit percentile or less, those minorities don't really have influence. If the minority districts had not been created, the head count of minorities in surrounding districts could be in the low to mid double digit percentile. Those higher percentiles will garner respect from politicians.

The different minorities in the surrounding districts can create alliances with other minority groups and become a significant percentile. These alliances will have the influence needed where their concerns will be addressed. When you influence a representative, that representative will spread that influence to other elected representatives. You see that representative, for reelection, will be force to promote, or not ignore the minority issues.

Minority must decide; which is the best and more productive way to be represented. Having one elected ineffective minority (no matter how qualified they are), or be able to influence the decisions of three to five representatives?

I think it is best to influence the greatest numbers of representatives even if that causes a qualified minority not be elected from a minority district.

I have not seen the new voting districts for Florida or for my county of Hillsborough. There were constitutional amendments to the drawing of districts. But they mainly address drawing the lines for non-political protection and logically deciding how the lines are drawn. But rest assured there won't be less minority voting districts. The Civil Rights Voting Acts also plays a part to insure that there will be minority voter districts.

Republicans benefits from minority districts in several ways. Some of them are very obvious. Firstly bunching minorities in one district almost insures the odds that the surrounding districts will elect Republicans, and secondly, once a Republican is elected, he or she can continue the assault on civil rights, labor unions, and the poor and rights restorations.

While any minority should take pride in seeing one of their own elected, the winner should come from a district where minority districts were not specially crafted. The euphoria on election night of seeing a minority elected is really a blind-sided view of reality. You have just lost the influence over three to five other representatives.

Political influence is not a matter of skin color, but it's how many elected officials that can be influence by those of color.

Minorities should reject any district that has more minorities that the city or county's racial makeup. Of course there will be exceptions for cities or counties where minorities make of over 50% of the population. In those cases you would have multiple minorities elected from those areas. In areas where the racial makeup is less than 20%, these numbers need to be districted throughout the surrounding areas for maximum political influence.

True political power is having the ability to influence the outcome of political events. To achieve political power does not necessarily mean the election of Leroy, Harriet or Willie to an elective office. Civil Rights organizations should look at the bigger picture, instead of the district picture.

Al Mccray

Managing Editor
813 244 0664

5000 Business Cards Only \$99.95
Design Not Included



Goiguana Marketing
Printing • Design • Web

- Business Cards • Postcards • Brochures • Door Hangers
- Rack Cards • Logos • Banners • Envelopes • Letterhead
- Magnets • Carbonless Invoices • And Much More!

813-657-7800 Email: al@goiguana.com
Goiguana.com
438 E. Brandon Blvd. • Ste. 2B • Brandon, FL 33511



Fix n' Go
MUFFLER & AUTO REPAIR

813-374-8853

6618 N. Nebraska Avenue
Tampa, FL 33604
Open 7 Days A Week
Muffler & Custom Exhaust, Tires
Brakes, Oil Change, C.V. Joints
Tune-ups, A/C Service

OIL CHANGE \$12.95 most cars, up to 5 quarts oil & new filter	BRAKES \$29.00 Parts Extra	CV AXLE \$59.00 Labor Extra
MUFFLER \$19.00 Labor Extra	CONVERTER \$79.00 And Up	FLOWMASTER \$89.00 And Up
FREE OIL CHANGE WITH BRAKE JOB	4 NEW TIRES \$99.00 And Up	TUNE UP \$29.00 And Up
FLOWMASTER DUELS \$200.00 TIPS INCLUDED	TRANSMISSION SERVICE \$59.00 And Up	TRUCK DUELS \$150.00 And Up

FREE ESTIMATE • FREE TIRE ROTATION • FREE BRAKE INSPECTION