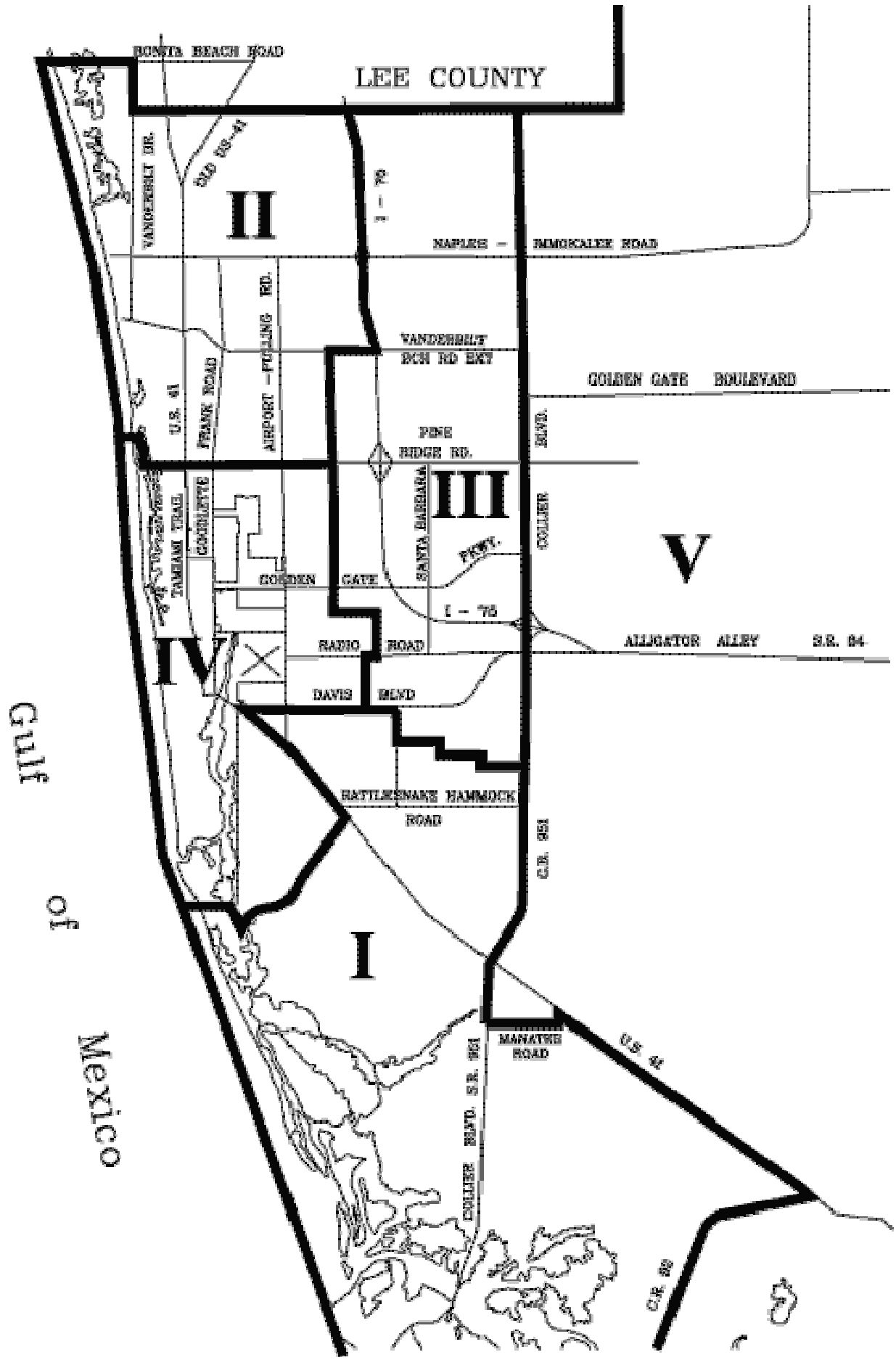


REALIGNMENT A.K.A. REDISTRICTING

Presentation to League of Women Voters of Collier County's February 8, 2007 Hot Topics Meeting by Kathy Ryan and Chris Straton

Questions to be answered:

- **What are the current BCC commission boundaries?**
- **What is meant by realignment?**
- **What are the facts?**
- **Why is this a League priority?**
- **Why now?**
- **What are the necessary steps once approval is given to proceed?**
- **What can we do to get BCC approval?**



Realignment A.K.A. Redistricting

What is meant by realignment?

- According to Florida statutes, redistricting must be done after each official census, which occurs every 10 years.
- Constitutional mandate of one-person one-vote.
- Last Census was in 2000, next Census is in 2010.
- Probably will get Collier County Census results in early 2011 with redistricting effective with 2012 election.
- This redistricting will affect Congressional, State Senate, State Representative, County Commission, and School Board boundaries.
- Today's discussion is limited to County Commission and School Board boundaries before the 2012 election and thus we are calling it realignment.

What are the facts?

Population in 2000 was 251,377, in 2004 estimated at 306,186, in 2005 estimated at 317,788 or 26% increase.

Population has not been growing at same rate of increase throughout the county. Board of County Commissioners may initiate redistricting of Commission boundaries.

Previously Collier County Commissioners redistricted their boundaries in 1985 and 1995.

BCC failed to redistrict Commission boundaries in 2005.

District 1, 3, & 5 Commissioners terms end in 2008.

Redistricting commission districts at this time would shift constituents thus shifting voter base for Districts 1, 3, & 5 in 2008 election (re-election?)

Why is this a League of Women Voters of Collier County issue?

LWVUS position to support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

LWVUS position to protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in the political process.

Why now?

2005 request for redistricting indicated that District population distribution was:

District 1: 56,414

District 2: 58,561

District 3: 72,431

District 4: 52,953

District 5: 65,827

Population estimates suggest that Districts 3 and 5 have grown disproportionately faster than other Commission districts.

Redistricting can only be done in odd years. If not done now, then have to wait until 2009. Odds of redistricting in 2009 are < 1% due to “official actual numbers being available in 2011 and required.”

What are the necessary steps once approval is given to proceed?

In 2001, BCC directed staff to utilize the following redistricting criteria:

- 1. The population of each district should be as similar as possible;**
- 2. All districts should be as compact and regularly shaped as feasible;**
- 3. The incumbent Commissioner’s residence must remain in his or her current district.**

Five plans were proposed which addressed BCC direction plus:

- 1. Minimize disruption to former districts**
- 2. Avoid retrogression of minority voting strength**
- 3. Maintain communities of interest**

Collier County is a covered jurisdiction under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As such they must obtain pre-clearance from the U.S. Department of Justice and must demonstrate that the new plan does not result in the retrogression of minority voting strength.

It was estimated that between 300-500 staff hours were required to complete the last redistricting in 2001.

Since there are no actual population numbers available at this time, Staff would have to use projected County population numbers and distribute across smaller geography based upon certificates of occupancy and census data regarding persons per household.

What can we do to get BCC approval?

Lobby Republican Executive Committee to join our effort

Personally contact each Commissioner to determine objections to realignment

Contact Property Owner Associations and explain need for them to join our effort

- Focus on Districts 1, 3, & 5 only**
- Focus on all Districts**

Your ideas