

Now is the time to tell legislators about your priorities

by Letters to the Editor

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To the Editor:

Florida has a part time legislature that will meet for three months starting Jan. 13, 2026. However, now is the time to let your elected officials know the priorities you want them to consider.

What are your biggest concerns? Identifying solutions for escalating insurance premiums, addressing insufficient funding for road maintenance and other infrastructure projects, and strengthening protections for consumers against fraud and scams are examples of issues that have shown up repeatedly in polls of Florida voters. What hasn't appeared in those polls is redrawing the congressional district boundaries that were just established in 2022.

Yet redistricting before the 2026 elections is being proposed by Governor DeSantis and leaders in the Florida House of Representatives. Not only would this divert attention from the real problems Florida residents are facing, redrawing congressional districts in the middle of the decade, on partisan grounds, without new census data, violates the fair districting laws in the Florida State Constitution.

Furthermore, redistricting incurs significant costs. The last statewide process cost Floridians millions in consultant hours, staff time, and new technology.

I urge you to ask your Florida elected officials to say "no" to mid-cycle redistricting and address your priorities instead. Contact information for elected officials is on the Florida Division of Elections website. Sumter County residents currently do not have a state senator and will have to wait until the special election on Dec. 9 to voice their concerns.

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