



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF FLORIDA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 9, 2012

Contact: **Michael DeSanctis**  
Office: 202.637.6323  
Cell: 202.257.1112  
Email: mdesanctis@jenner.com

## Groups Intend to File Suit Against Congressional Redistricting Map

Tallahassee, FL -- Today the Florida Legislature passed a Congressional redistricting plan that does not comply with the new FairDistricts standards in the Florida Constitution.

If and when the Governor signs the Congressional plan into law, The League of Women Voters of Florida, The National Council of La Raza, Common Cause Florida and four individual plaintiffs will file the attached Complaint in Leon County Circuit Court seeking to invalidate the Legislature's Congressional Reapportionment Plan. The Defendants in the case will be Kurt Browning (Florida's Secretary of State), the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, as well as their respective leaders, Mike Haridopolos and Dean Cannon.

The Complaint, which is [attached](#), alleges:

The "FairDistricts Amendments" were intended to prevent partisan and racial gerrymandering, and to protect the traditional redistricting principles of equal population, compactness, contiguity, and respect for political and geographic boundaries. The addition of these redistricting standards to the Florida Constitution was designed to level the political playing field by ensuring equality among all voters and increasing opportunities for all candidates. See *Brown v. Sec'y of State of Fla.*, No. 11-14554 (11th Cir. Jan. 31, 2012).

\*\*\*

The Legislature's Congressional Plan threatens to harm Plaintiffs' right to a fair and neutral redistricting plan, free of political and racial gerrymandering or incumbent protection efforts. It likewise threatens to deny Plaintiffs' right to a redistricting plan that respects the constitutionally required redistricting principles of compactness and respect for political and geographic boundaries.

\*\*\*

The Legislature's Congressional Plan is filled with unconstitutional political gerrymanders intended to favor one political party and certain incumbents, while disfavoring the other political party and other incumbents. The State's intentional and purposeful use of the redistricting process to secure various incumbents' reelection undermines the voters' will and violates the Florida Constitution.

\*\*\*

The Plan suppresses the ability of minorities to participate in Florida's political process by unnecessarily confining their influence to select districts and purposefully keeping them out of others. Under the Legislature's Congressional Plan, districts have been drawn with the intent, and result, of abridging the right of minority voters to participate in Florida's political process, in violation of Article III, Section 20.

\*\*\*

The Plan contains numerous non-compact districts in violation of the Florida Constitution and fails to respect political and geographic boundaries.

###