



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Ethics and Elections, *Vice Chair*  
Finance and Tax, *Vice Chair*  
Social Responsibility - Policy and Steering,  
*Vice Chair*  
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs  
Commerce  
Commerce and Industry - Policy and Steering  
Rules  
Ways and Means - Policy and Steering

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Legislative Budget Commission

### SENATOR CHARLIE JUSTICE

*Democratic Leader Pro Tempore*  
16th District

December 10, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Atwater  
President, Florida Senate  
312 Senate Office Building  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Reapportionment  
103 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear President Atwater and Chairman Haridopolos:

I am writing to voice my concern about recent statements made in the Senate Reapportionment Committee about a possible lawsuit against the Fair Districts Florida redistricting ballot amendments. I believe a lawsuit by the Florida Senate would be the wrong course of action, and a serious waste of taxpayer money, as the Florida Supreme Court has already reviewed the amendments and ruled that they stand up to constitutional guidelines.

I feel strongly that a lawsuit by the Florida Senate would send the wrong message to our constituents. There are guidelines for citizens initiatives in the statute, and it is up to the Florida Supreme Court to rule on whether those guidelines were followed. The Florida Senate has always prided itself on being a thoughtful and deliberative body, one that trusts in the checks and balances of government and stands above partisan issues. The Florida Senate should not be getting involved legally with a matter that has already been resolved by the Judiciary. If political parties or special interest groups have an issue with the decision, then they are free to pursue legal action. It is not the place of the Florida legislature to get involved any further in this matter.

At a time when we are facing severe budget shortfalls, I feel our money can be better spent then challenging this ruling. I hope you take this objection into consideration before pursuing any further action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Justice".

Charlie Justice  
Senator  
16th District

#### REPLY TO:

- Gateway Executive Center, 8601 4th Street North, Suite 100, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (727) 217-7970
- 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5075

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**JEFF ATWATER**  
President of the Senate

**MIKE FASANO**  
President Pro Tempore