



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

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LEADER PRO TEMPORE GERALDINE THOMPSON
STATEMENT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS
TO WEAKEN MINORITY REPRESENTATION AND DECEIVE VOTERS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida House Democratic Leader Pro Tempore Geraldine Thompson (D-Orlando) provided the following statement in response to legislative efforts to weaken minority representation and deceive voters:

“Many voters in my district and throughout the state have signed petitions to gain a chance to take politics out of the redistricting process. However, it seems that those in power will stop at nothing to unfairly protect their power.

“The current proposal being pushed by legislative leaders, which purports to ‘clarify’ Amendments 5 & 6, is a sham. The proposal does not clarify or enhance anything. In fact, it substantially weakens the special protections for minority voters contained in the Fair Districts amendments.

“In an obvious attempt to rig districts to favor themselves, some lawmakers are relying on racial- and ethnic-minority members of the Florida Legislature to do their dirty work, which is completely unacceptable. The protections in Fair Districts Amendments 5 and 6 strengthen the ability of minority voters to elect representatives of their choice. There is no need to enhance or clarify the protections contained in the Fair District amendments. Yet my fellow legislators continue to play games.

“The Florida Legislature should not approve amendments that would render the Fair District rules meaningless. Voters should have a chance to approve the amendments, and Speaker Cretul should not allow any joint resolution weakening these amendments to be heard on the House floor.

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