

Memorandum



Date: March 12, 2014

To: Elections Advisory Group

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gimenez".

Subject: Re-precincting Updates

During the last Elections Advisory Group meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2014, Elections' staff had the opportunity to brief you on the re-precincting process and overall election readiness for the 2014 cycle.

Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley presented a countywide re-precincting plan that would equitably distribute voters throughout Miami-Dade County and provide for continued growth during the next decade. This comprehensive plan (referred to as Re-precincting Plan A) would move on average 55% of countywide registered voters to a new voting location. Individual commission district impact ranges between 39% of the voters in districts on the north-end of the County, and up to 69% of the voters in districts on the south-end of the County due to population shifts since the last U.S. Census.

With a much shorter ballot, increased early voting availability, the introduction of electronic poll books on election day and a historically lower voter turnout in midterm elections, an operational determination was made to first implement the new technology seamlessly and then tackle countywide re-precincting immediately thereafter in December 2014. This approach would alleviate voter confusion prior to a countywide election cycle, while providing means to evaluate the effectiveness of the new technology independent of other wholesale changes.

Following media coverage of this decision, some members of the community expressed their concerns, including esteemed organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Miami-Dade County Democratic Executive Committee, the League of Women Voters, the Florida Secretary of State, and the Miami Herald. These concerns were duly noted, and the Supervisor of Elections was charged with developing an alternate plan to achieve operational efficiencies at Election Day voting locations with minimal voter impact in 2014.

The Supervisor of Elections met with the ACLU, NAACP, the Democratic and the Republican parties to update them on the two re-precincting plans that would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (Board). The feedback was generally positive and these organizations offered their support to educate the community of the changes prior to the 2014 Election Cycle.

An overview of the two re-precincting plans was presented to the Board for discussion on February 19, 2014, and key stakeholders shared their concerns. The Board accepted the Supervisor of Elections' recommendation to conduct re-precincting in two phases (referred to as Plan B). Phase 1 will be implemented prior to the 2014 election cycle and will address large precincts and those that experienced long lines during the 2012 General Election. Phase 2 will be implemented in 2015 and will encompass a comprehensive countywide re-precincting plan to create an equitable distribution of voters. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Elections Advisory Group – Re-precincting Updates

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The Supervisor of Elections has finalized the modified re-precincting plan and has met with Commissioners to discuss district impacts prior to presentation to the Board for approval. Community leaders will be invited to meet with the Elections Department (Department) to provide feedback on the two-phased approach to re-precincting before the agenda item is considered by the Board to educate them on the short-term precinct and polling place remedies addressed in the modified plan.

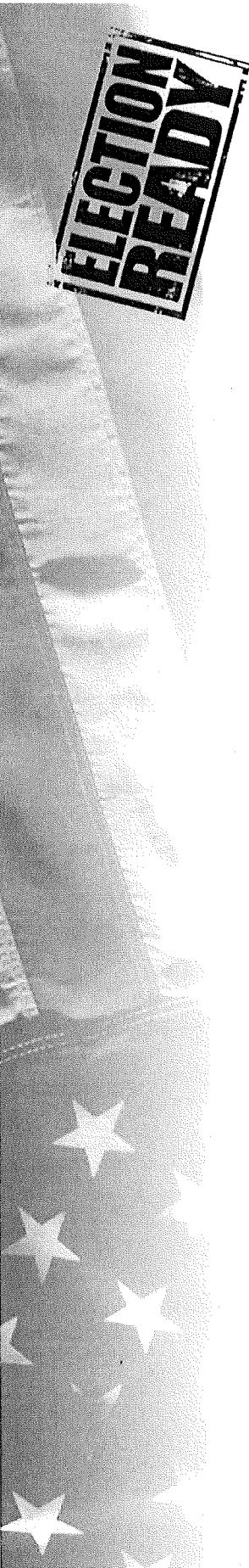
The agenda item will be heard at the Economic Development and Port Miami Committee on March 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm and if approved, it will be subsequently considered by the Board on March 18, 2014. We welcome your attendance and support at these meetings. Once the re-precincting plan is adopted by the Board, the Department will work diligently to implement the changes and notify voters in a timely manner prior to the August 26, 2014 Primary Election.

I appreciate your continued collaboration as members of this important Election Advisory Group. We will be contacting you within the next month to schedule an equipment demonstration at the Elections Department to see the new electronic poll books and high-speed absentee ballot processing equipment.

In the meantime, if we may be of assistance, please feel free to contact Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley, at 305-499-8509 or me directly at 305-375-1880.

Attachments

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor and Interim Director of Public Works and Waste Management
Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections

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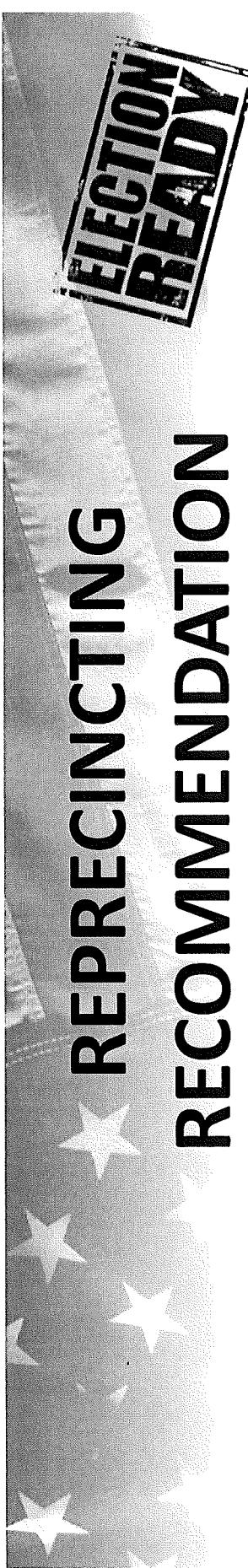
MAMI-DADE COUNTY REPRECINCTING

REPRECINCTING DISCUSSION



REPRECINCTING

1. Recommendation
2. Original Reprecincting – Plan A
3. Two-Phase Reprecincting – Plan B



REPRECINCTING RECOMMENDATION

RESPONSIBLE REPRECINTING

- ❖ Two-Phase Approach
- ❖ Voter Convenience
- ❖ Operationally Efficient
- ❖ Addresses Short & Long-Term Election Administration Needs



ORIGINAL REPRECINCTING PLAN A

**Objective: Enhance Voter Convenience & Operational Efficiency
by Addressing the Short- and Long-Term Election Administration
Needs of Miami-Dade County.**

Goals:

- Eliminate “split” precincts
- Better distribute voters/polling places by:
 - Generally cap the number of voters to 2,500 voters
 - Secure polling places within all applicable boundaries
 - Aspirational goal - 1 hour maximum wait time



Before and After

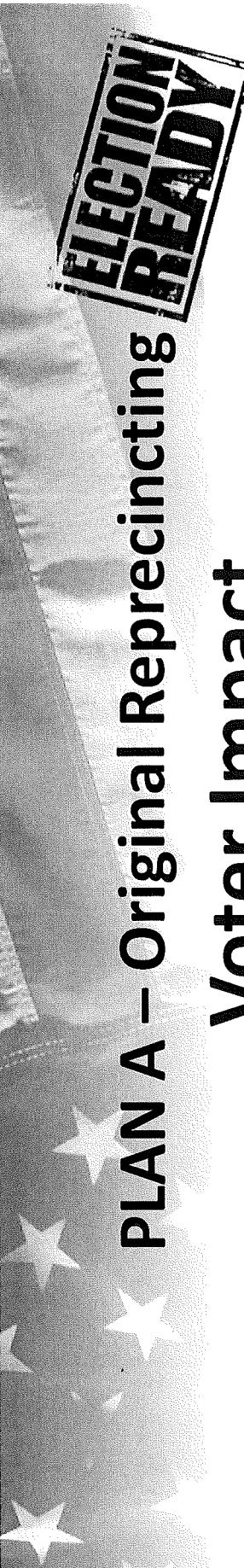
PLAN A – ORIGINAL REPRECINCTING

Currently, we have:

- 829 Precincts (1,048 with splits - operationally)
- 541 Polling Places

After Reprecincting, we are proposing:

- 795 Precincts
- 654 Polling Places
- Reduction of 253 operational precincts
- Increase of 113 Polling Places



PLAN A – Original Reprecincting Voter Impact

Countywide Voter Impacts

Of the County's 1.3 million registered voters:

- Registered Voters impacted by polling place changes
739,186 (55%)

Historically, 50% of voters who vote do so Early or Absentee



PLAN A – Original Reprecincting

Fiscal Impact

The Fiscal Impact of Plan A is estimated at *\$1.9 million

- **Non-Election Related Costs: \$1.25 million include:**

- Additional equipment and supplies for new polling locations
- Voter Education Campaign
- Voter Information Cards

- **Election-Related Costs: \$753,000 include:**

- Polling Place Rental
- Poll Worker Stipends
- Logics

*\$1 million approved in FY 13-14 Adopted Budget

PLAN A – Original Reprecincting



Reprecincting Timeline

- County Commissioners Briefings – Ongoing
- Committee Meeting – February 13, 2014
- BCC Meeting – February 19, 2014
- Voter Education Campaign – February 2014 – August 2014
- Public Awareness Campaign – Spring/Summer 2014
- Mail Voter Information Cards – June 2014

ORIGINAL REPRECINCTING

ELECTION
READY

AS AN OPTION FOR 2014
ONLY

The Original Reprecincting Plan Without Modifications

Reprecincting Plan Development

- 75% of the work completed

Updating Voter Registration Database

- Moving Voters/Street Ranges – upon Board approval

Operational Challenges

- Staffing Resources Refocused – Plan B Development
- Voter Education



RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014

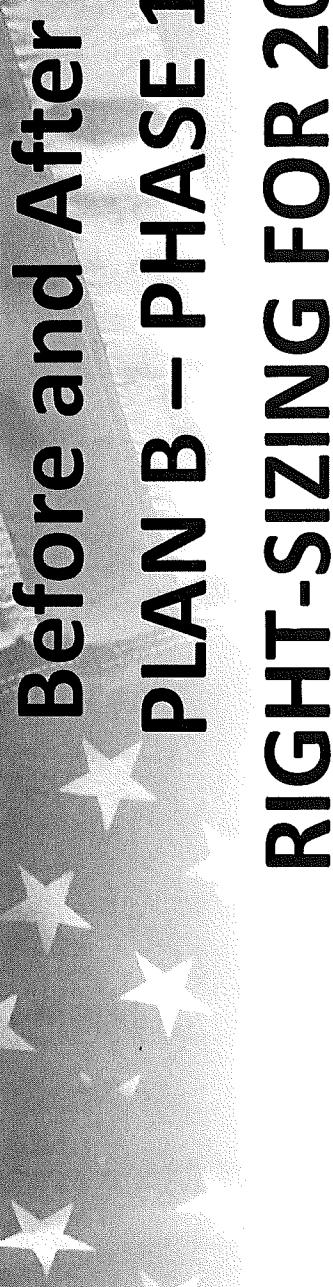
PLAN B – PHASE 1

GOAL – 2014

Objective: Implement an Interim Moderate Approach to Reprecincting to Minimize Voter Impact and Create Operational Efficiencies

Goals:

- Minimize voter movement
- Reduce “split” precincts
- Address issues in large precincts by
 - Redistributing voters and adding polling facilities
 - Administratively reorganizing polling place procedures
 - Targeted approach to voter education



Before and After

PLAN B – PHASE 1

RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014

Currently, we have:

- 829 Precincts (1,048 with splits - operationally)
- 541 Polling Places

Plan B Reprecincting proposes:

- 809 Precincts
- 564 Polling Places

- Decrease of 239 precincts (operationally)
- Increase of 25 Polling Places



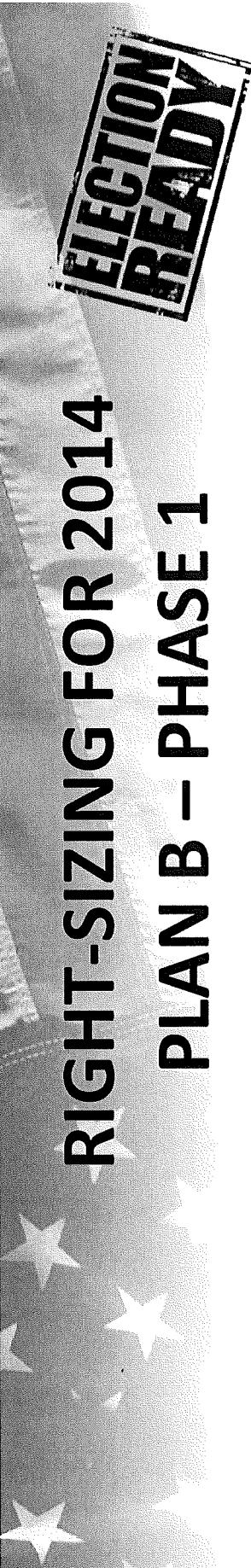
RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014

PLAN B - PHASE 1

The Countywide Voter Impact:

Of the County's 1.3 million registered voters:

- Registered Voters impacted by polling place changes – approximately **69,000 (5%)**
- 23% increase in Operational Efficiency (precincts reduced from 1048 to 809)



RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014

PLAN B – PHASE 1

Voter Impact

Plan B Analyses Included:

- Precincts/polling places with 4,000 or more registered voters
- Precincts/polling places that closed after midnight in 2012
- Precincts/polling places that reported last voter voted after 10:00 p.m. in 2012
- Precinct consolidations and relocations

2012 General Election issues will be addressed operationally and administratively by adding polling facilities, equipment, staffing and/or procedural adjustments as needed.

“RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014”

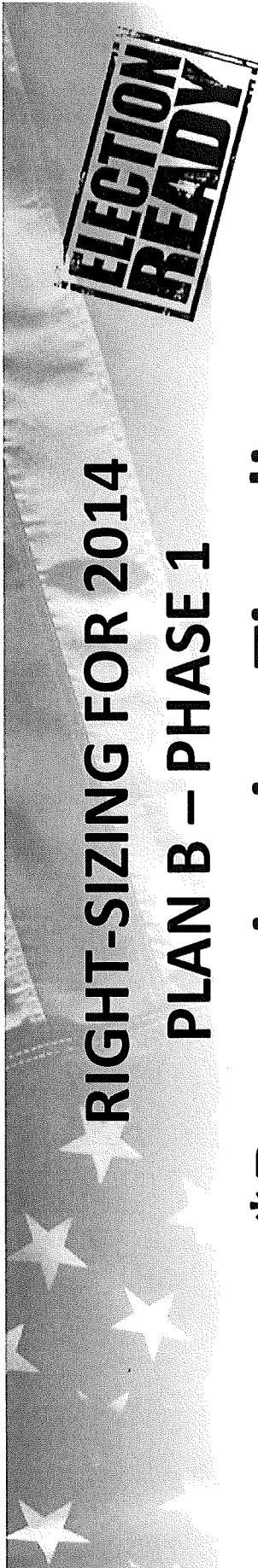
PLAN B – PHASE 1

Voter Impact Cont'd



EFFICACY OF PLAN B for Mid-Term Elections

- 1. One (1) or two (2) page ballot (five & six in 2012)**
- 2. Electronic Poll Books (vs paper precinct registers)**
- 3. 14 days of Early Voting (8 days in 2012)**
- 4. Lower Voter Turnout (18-20% Mid-Term Primary and 42-45% General as opposed to 20% Presidential Primary and 68% General)**



RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014

PLAN B – PHASE 1

***Reprecincting Timeline**

**TIMEFRAMES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Plan B – Phase 1 Timeline proposes:

- County Commissioners Briefings – Ongoing
- Committee Meeting – March 13, 2014
- BCC Meeting – March 18, 2014
- Voter Education – March 2014 – August 2014
- Mail Voter Information Cards – June 2014



PLAN B – PHASE 2

REPRECINCTING FOR THE FUTURE

GOAL – 2015

Objective: Enhance Voter Convenience & Operational Efficiency
by Addressing the Short- and Long-Term Election Administration
Needs of Miami-Dade County.

Goals:

- Eliminate “split” precincts (Multiple Ballot Styles in One Precinct)
- Better distribute voters/polling places by:
 - Generally cap the number of voters to 2,500 voters, and
 - Secure polling places within all applicable boundaries
 - Achieve aspirational goal of 1 hour maximum wait time

“RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014”

PLAN B – PHASE 2



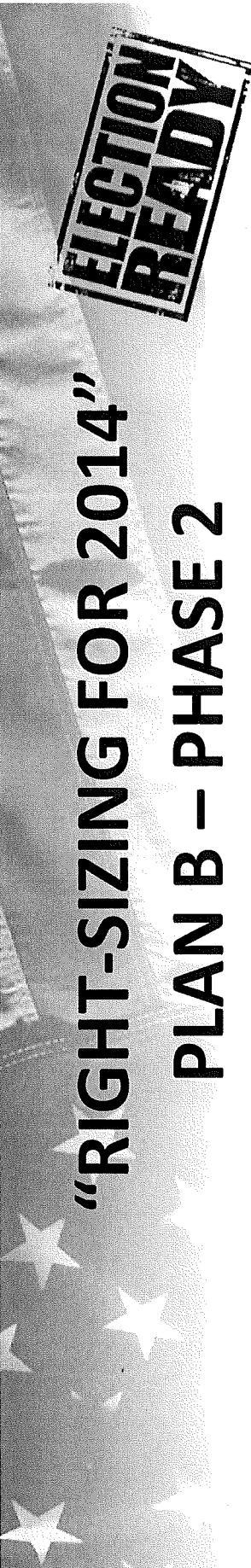
Fiscal Impact

The Estimated Fiscal Impact of Plan B includes
Non-Election Costs

The Fiscal Impact of Plan B - estimated at approximately \$250,000

Non-Election Related Costs: \$250,000 include:

- Voter Education
- Voter Information Cards



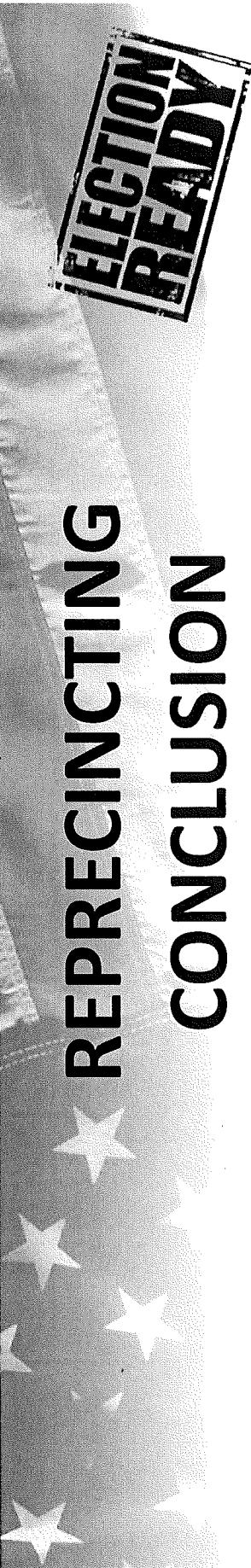
“RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014”

PLAN B – PHASE 2

***Reprecincting Timeline**

****TIMEFRAMES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

- County Commissioners Briefings – Ongoing
- Committee Meeting – December 2014
- BCC Meeting – January 2015
- Voter Education Campaign – February 2015 – August 2016
- Public Meetings - Public Awareness Campaign – Spring/Summer 2015
- Mail Voter Information Cards – May 2015



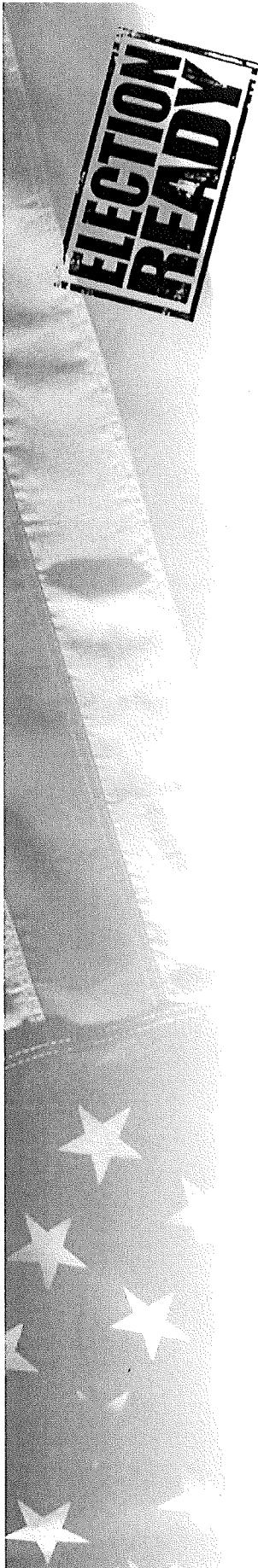
REPRECINCTING CONCLUSION

Responsible Reprecincting

Two-Phased Approach

- Voter Convenience
- Operationally Efficient

**Plan B – PHASE 1 – “RIGHT-SIZING FOR 2014”
PHASE 2 – “REPRECINCTING FOR THE FUTURE”**



Questions

