


AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

 Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, welcomed everyone, Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation and then Chair Green led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda


 **UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS


The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL


 Ms. Watson appeared before the Board and requested to give her 3 minutes to Mike Watson.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL


 Mr. Watson appeared before the Board. He said Members of the House of Representatives of the United States gets 5 minutes and asked they consider increasing the time limit to 5

minutes. He said at the last meeting the idea was put out he was thinking Sycamore Road was the worst road in the County and that was not what was said. He said it was one of the worst but Ben Bostick was the worst he has seen. He said he has worked diligently for the past year and a half or so trying to find out who picked what roads to be paved. He thought it was the director of Public Works but at the last meeting, the Administrator said DOT was the one that decided.

Gekettia Harris, 122 N. Cleveland Street, Quincy, FL


 Ms. Harris appeared before the Board and gave her 3 minutes to Chrissy Shorter-Arnold.

Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, 30 Stillwater Lane, Havana, FL

 Ms. Shorter-Arnold appeared before the Board and stated she has tried to pull up Commissioner Hinson's Facebook page to find she has been blocked. She stated with him being a public official, it is not ethical to block or censor someone. She further stated she was having her lawyer file a lawsuit the following day and intended to find out when she was blocked, etc.

PUBLIC HEARINGS


1. Public Hearing-Approval of Ordinance 2024-01

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item, stated it was a Public Hearing and was before the Board for their approval of Proposed Ordinance 2024-01 repealing all prior County Commission district boundaries and establishing new boundaries of the five County Commission Districts. Have had number of workshops.


Mr. Spitzer appeared before the Board and stated they have had a couple of opportunities to see the maps. He said the County had to redistrict the 46-47 point spread between the smallest and largest deviations from the average. He felt both maps that were previously presented to the Board were legally sufficient and was a matter of Board decision as the policy making body as to which map chosen. He felt the ACLU Map 1a.2 had the better spread than the other map.


Chair Green announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public and there was none.

He then asked if the Commissioners had any comments.

 Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they have to take away 2000+/- constituents from his district and he did not want to lose any. He commented it has been challenging to accept that. It was strange to him the Hinson community would be carved out. While he understood something has to be done, it was still hard to give up any of his constituents.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
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 Chair Green said it was a tough decision across the board for all of them to make. He wanted to look at it as a positive that the County was growing.

 Commissioner Holt said as stated before, she liked the “D” map but did not like losing any of her district either.

 **COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MAP “D” FOR REDISTRICTING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

He said as stated, growth was a good thing. If they continue to grow and provide resources for citizens, they will attract more citizens in the county and continue to grow. There will be another census in 6 years and if keep moving in the direction they want to move in in providing the citizens the greatest services and resources that they could, there will be more growth.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Green asked the Deputy Clerk enter a copy of the boundary description into the minutes of the meeting and be a part of the record.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

 **THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:26 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

ORDINANCE 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REPEALING ALL PRIOR COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND ESTABLISHING NEW BOUNDARIES OF THE FIVE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR MINUTES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article VIII Section 1(e), of the Florida Constitution requires that after each decennial census, the Board of County Commissioners shall apportion the existing districts accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 census has been completed and the population information has been tabulated; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Florida, applicable State Law, the Federal Voting Rights Act, seeks to revise its five commission districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. – Commission District Boundaries

The boundaries of the five County Commission districts are hereby changed to conform to the legal descriptions attached hereto and incorporated as though fully set forth herein as Exhibit “A”.

SECTION 2. – Publication

Pursuant to §124.02, Florida Statutes, a certified copy of this Ordinance, including an accurate description of the boundaries of the districts, shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in Gadsden County, and proof of such publication shall be entered on the minutes of the Board.

SECTION 3. – Minutes

Pursuant to Florida Statutes §124.03, Florida Statutes, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners shall forthwith furnish to the Department of State a certified copy of the Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners meeting reflecting the description of the boundaries of the districts as set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. – Repeal the Laws in Conflict

All county laws and ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. – Severability

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative, invalid or void, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. – Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and made part of the Code of Laws and Ordinances of Gadsden County Florida. The sections of this Ordinance may renumbered or relettered to accomplish to accomplish such, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or any other appropriate word.

SECTION 7. – Effective Date

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of State.

SECTION 8. – Scrivener’s Errors

Scrivener’s errors may be corrected by the County Attorney as needed without further action of the Board of County Commissioners.

DULY READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida after proper notice and public hearing, this 23rd day of January 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chairman

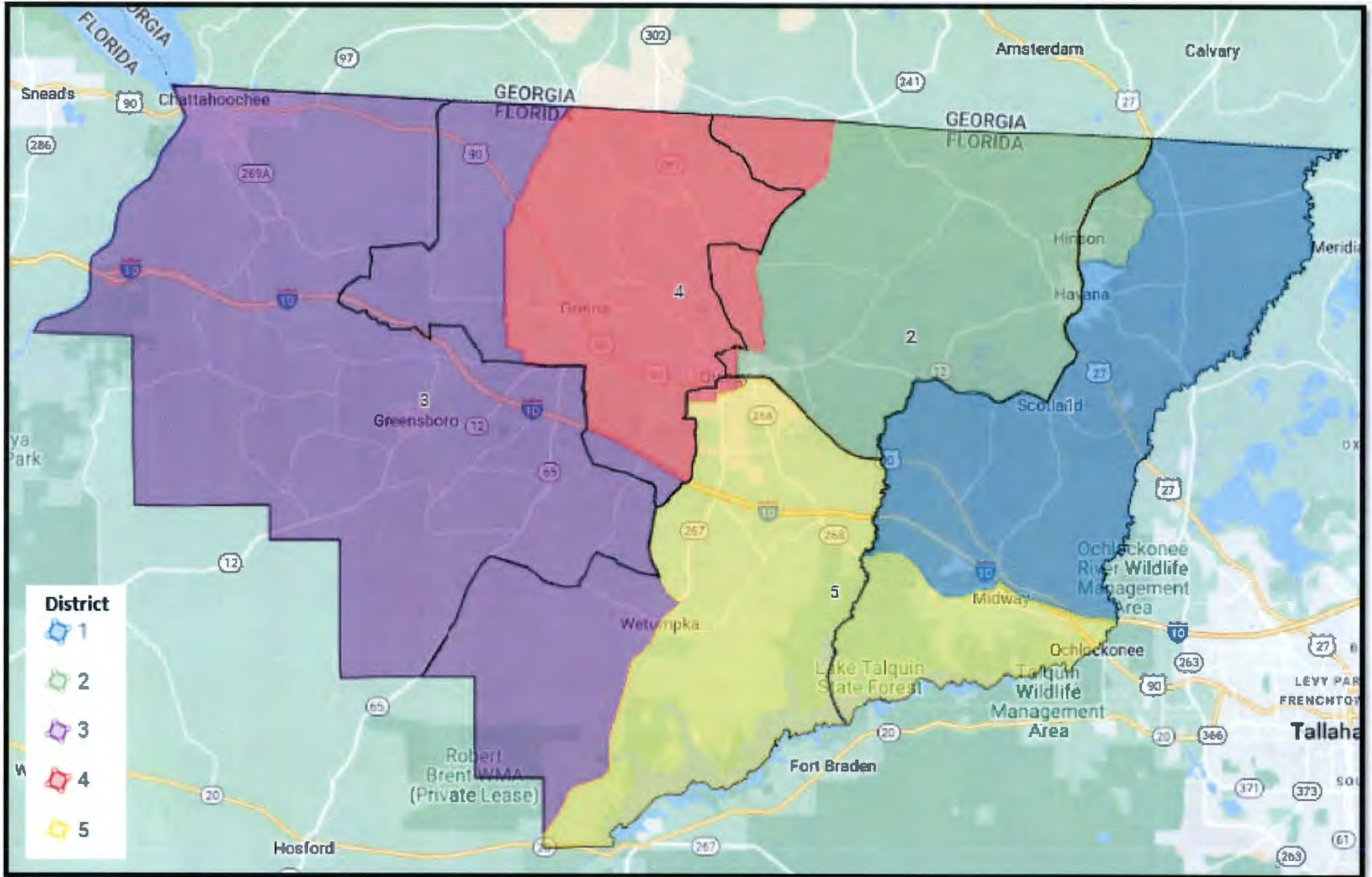
DEPUTY CLERK
NICHOLAS THOMAS,
Clerk of the Circuit Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR THE
RELIANCE OF GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ONLY

CLAYTON FORD KNOWLES, ESQ.
County Attorney

Map "D"

Submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU)



Gadsden County Redistricting
 ACLU Plan D

Map "D"

ACLU Plan D												
DISTRICT	2020 Population IDEAL	2020 Population ACTUAL	Population Deviation	Percent Deviation	Population White	Percent White	Population Black	Percent Black	Population Other	Percent Other	Population Hispanic	Percent Hispanic
District 1	8,587.60	8,864	276	3.22%	3,475	39.2%	4,849	54.7%	540	6.1%	481	5.4%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		7,015			3,018	43.0%	3,631	51.8%	366	5.2%	301	4.3%
District 2	8,587.60	8,447	(141)	-1.64%	4,091	48.4%	3,521	41.7%	835	9.9%	762	9.0%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,949			3,593	51.7%	2,762	39.7%	594	8.5%	501	7.2%
District 3	8,587.60	8,408	(180)	-2.09%	3,788	45.1%	3,429	40.8%	1,191	14.2%	1,277	15.2%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,832			3,315	48.5%	2,689	39.4%	828	12.1%	868	12.7%
District 4	8,587.60	8,437	(151)	-1.75%	1,366	16.2%	5,739	68.0%	1,332	15.8%	1,425	16.9%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,390			1,160	18.2%	4,343	68.0%	887	13.9%	951	14.9%
District 5	8,587.60	8,782	194	2.26%	1,833	20.9%	5,941	67.6%	1,008	11.5%	1,083	12.3%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,543			1,562	23.9%	4,309	65.9%	672	10.3%	677	10.3%
Totals	42,938	42,938			14,553		23,479		4,906		5,028	
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		33,729			12,648		17,734		3,347		3,298	

ACLU Plan D

The map described with the following metes and bounds can be viewed on Google Maps at this link.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=14XdeJWnvo6RCuvrguKOlaVse0_nalfw&usp=sharing

District 1. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the eastern Gadsden County boundary and I-10,
Thence west along I-10 to Dover Road,
Thence south along Dover road to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard/High Bridge Road to the Little River,
Thence north along Little River to SR 12 (Havana Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Havana Highway) to Shady Rest Road,
Thence east along Shady Rest Road to Scotland Road,
Thence north along Scotland Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana town limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek,
Thence east along the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana city limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek, to Fairbanks Ferry Road,
Thence north along Fairbanks Ferry Road to McNair Road,
Thence north along McNair Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence east and south along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 2. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Attapulugus Highway,
Thence south along Attapulugus Highway to Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit,
Thence west along Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit, to SR 267 (North Adams Street),
Thence south along SR 267 (North Adams Street) to Burmah Drive,
Thence west along Burmah Drive to North Bellamy Drive,
Thence west and south along North Bellamy Drive to South Bellamy Drive,
Thence south along South Bellamy Drive to North 9th Street,
Thence south along North 9th Street to West Washington Street,
Thence west along West Washington Street to South 10th Street,
Thence south along South 10th Street to US 90,
Thence east along US 90 to Little River,
Thence north along Little River to SR 12 (Havana Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Havana Highway) to Shady Rest Road,
Thence east along Shady Rest Road to Scotland Road,
Thence north along Scotland Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana town limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek,

Thence east along the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana City limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek, to Fairbanks Ferry Road,
Thence north along Fairbanks Ferry Road to McNair Road,
Thence north along McNair Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence west along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 3. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Mount Pleasant Road,

Thence south along Mount Pleasant Road to Hardaway Highway,
Thence west along Hardaway Highway to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south and west along the Gretna city limit to Pittman Branch,
Thence south along Pittman Branch to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south along the Gretna city limit to Hanna Mill Pond Road,
Thence east along Hanna Mill Pond Road to Bassett Road,
Thence south along Bassett Road to Flat Creek Road,
Thence east along Flat Creek Road to Greensboro SR 12 (Greensboro Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Greensboro Highway) to Rocky Comfort Creek,
Thence south along Rocky Comfort Creek to I-10,
Thence east along I-10 to Cox Creek,
Thence south along Cox Creek to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence northwest, north, and east along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 4. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Mount Pleasant Road,

Thence south along Mount Pleasant Road to Hardaway Highway,
Thence west along Hardaway Highway to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south and west along the Gretna city limit to Pittman Branch,
Thence south along Pittman Branch to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south along the Gretna city limit to Hanna Mill Pond Road,
Thence east along Hanna Mill Pond Road to Bassett Road,
Thence south along Bassett Road to Flat Creek Road,
Thence east along Flat Creek Road to Greensboro SR 12 (Greensboro Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Greensboro Highway) to Rocky Comfort Creek,
Thence south along Rocky Comfort Creek to I-10,
Thence east along I-10 to Cox Creek,
Thence north along Cox Creek to the Quincy city limit,
Thence west and north along the Quincy city limit, which is also Krausland Road and Barack Obama Boulevard, to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence east along Martin Luther King Boulevard to South Cleveland Street,
Thence north along South Cleveland Street to Elm Street,
Thence east along Elm Street to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),

Thence north along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to Live Oak Street,
Thence east along Live Oak Street to Cooper Street,
Thence south along Cooper Street to 4th Street,
Thence east along 4th Street to Station Street,
Thence northeast and east along Station Street to South Key Street,
Thence north along South Key Street to West Crawford Street,
Thence west along West Crawford Street to South Key Street,
Thence north along South Key Street to US 90,
Thence west along US 90 to North 10th Street,
Thence north along North 10th Street to West Washington Street,
Thence east along West Washington Street to North 9th Street,
Thence north along North 9th Street to South Bellamy Drive,
Thence north along South Bellamy Drive to North Bellamy Drive,
Thence north and east along North Bellamy Drive to Burmah Drive,
Thence east along Burmah Drive to SR 267 (North Adams Street),
Thence north along SR 267 (North Adams Street) to Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit,
Thence east along Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit, to Attapulgus Highway,
Thence north along Attapulgus Highway to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence west along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 5. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the eastern Gadsden County boundary and I-10,
Thence west along I-10 to Dover Road,
Thence south along Dover road to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard/High Bridge Road to the Little River,
Thence north along Little River to US 90,
Thence west along US 90 to South Key Street,
Thence south along South Key Street to West Crawford Street,
Thence east along West Crawford Street to South Key Street,
Thence south along South Key Street to Station Street,
Thence west and southwest along Station Street to 4th Street,
Thence west along 4th Street to Cooper Street,
Thence north along Cooper Street to Live Oak Street,
Thence west along Live Oak Street to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to Elm Street,
Thence west along Elm Street to South Cleveland Street,
Thence south along South Cleveland Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard to the Quincy city limit,
Thence south and east along the Quincy city limit, which is also Krausland Road and Barack Obama Boulevard, to Cox Creek,
Thence south along Cox Creek to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence south, east, and northeast along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.