



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**Karl Nurse**

Council Member, District 6

June 14, 2010

To: Charter Review Commission

From: Karl Nurse  
St. Petersburg Councilmember

Subject: Gerrymandering

I come before you today asking you to put onto the ballot changes in the county charter to eliminate the ability of county commissioners to draw their own districts. It is a clear conflict of interest to allow any officeholders to pick their voters. Rather, the voters should pick their officeholders.

Any system of drawing districts is better than allow officeholders to draw their own districts. An appointed districting commission that is required to meet in the sunshine with government television cameras on at each meeting would put a couple of layers of protection between commissioners and possible gerrymandering. I would recommend that some members of the districting commission be appointed by the League of Women Voters since they are in the good government business.

The level of trust in government is so low that we need to make continuing efforts to show that our local government is clean and honest. This is one of those steps.

Thank you.