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Florida sued over new congressional map

Voting rights groups say GOP's redrawn districts violate gerrymandering law

By Jeffrey Schweers
ORLANDO SENTINEL

TALLAHASSEE — A new congressional map signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis, which eliminates a Hispanic majority seat and aims to help Republicans keep control of the U.S. House

of Representatives, this week ignited what will likely be drawn-out court battles over Florida's new voting boundaries.

Three different groups filed lawsuits in a state court in Tallahassee on Monday and Tuesday, claiming the map violates the state's Fair

Districts Amendment, which prohibits political gerrymandering. They were filed on behalf of Florida voters, including some in Orange and Osceola counties.

The lawsuits mark the third time a congressional district map approved by the Florida Legislature was challenged under Fair Districts, approved by voters in 2010.

The lawsuits call the map — which was drawn in secret,

leaked to Fox News and then quickly slammed through a two-day special session of the Legislature — an egregious, blatant case of illegal gerrymandering that favors one party over another.

They are asking the court to stop the implementation of the new map, which kicks in for this year's congressional races, and strike it down as unconstitutional, allowing the current map, drawn four

years ago, to be in place for 2026 elections.

"This map is not just flawed, it is a deliberate and unconstitutional attempt to manipulate our electoral system for partisan gain," said Genesis Robinson, executive director of Equal Ground, one of the groups that sued, in a statement. "The newly enacted map — pushed through with an unlawful mid-decade redi-

stricting process — is in direct violation of the Fair Districts Amendments, overwhelmingly passed by Floridians to prevent this exact type of overreach."

The new lawsuits claim the redrawn districts violate Florida's Fair Districts Amendments on several fronts, arguing they eliminate racial minority voting

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South Florida soccer fans traveling from Fort Lauderdale and surrounding communities have a convenient option for attending Inter Miami CF matches at Nu Stadium: Tri-Rail. SCOTT LUXOR/CONTRIBUTOR

For many soccer fans, Tri-Rail a game changer

They're paying \$5 round trip to get to weekend matches at Nu Stadium

By Megan Vaz
SOUTH FLORIDA
SUN SENTINEL

South Florida soccer fans have found an easy way to catch Inter Miami's games at their newly opened stadium: They can ride the train for \$5 round trip on the weekends.

Many Inter Miami games are scheduled Saturdays and Sundays, letting fans use Tri-Rail's \$5 weekend day pass. It allows unlimited rides on the day it's purchased.

Inter Miami's Nu Stadium opened on April 4, near the Miami International

Airport. Since then, Tri-Rail has seen its ridership surge on the weekends, a result of fans using the service to attend games, Tri-Rail said. For example, Tri-Rail recorded nearly 10,000 rides on April 25, a game day, calling it the second-highest Saturday ridership total ever.

"We are super, super blessed that the stadium is within walking distance of our train station," said Victor Garcia, director of public affairs at the South Florida Regional Transit Authority. "The crowd's been magnificent, and it's been great to have them try the system and hopefully

turn them into more regular riders."

So here's how soccer fans can ditch their car at home and take the train instead.

PICK THE CLOSEST TRI-RAIL STATION

First, soccer fans can determine where their nearest Tri-Rail station is located across Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

In Palm Beach County, they can access six stations from Mangonia Park to Boca Raton. In Broward County, seven stations can be found from Deerfield Beach to Hollywood. In Miami-Dade,

stations can be found along Tri-Rail's main route, from Golden Glades to Miami International Airport.

Customers can take the train to the Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport, then walk to Nu Stadium to catch the game. It's about a 10-minute walk away, or a half-mile.

"In this case, we are literally right in the thick of it," Garcia said. "That definitely has been the difference-maker and why people are choosing to do it, to take the train."

See **RAIL** on Page A12

Palm Beach County OKs deal to rename airport after Trump

By Abigail Hasebroock
SOUTH FLORIDA
SUN SENTINEL

Palm Beach County officials narrowly approved a naming rights and license agreement as part of a state law to rename the county's airport after President Donald Trump.

County commissioners voted 4-3 to implement an agreement among Palm Beach County, Trump himself and DTTM Operations, LLC, the entity that managed Trump's trademarks and secured the trademark for "Donald J. Trump International Airport."

Earlier this year, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill authorizing the renaming of Palm Beach International Airport to President Donald J. Trump International Airport.

"The license agreement is needed to protect the county's interests," Chief Deputy County Administrator Patrick Rutter said at a meeting on Tuesday.

These interests include ensuring compliance with state law, protecting state funding to the county and protecting against legal claims, Rutter said.

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Palm Beach County Mayor Sara Baxter, left, and commissioners Joel G. Flores and Gregg K. Weiss listen to public comments on renaming Palm Beach International Airport. CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Spirit says more than 4,800 Florida jobs lost

By David Lyons
SOUTH FLORIDA
SUN SENTINEL

Defunct Spirit Airlines has reported the impact on Florida's aviation labor market after its weekend shutdown.

In a filing with the State of Florida, the now bankrupt company that called itself Greater Fort Lauderdale's "hometown airline"

said it eliminated more than 4,800 jobs in South and Central Florida, with the job losses concentrated at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the company's headquarters in Dania Beach, Miami International Airport, and two sites at Orlando International Airport.

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