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**Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC) Working to “Help End
Prison Gerrymandering in Florida.”**

**Should people incarcerated be counted as constituents at their last
address or where they’re presently incarcerated at?**

ORLANDO, FL — January 6, 2022 Did you know Florida has the 3rd largest prison population in the country? Or that when people are incarcerated, they are counted in redistricting as residents of the prison where they are housed, rather than their hometown? It’s a process known as, “Prison Gerrymandering.” This practice creates unequal representation in voting districts and can unfairly shift political power to areas where the prisons are located.

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC) is working to raise awareness about this practice through community events, legislative meetings and a new interactive Prison Gerrymandering map that will help to end Prison Gerrymandering in Florida.

“We believe in putting people over politics,” said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of FRRRC. “Unfortunately, Prison Gerrymandering puts politics over people. That is why we think it would be better if we changed our system of counting people who are incarcerated like so many other states have, and counted people where they lived, rather than where they are currently incarcerated.”



The practice of Prison Gerrymandering inflates the population count and the political influence of the district where the prison is located. As a result, the voting power of everyone living outside of those districts is weakened. Prison Gerrymandering also puts a huge block of residents in districts where they cannot vote.

FRRC is asking legislators and policy makers to end the practice of assigning incarcerated persons to districts where they are incarcerated in the state of Florida.

"This is not a partisan issue," said FRRC Deputy Director Neil Volz. "We are simply asking key officials to put people over politics and count incarcerated residents in their home districts when drawing legislative maps, rather than the prison where they are housed," continued Volz.

To interact with the new FRRC Prison Gerrymandering interactive map, click the following link: <https://interactive.floridarrc.com/bodycount>

About the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run primarily by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit <https://floridarrc.com/>.

For interview requests or further information contact Kinyatta Wright at press@floridarrc.org, or at the phone number, 407-664-6451.