



# Office of the Minority Leader

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## **REPUBLICANS READY TO FIGHT REDISTRICTING IF DEMOCRATS “PURSUE POLITICS OVER PRIORITIES”**

**Montgomery** – Citing critical needs in state government, Alabama House Minority Leader Mike Hubbard (R – Auburn) said Republican lawmakers stand ready to fight if Democrats push forward with a plan to redistrict state and federal legislative districts prior to the next U.S. Census.

“Our public education system is in need of reform, our state government needs stricter ethical guidelines and Alabama’s families are demanding tax relief, but the Democrats are focusing their efforts on redrawing district lines that they drew themselves just a few years ago,” Hubbard said. “If the Democrats insist upon pursuing politics over priorities in the upcoming quadrennium, Republicans will have no choice but to fight back with every legislative tool and tactic in our playbook.”

Hubbard said Democrat efforts to redraw district lines, which is traditionally done only once every ten years, would, unfortunately, result in prolonged filibusters and other “lockdown” measures in the House.

“There is no question our state has great needs that should be addressed, but gerrymandering legislative districts in order to elect more Democrats on the state and federal level is not one of them,” Hubbard said. “There is plenty on the Legislature’s plate to keep us busy for four years without adding the political posturing and power struggles associated with redistricting into the mix.”

The minority leader, who is serving his second, consecutive term in that leadership position, said Republicans’ strong showing in Alabama during the 2006 election cycle is the most likely reason for the Democrat redistricting plan.

“When Republicans were taking hits elections across the nation, Alabama was one of only three states in which the GOP actually gained seats in the Legislature,” Hubbard said. “By attempting to redraw Congressional districts, the Democrat leadership in the Legislature is taking sides with Nancy Pelosi, Ted Kennedy and other Washington liberals who don’t share the conservative beliefs of the average Alabamian.”

The costs associated with redistricting are yet another reason to delay the process for several more years.

“Redistricting requires the hiring of consultants, in-depth analysis of census data and, at least in Alabama’s history, long and expensive court battles,” Hubbard said. “With all indicators showing the cash-strapped General Fund will be struggling for the next few years, how can we justify wasting taxpayer dollars on an unneeded, unwanted and politically-motivated redistricting process?”