



Observer Corps Report

Daytona Beach City Commission

Reported by Cindy Wakeland

August 20, 2025

The August 20th meeting of the Daytona Beach City Council began with a report from Matt Reinhart, Vice Chair of the Volusia County Council. He presented an update on beach re-nourishment in the county.

In north Volusia County more than 1.6 miles of sand have been placed. The 2nd project has begun with dredging on Rattlesnake Island. There is a 3rd project to begin later involving 1 million cubic yards of sand.

Another issue the county is addressing is Flood Mitigation and Infrastructure. These projects are funded through the Transform386 initiative. Currently in development is a citywide stormwater model and watershed management plan for Daytona Beach. Mr. Reinhart also spoke regarding plans for a \$40 million upgrade to the Ocean Center. There have been improvements to beach access at Silver Avenue and Harvey Avenue. Also, rebuilds were done to family restrooms.

Re-Districting

Daytona Beach Commissioners hired a consultant from Tallahassee to assist with re-drawing the voting districts. The City faced a lawsuit for gerrymandering after the 2020 election.

The Commissioners previously engaged in a workshop to assess the consultants' proposed new districts, provided recommendations, and submitted additional inquiries for further review. During the August 20th meeting, the consultant, Mr. Spitzer of KS&A Consulting, was available on Zoom. The Commissioners had several questions and suggestions for moving certain sections. Mr. Gross, city attorney, advised changes could still be made to zoning districts before the second reading. The Commission tabled their vote until the next reading which is scheduled for September 3rd.

September 3, 2025

Re-Districting

At the September 3rd Commissioner's meeting The topic of re-drawing the City's voting zones was again addressed. The latest proposed map was presented to the

commissioners and reviewed. It was noted that the *population* of Daytona Beach was to be evenly distributed among the six zones, not the voting age population.

The Commissioners questioned some small locations on the map and suggested/requested they be returned to their original zone and other minor modifications. The consultant will assess the effects of the proposed changes on zone population distribution and provide an updated map at the next meeting.

Lisa Lewis, Volusia County's Voting Superintendent, addressed the Commission, she asked that the Commission make the new zones effective immediately upon passage. Her reasoning is that her office has re-located and she is required by law to notify voters of the new location within a certain timeframe before the next election. She has sent out mailings to all Volusia residents except Daytona Beach. If the effective date stays as December 1, she must go ahead and mail the notices out to Daytona Beach residents. This would necessitate a second mailing to residents informing them of their revised assigned voting zone. The cost of this second mailing would be the city's responsibility and is estimated at \$50,000.

The commission voted to continue to review proposed re-zoning at the September 17 meeting.