

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

In re: Public Meeting of the Legislative
Reapportionment Commission

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Stenographic report of hearing held
in Hearing Room No. 1, North Office
Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Tuesday
September 21, 2021
5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Sen. Kim Ward	Rep. Kerry Benninghoff
Sen. Jay Costa	Rep. Joanna McClinton

Also Present:

Robert L. Byer, Esq., Chief Counsel
G. Reynolds Clark, Executive Director
Dr. Jonathan Cervas, Redistricting Consultant
G. Carlton Logue, Esq. Deputy Counsel, Senate Majority Leader
Chad Davis, Research Analyst, Senate Republican Policy Office
C.J. Hafner, Esq., Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic Leader
Ronald N. Jumper, Esq. Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic
Leader
Lora S. Schoenberg, Director, Senate Democratic Legislative
Services
Rod Corey, Esq., Chief Counsel, House Republican Caucus
James Mann, Esq., Senior Deputy Chief Counsel, House
Republican Caucus
Katherine Testa, Esq., Senior Legal Counsel, House
Republican Caucus
William R. Schaller, Director, House Republican District
Operations
Michael Schwoyer, Esq., Special Counsel, Deputy Chief of
Staff for Legislation and Policy, House Democratic Caucus
Justin Klos, Director, House Democratic Office of
Demographic Analysis

Reported by:
Ann-Marie P. Sweeney
Senate Chief Official Reporter

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Also Present:

David Brogan, Esq., Director, House Democratic Legislation
and Policy
Andrew McGinley, Esq., General Counsel, House Democratic
Government Oversight Committee

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1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Good evening, everyone.

2 The clock on the wall now says 5 o'clock, so I
3 think I should call this hearing to order. My name is Mark
4 Nordenberg. I'm the Chair of the Legislative Reapportionment
5 Commission. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you here
6 today, those who are in the Capitol Complex and those who are
7 joining us through the livestream. I also want to extend
8 greetings on behalf of the other Commissioners who are here -
9 Senator Kim Ward, the Majority Leader of the Senate, to my
10 right; Jay Costa, the Democratic Leader of the Senate, to my
11 immediate left; and Representative Kerry Benninghoff, the
12 Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, to my far
13 right. I expect that Joanna McClinton, the Democratic Leader
14 of the House, will be with us momentarily.

15 We have four speakers who are going to testify in
16 person tonight. We have another 10 who will be joining us via
17 Zoom. Typically, we take all of the live witnesses first.
18 Tonight, we're going to make a brief exception because our
19 first witness had time problems at the other end in terms of
20 dinner, and so let me turn the floor over first to Suzanne
21 Broughton from Allison Park. She is well-known to our
22 Executive Director, Renny Clark, because she used to live in
23 Franklin Park, where he was the mayor, and she is going to--

24 MS. BROUGHTON: And the Fire Chief.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: --briefly discuss two maps that

1 we should avoid.

2 Ms. Broughton, the floor is yours.

3 MS. BROUGHTON: And the Fire Chief.

4 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Yes, Renny was the Fire Chief
5 for many years.

6 MS. BROUGHTON: My name is Suzanne Broughton. I
7 live in a retirement community now in the town of McCandless.
8 I am a past President of the League of Women Voters of Greater
9 Pittsburgh. Since 2016, I have given 53 presentations for
10 Fair Districts Pennsylvania. However, I speak here for myself
11 only.

12 At the age of 84, I leave to younger generations
13 the task of telling you the details of the maps that they need
14 in their future. Through my professional career as a
15 scientist, I know the importance of well-defined and
16 well-implemented processes to reach defensible conclusions. I
17 will look back at two maps that I see as examples of poor
18 implementation.

19 Keeping communities of interest together is not a
20 requirement for redistricting, but in the last decade it has
21 become important to many citizens. One such community is a
22 school district. In 2014 redistricting, the LRC treated the
23 Fox Chapel School District, as shown on these maps, here you
24 can see that the northern part of the district is in House
25 District 33. The school district is outlined in yellow, and

1 the House districts are the red. Up here (indicating), you
2 can see that most, but not all, of the lower part of the
3 school district is in House District 30. And over here
4 (indicating), you can see that there are two small portions of
5 the district that are in House District 32 and House District
6 21. A division among several legislators, who may be only
7 vaguely aware that part of the school district is in their
8 House district, makes it difficult for those school officials
9 to have a strong voice in Harrisburg. That's not fair. So I
10 hope this Commission will give serious consideration to school
11 districts as you go along.

12 My second example is the House districts in Butler
13 County. Take a quick look at this map, the counties outlined
14 in red. How many districts are whole or parts of districts do
15 you see Butler County? Did you count seven? Districts 11 and
16 12 are wholly within Butler County; however, the other five
17 districts are partially within Butler County and wander
18 through five other counties. Article II, Section 16, of the
19 Pennsylvania Constitution states that "Unless absolutely
20 necessary no county ... shall be divided in forming either a
21 senatorial or representative district." If there was any
22 absolute necessity for this division of Butler County, I don't
23 see it. I have never seen an explanation for it. This actual
24 requirement, a real provision of the Pennsylvania
25 Constitution, has been ignored by previous Commissions.

1 Apparently, the people who wrote the Commission process into
2 Article II, Section 17, in 1968, and specified the mapping
3 requirements of Section 16, thought that their well-defined
4 process was sufficient to produce fair maps. But, as I have
5 said, a process must be also well-implemented to produce
6 acceptable results.

7 In 2011, the Commission's implementation did not
8 prioritize districts that were fair and constitutional. This
9 2021 Commission has made a huge improvement through its
10 openness to citizens. I appreciate that. As you draw the
11 maps, your continuing implementation must pursue the goal of
12 districts that are fair and constitutional.

13 Thank you for your time. I wish you the best as
14 you proceed with this difficult task that you have undertaken.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

16 And let me say as a general matter that we are
17 very interested, as we have posted on our website, in getting
18 specific examples from particular parts of the Commonwealth.
19 And so we appreciate this, and I also can say to you that
20 there already has been talk back and forth about your maps.
21 So again, we thank you very much for your presentation.

22 MS. BROUGHTON: That means that you did receive my
23 written testimony. Is that correct?

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Yes, we did.

25 MS. BROUGHTON: Okay.

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: And it's been distributed.

2 MS. BROUGHTON: Good. Thank you so much.

3 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

4 Our second citizen-witness tonight is a genuine
5 Harrisburg VIP, the former Majority Leader of the Senate, the
6 Honorable David "Chip" Brightbill. I will say that for
7 myself, it is somewhat strange to be sitting up here and
8 having you down there rather than the opposite arrangement,
9 but we're all very grateful to have you here. His topic is
10 keeping Lebanon County whole, and he does have an ally from
11 Lebanon County with him, and I'll let you introduce her, Mr.
12 Leader.

13 MR. BRIGHTBILL: Sitting down here looking up, I
14 feel like I'm going to be sentenced, so if I look nervous,
15 that's the reason. I'm here with Karen Groh, who's the
16 President and CEO of the Lebanon Valley Chamber, and her
17 testimony is in your packet. I'm here on behalf of the
18 Lebanon Valley Chamber and the people of Lebanon County, and
19 I'm not speaking for anyone else.

20 Lebanon County, and I have included some maps in
21 our testimony, we are a fast-growing county. We are one of
22 six counties that grew over 5 percent in the last decade. We
23 grew 7.2 percent, which is almost a thousand people a year.
24 We have almost 10,000 new souls in Lebanon County than 10
25 years ago. And we're at the top of the classification as a

1 fifth-class county. Sixteen counties have 100 percent of a
2 Senate seat, 100 percent or more. That's on the chart. And
3 nine counties have over 50 percent. Lebanon, at 55.1 percent,
4 is one of those nine. We're a little unique in the sense that
5 counties to our east, west, and south are all substantially
6 larger. And what that means is that not only do they in many
7 cases have more Senators, but they have larger overall
8 delegations. So we're like the little guy in the southeast.
9 Maybe you could call us the little engine that could.

10 Since this is the fastest growing area of our
11 State, we believe it is important to fairly treat this area,
12 and we believe you have two options. One option would be to
13 use our population as kind of filler as you build districts
14 around it. You take Myerstown and put it in the west, and
15 take Palmyra and put it in the east. The other option, which
16 we call Option B, is to keep us whole and then fill in around
17 us. For example, Lancaster County is 212 percent of a
18 district. Dauphin County, I think, is about 110 percent of a
19 district. So we believe that you could build a district that
20 would be centered in Lebanon. We think that B is obviously
21 best for us, because we want to have our own Senator, our own
22 voice here in the Senate, but we also think it's best for the
23 growing southeast and best for all of Pennsylvania.

24 With B, the Lebanon Senator, in essence, becomes a
25 wingman for the other Senators who are around. So the

1 examples would be, and the one that occurs to me is that at
2 one point northern Lehigh County, which had a brewery, needed
3 an amendment to the Liquor Code to be able to produce apple
4 cider. I actually had to change the liquor laws to produce
5 apple cider. That happened to be in my district, so I had the
6 laboring oar. When we had a floor fight on it, somebody
7 opposed it--it was a Republican who opposed it--and it was a
8 pretty mean fight, I had an ally on the other side of the
9 aisle named Roy Afflerbach, Jay's former colleague, and we got
10 the job done.

11 There are a lot of those kinds of examples where
12 we could be the wingman, or somebody in another county would
13 be a wingman for something in their county that is good for
14 that district. This has worked for the last half-century and
15 it's real, and we believe that this is the best option, again,
16 not only for Lebanon, but for the southeast and for
17 Pennsylvania.

18 Any questions?

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

20 Are there any questions for Leader Brightbill?

21 Particularly from either of his former colleagues, who have a
22 particular interest in the Senate map.

23 (There was no response.)

24 MR. BRIGHTBILL: Thank you.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much. It's

1 great to see you again.

2 MR. BRIGHTBILL: I see you have one of our
3 resident comedians here.

4 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, we knew Ann-Marie was a
5 person of many talents. We didn't know that she was known for
6 her comedy, but hopefully we'll get to see it.

7 MR. BRIGHTBILL: She is, Mr. Chairman. She's got
8 a very good sense of humor.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thanks.

10 Our third witness tonight is Stanley Chepaitis
11 from Indiana, who would like to speak with respect to
12 districting issues surrounding State System of Higher
13 Education campuses.

14 Welcome, sir.

15 MR. CHEPAITIS: Thank you. My name is Stanley
16 Chepaitis. I have lived in Indiana, Pennsylvania, since 1992
17 when I joined the music faculty of Indiana University of
18 Pennsylvania. I held that job for 25 years, until my
19 retirement just a few years ago. And as just a little
20 disclaimer, I am the co-coordinator for Fair Districts
21 Pennsylvania in Indiana County, but I'm not speaking for them.
22 I'm speaking just for myself here tonight.

23 Back in 1992 when I first moved to Indiana, IUP
24 was thriving with over 16,000 students, and the State
25 University System as a whole was thriving. It was also clear

1 to me that IUP offered a tremendous kind of positive impact on
2 Indiana County and Indiana Borough in terms of being a driver
3 of economic opportunity and also quality of life. The
4 University always attracts, any university attracts, a
5 community of highly educated and motivated people who quickly
6 kind of get engaged and become, you know, part of a community
7 in numerous different ways. This community is very seldom
8 unified in its viewpoints or its affiliations, but
9 nonetheless, it creates a kind of a culture which is quite
10 distinct from that which surrounds it. Now, all of the State
11 System Universities, I think with only a couple of exceptions,
12 are placed in small towns that we would generally call rural
13 areas, and they do have a strong impact on those towns. The
14 towns would not be really what they are without the university
15 there.

16 So I was very surprised a few years ago to hear
17 our former House Representative for part of Indiana County say
18 that he usually didn't bother to do much campaigning in the
19 borough of Indiana because that's not where his voters were.
20 I was intrigued by that statement and wanted to kind of find
21 out what did it really mean. So I began to look very closely
22 at the legislative map, particularly the House districts,
23 because our Senate, the whole county is within one Senate
24 district, but the House maps we have four different
25 Representatives that cover Indiana County. And I took a close

1 look. So I am a voter in District 62. District 62 encloses
2 the borough of Indiana and much of Indiana County to the
3 south. Just to the north of us is District 66, which covers a
4 good, I'd say, third of northern Indiana County and I think
5 all of Jefferson County. I was particularly intrigued by a
6 kind of appendage of District 66, a little part that juts out
7 to the south and comes almost right up to the border of
8 Indiana. This appendage is Rayne Township. And Rayne
9 Township, due to lower housing prices and availability of
10 land, is a popular place for IUP faculty, administrators,
11 staff to go buy a house and live there. I don't have hard
12 data on that, I don't know if it is obtainable, but it is
13 that.

14 So I did ask myself, first of all, is it
15 reasonable to assume that of the 3,000 or so residents of
16 Rayne Township that a substantial portion of them would be in
17 one way or another connected with the university? And number
18 two, then why was that township left out of District 62 and
19 included in District 66, which is a much different character
20 district? Even while the townships to the east and west of
21 Rayne Township were still included in District 62, and those
22 are mainly farming areas. So, yeah, I want to add about
23 township lines, as I've looked into it a little bit. These
24 were largely drawn in the 1800s and, particularly in rural
25 areas, they haven't changed since then. They bear very little

1 relevance, I think, to current-day demographics. And
2 certainly, let's say a new hire at Indiana University of
3 Pennsylvania who would buy a house and some land 8 miles out
4 of town in Rayne Township would probably have no idea that he
5 or she was moving into an area where -- a completely different
6 legislative district, and they would not have representation
7 of their interests.

8 So talking about the importance of this, we all
9 know now that the State System of Higher Education is in a
10 pretty dire straight. We are experiencing, you know,
11 across-the-board retrenchments of faculty, universities are
12 being merged two or three into one because the system can no
13 longer support them, which is really sad for me, having spent
14 most of my life working for the system in what I think is
15 probably its heyday. And yet my Representatives in Indiana
16 County seem to have shown little advocacy or interest in
17 what's going to happen if the State System collapses. They're
18 very, very concerned about the loss of some coal jobs, if the
19 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is adopted, but I don't
20 hear the concern for what's going to happen if, you know, the
21 State System falls apart.

22 So here's what I am asking. I am asking if you
23 would take a very close look at all of the towns which host
24 the universities of the State System, and other universities
25 as well, and I'm sure there's similar issues in State College,

1 and I think when you do you will find that they were
2 districted in such a way to split and mute the voice of these
3 communities of interest which always gather around a
4 university. If you reverse these gerrymanders, I'll call them
5 gerrymanders, and by the way, I was very interested in the map
6 that the lady held up of Butler County, because right there at
7 the nexus of all of that crisscrossing is Slippery Rock, which
8 is another one. But anyway, if you reverse these
9 gerrymanders, it's probably not going to have a major effect,
10 you know, on the political calculus statewide, but it will
11 give these communities of interest which gather around
12 universities more of a voice. It will ask their
13 Representatives to heed that voice, to be very mindful of that
14 voice, because I think now they can safely more or less ignore
15 it. And it might just help us save the State System, if
16 that's still possible. I don't know.

17 But thank you very much. That's my testimony.

18 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, Professor. And I
19 will say there are people up here I know who have a strong
20 interest in higher education, and in IUP in particular.

21 Any questions or comments?

22 Senator Ward.

23 SENATOR K. WARD: I have one question. What's the
24 population of Indiana County?

25 MR. CHEPAITIS: Could you say?

1 SENATOR K. WARD: The population of Indiana.

2 MR. CHEPAITIS: It's between 80,000 and 90,000,
3 somewhere upwards of 80,000 but not -- I am guessing around
4 85,000, around the mid-80s. So it's too much for one House
5 district, right, but I don't think that justifies the way that
6 it's broken up currently. So.

7 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again, very much for
8 your time and your thoughts.

9 MR. CHEPAITIS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Victor
11 Martinez, who is from Allentown and is to speak on the
12 representation for growing Hispanic populations in Lehigh
13 Valley. I didn't know you were going to be on the screen
14 instead of in person. We were all looking forward to having
15 you with us.

16 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Welcome, and the floor is
18 yours.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you. Thank you for the
20 opportunity. Yes, I was going to drive up to Harrisburg, but
21 some personal and work-related matters didn't allow me to, but
22 I still want to say thank you for the opportunity to join the
23 Committee and everybody else through technology and through
24 Zoom. So thank you. Thank you for this very important
25 community.

1 As you said, my name is Victor Martinez. I live,
2 I work, I raise my family in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I am
3 the owner of the only independent Spanish broadcasting company
4 in Pennsylvania. I am the proud owner of three Spanish radio
5 stations in this great State - one in Philadelphia, one in
6 Allentown, and one in Reading, Pennsylvania. As part of these
7 radio stations, I also host a morning show on the radio
8 stations every day, Monday through Friday, and this gives me a
9 unique opportunity to speak and listen and engage my fellow
10 local residents on many issues, and this is one of them.

11 I have been involved with and have rallied the
12 Hispanic community around several outstanding Hispanic
13 candidates running for office these past few years. We have
14 come so close each time, but, you see, the lines are drawn
15 every 10 years, as you know, and somehow the Hispanic
16 community is always divided between these lines, making it
17 near impossible to elect someone of our choice. According to
18 the new Census, as you probably know, we have grown to 1.5
19 million strong. Latinos are now 1.5 million in the State of
20 Pennsylvania. We represent the biggest increase in the State.
21 We represent 55 percent of the total population in Allentown.
22 We represent 29 percent of the population in Bethlehem, 69
23 percent in Reading, and 15 percent in Philadelphia. And I
24 want to repeat that again, because it's very important. We
25 are now 1.5 million Latino strong in the State of

1 Pennsylvania, 55 percent of the population in Allentown, 29
2 percent in Bethlehem, 69 percent in Reading, and 15 percent in
3 Philadelphia. Just to mention a few.

4 The growth of the Hispanic community is in the
5 entire State of Pennsylvania, yet out of 203 Representatives
6 in the State House of Representatives, only 4 are Latinos.
7 And out of 50 Senators, none are Latinos. Four out of 203 is
8 not representation. It doesn't give our community a real
9 opportunity to have an impact on the life-changing decisions
10 made every single day in Harrisburg. Our community, the
11 Hispanic community, needs to be better represented in office
12 throughout the State. In the Lehigh Valley, for instance, we
13 currently don't have any district where a Hispanic can
14 reasonably be elected. It's almost impossible. District 22
15 has a good percentage of Latino residents, but not enough to
16 make a difference. Just like the other district, the area in
17 our community is divided and not able to have much of a
18 political impact.

19 We need to be represented. We need at least two
20 districts to represent this majority Latino population in the
21 City of Allentown and in the Lehigh Valley. We also need at
22 least one more district to represent the Latino population in
23 Philadelphia. This will give us the opportunity to have at
24 least 6 representatives in Harrisburg out of 203. Our small
25 businesses, our schoolchildren, which by the way, 67 percent

1 of the Allentown School District is of Latino students. So
2 our small businesses, our schoolchildren, need a voice, need a
3 voice to represent them.

4 I ask you on behalf of the fastest growing
5 community in our State to give us an opportunity, to take that
6 into consideration. Again, when the lines were drawn 10 years
7 ago, the population was divided into all these little
8 districts here and there and everywhere, not giving us an
9 opportunity to really come out and vote and elect someone of
10 our choice to represent us and to have a seat at the table in
11 Harrisburg. Right now, as I said before, 4, only 4 Latinos
12 out of 203, and none in the Senate.

13 So on behalf of my community, please take this
14 into consideration, and thank you for giving me the
15 opportunity to talk to you, all the Commissioners, and
16 everyone listening.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much. We do
18 miss having you here, but are glad that technology permitted
19 you to bring that very compelling message to us.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

21 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Are there any questions or
22 comments?

23 Leader McClinton has a question or comment for
24 you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE McCLINTON: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 Good evening, Mr. Martinez. We truly appreciate
3 you participating and sharing your perspective, and I'll just
4 start with this caveat: When you talk about the limited
5 number in the House and the 50 Senators that are lacking this
6 diversity, I always say that means it's 253. You currently
7 only have 4 Latinos out of 253, like we only have 8 black
8 women out of 253. There's zero in the Senate. So I
9 appreciate you sharing your details, your facts, your
10 perspectives.

11 My question is, what, in fact, makes a majority-
12 minority district? What percentage of a minority population
13 makes a district competitive? Because you shared that in the
14 last several rounds of maps, it's like small growing
15 populations of Latinos kind of put in other districts where
16 they're not the majority. And then the final question that is
17 a part of this is, do you think or do you feel that current
18 Latino districts, the 4 that we have out of 253, are too
19 packed?

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Well, on your latter question, I
21 don't think that we are too packed, to be honest with you. In
22 the Lehigh Valley, which is where I reside, there is none. We
23 have no districts that we can honestly say, well, okay, the
24 Latino population, the Latino community in that district can
25 elect someone that can go to Harrisburg and represent the

1 interests of our community. So I don't think we are too
2 packed because we have none. We have no opportunity to elect
3 someone that can represent us. And as I mentioned before, and
4 as you very well know, so what happens is, again, they take
5 one ZIP Code, for example, and then they divide that ZIP Code
6 into two or three, only allowing to have a small percentage
7 here, a small percentage there, and a small percentage there,
8 diluting the opportunity for us to come out and vote.

9 I joke around on the radio show every morning that
10 even if every Latino came out and voted in that district, we
11 still wouldn't be able to elect a Latino, even if every Latino
12 came out and voted, because of the way that we have been
13 divided. So, no, I don't believe that we are packed, as you
14 mentioned.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

16 Leader Benninghoff also has a comment.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I just wanted to
18 thank you for your testimony. I think it's good information,
19 especially statistical data, and I also want to say though
20 your Latino population may only have four Representatives, all
21 of them have very good engagement and dialogues as they try to
22 advocate for their communities.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 MR. MARTINEZ: Absolutely. The four that we have
25 are very good.

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you again, sir, for
2 sharing your facts and figures with us. We appreciate it.

3 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you. Thank you for the
4 opportunity.

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is here in
6 person. She is Jean Handley from Dauphin County. She will
7 be, I think, the third of our first five witnesses who has a
8 leadership role in Fair Districts, but is here speaking for
9 herself tonight. Thank you.

10 MS. HANDLEY: Thank you. I guess you can hear me
11 okay.

12 Good evening, Chairman Nordenberg, Leaders Ward,
13 Mcclinton, Benninghoff, and Costa. I appreciate this
14 opportunity to speak with you about the current State
15 legislative redistricting, and as Chairman Nordenberg said, I
16 am the Dauphin County coordinator for Fair Districts, but that
17 is not my capacity this evening. I'm here for myself.

18 My name is Jean Handley, and I've lived in
19 Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County, for 37-plus years, and
20 today I focus on three areas for you to consider: Lack of
21 choice or competitiveness in elections, division of school
22 districts, and conforming district boundaries to natural
23 boundaries.

24 First, the election choice and competitiveness.
25 When speaking to groups and individuals, I have repeatedly

1 heard statements like, why bother to vote when my vote doesn't
2 matter? There's only one candidate running, so why vote?
3 Their frustration and disillusionment are palpable. Democracy
4 is based on as many eligible voters as possible lending their
5 voice to this conversation. And I'm going to cite the 2018
6 and 2020 State Senate and House general election races as
7 reasons for this disillusionment. And a note here: a win
8 margin of greater than 10 percent is widely used as a standard
9 to determine election competitiveness. Greater than 10
10 percent equals a pretty safe district and considered
11 noncompetitive.

12 Out of the 25 State Senate general elections in
13 each year of 2018 and 2020, in 2018, 17 of those 25 were
14 considered noncompetitive, and 6 of those had no opposing
15 major party candidate. In 2020, 21 were considered
16 noncompetitive, and 6 of those had no major party opposition.
17 And then if you go to the House, in the 203 State House
18 general elections in 2018 and 2020, in 2018, 176 were
19 considered noncompetitive, and 78 of those had no opposing
20 major party candidate. And in 2020, 174 were considered
21 noncompetitive, and 73 of those had no opposing major party
22 candidate. You can see why many voters feel left out, left
23 behind, and feel like they have no voice. I know
24 gerrymandering is not the only reason for these numbers, but
25 in many cases, it is a major contributing factor.

1 Second, divided school districts, and you've heard
2 some of this already, but although not mentioned in the
3 Pennsylvania Constitution, this should be an important
4 consideration. In many cases, the residents have common
5 interests, concerns, and values. In addition, having multiple
6 legislators representing a school district hinders the ability
7 to have their specific concerns and needs heard and addressed.
8 Dauphin County has five school districts that have at least
9 two State Representatives. Two of those five, Central Dauphin
10 and Lower Dauphin School Districts, have four Representatives
11 and two Senators each. And I would also add that they also
12 have two Congressmen each. Although the physical size of the
13 district may be a factor, there is no reasonable justification
14 to split the districts amongst so many legislators. Based on
15 the 2020 Census population data, Central Dauphin would justify
16 two Representatives and one Senator, and Lower Dauphin would
17 justify one Representative and one Senator.

18 Third, conforming district boundaries to natural
19 boundaries. Senate District 48 includes Lebanon County and
20 the lower portion of Dauphin County on the east shore of the
21 Susquehanna River and a portion of the northeastern part of
22 York County on the western shore. Other than by air or water,
23 there is no way to remain within District 48 and cross the
24 river. There are no bridges that connect the district, and
25 this is a clear violation of the meaning of contiguous in

1 redistricting, I believe. This type of violation should not
2 occur. Another geographic factor is the Allegheny Mountain
3 ridges that traverse Dauphin County. These ridges create a
4 sort of demarcation line, and in many cases a natural,
5 physical barrier between the southern, more urban and suburban
6 area parts of the county and the northern, more rural section.
7 The road system also makes the connection between northern and
8 southern Dauphin County challenging, to say the least. The
9 issues, priorities, concerns, and the culture of the residents
10 of northern Dauphin County are different than those in the
11 southern section, and more in line with Northumberland and
12 Schuylkill Counties.

13 I suggest that Dauphin County be kept whole as
14 much as possible, but when division is necessary because of
15 population, these factors do be considered. Although Middle
16 Paxton Township is among the ridges, because it is in the
17 Central Dauphin School District, it should be included in the
18 southern section. Also, East Hanover Township, because of its
19 historical, cultural, and economic connections to Derry,
20 Londonderry, South Hanover, and Conewago Townships and
21 Hummelstown Borough, should be combined in one southern
22 district.

23 In summary, the districts you draw will impact
24 legislative agenda and policy in Pennsylvania politics for at
25 least the next decade. I ask that you take into serious

1 consideration whenever possible the following: election
2 choice and competitiveness, division of school districts, and
3 conforming to natural boundaries. It's also crucial that the
4 public be given ample time to review the preliminary maps and
5 adequate opportunity for comment before completing the final
6 maps. The opportunity to make a historic positive impact on
7 Pennsylvania State legislative redistricting and restoration
8 of the public trust rests in your hands. I commend your
9 efforts at transparency and public input thus far. However,
10 it's not what's said but the end result that will determine
11 your success. Citizens are calling for transparency,
12 accountability, meaningful public input, and well-defined,
13 sensible map-drawing criteria. They are counting on you.

14 Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with
15 you this evening, and if you have any questions, I'm happy to
16 entertain them.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

18 Are there any questions or comments?

19 Senator Costa.

20 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,
21 and thank you for your testimony today.

22 I tend to agree with you. I think one of the
23 things that occurred in the previous maps 10 years ago in
24 District 15 was the addition of Perry County, which we believe
25 was wholly inappropriate and was one basis of our appeal. So

1 your advocacy, if I understand it correctly, for Dauphin
2 County is to remain whole. And, you know, the portion that
3 exceeds the 260, you know, be assigned to one of the other
4 areas that makes sense and has communities of interest and the
5 like.

6 So thank you for the testimony. That's an issue
7 that I'm glad you raised, because it's very important going
8 forward.

9 MS: HANDLEY: Yeah, that basically — just a
10 comment, that's basically what happened, and as I said,
11 northern Dauphin County, I would love to see it stay whole,
12 but unfortunately, we have 281,000 people now in Dauphin
13 County, and so we probably will have to do something,
14 hopefully not, but if so, you know, the northern part has more
15 interests in the northern sections or even Lebanon County, for
16 that matter. So.

17 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you.

18 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Any other questions or
19 comments?

20 Leader Benninghoff.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, and thank
22 you again for your testimony.

23 I just want to clarify. I thought I heard you say
24 that having multiple legislators in an area like that or one
25 particular county or even a school district weakens the voice.

1 Did I hear that right?

2 MS. HANDLEY: For example, Dauphin County, and I
3 **will** use Dauphin -- not Dauphin County, Central Dauphin or
4 Lower Dauphin School Districts -- they are somewhat larger or
5 spread out school districts, but to be divided among four
6 different House Representatives and two Senators, and then
7 throw in the Congressman, it makes it very, very difficult to
8 get their voices heard on their particular issues. I've heard
9 from a couple of--

10 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Just for my thinking,
11 what's the population in that county then?

12 MS. HANDLEY: In Dauphin County?

13 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: The one you used as
14 an example.

15 MS. HANDLEY: In Dauphin County, there's 281,000,
16 but in the Central Dauphin School District--

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: That's all right, you
18 used Dauphin County. The only reason, just for those that may
19 not be in the room, an average House seat is 64,000, so with a
20 population of 285,000, roughly, whatever you said, you're
21 obviously going to have to have multiple districts in there.

22 One of the things I would caution is that to say
23 that having multiple legislators representing one county
24 weakens the voice, I would suggest that especially in
25 appropriations spending, when people are voting in favor of

1 spending, whether it's enhancing a hospital or a park or even
2 in other types of grant programs, having several people voting
3 and advocating for that is actually a benefit towards those
4 communities.

5 MS. HANDLEY: And maybe I was not clear. I was
6 talking about the school district being divided, not the
7 county so much. The population, for example, of Central
8 Dauphin justifies 1.54 Representatives -- or yeah, 1.54
9 Representatives, or two, population wise, based on the 2020
10 Census, and it justifies one Senator. And the same thing for
11 Lower Dauphin. It justifies, population wise, one, it
12 actually is .49, I believe, for a House district, and one
13 Senator. So to be divided among four, I think, is very, very
14 difficult for them, especially as those particular school
15 districts to have their voices heard, knowing those school
16 districts.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you. I was
18 referencing your model of Dauphin County, so.

19 MS. HANDLEY: Okay. Yeah.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

23 MS. HANDLEY: Thank you for the opportunity.

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: All of the rest of our
25 witnesses will be joining us electronically. And we've

1 already seen how effective that can be through the testimony
2 of Ms. Broughton and Mr. Martinez, but I do want to thank the
3 three people who were here tonight - Leader Brightbill,
4 Professor Chepaitis, and Ms. Handley - for spending part
5 your--what day is it--Tuesday evening with us.

6 We now will move to a succession of witnesses
7 appearing by Zoom. The first is Tamara Gureghian -- I
8 probably mispronounced your name, I apologize for that -- who
9 is from Warrington and wants to focus her remarks on Warwick
10 Township in Bucks County. Welcome.

11 MS. GUREGHIAN: Good evening. My name is Tamara
12 Gureghian. I have lived in Pennsylvania for 52 years.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: I'm going to ask you to hold on
14 for a minute, because the volume is very low. I don't know
15 whether that's a problem at our end or your end. If you could
16 speak up. Apparently, it's an issue at your end, and we do
17 want to hear you.

18 MS. GUREGHIAN: Okay. Can you hear me better now?

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Yes.

20 MS. GUREGHIAN: Okay. Good evening. My name is
21 Tamara Gureghian. I have lived in Pennsylvania for 52 years,
22 42 of them in Bucks County. There are a few main things that
23 I'd like you to do when drawing legislative district lines.

24 The first is, start with a clean slate. Drawing
25 district lines is challenging. There are many competing

1 considerations - school districts, natural boundaries,
2 community interests. Incumbent retention should not be one of
3 them. If an incumbent excels, they will have a long list of
4 reasons why they should be elected in whatever district they
5 find themselves in after a map is drawn from scratch. If they
6 find that they no longer live comfortably in a district in
7 which they once served, then they can feel free to move into
8 that district. Politicians should move to serve the people.
9 District lines should not move to serve incumbents. So wipe
10 the slate clean and start fresh.

11 Second, while respecting legal requirements,
12 prioritize competitive districts. We are a purple State.
13 That purpleness should be reflected in our districts. Yes,
14 some areas will always lean more blue or red. But those
15 naturally occurring safe districts should be equalized. There
16 should be enough competitive districts so that we have more
17 compromise, more give-and-take between the two major political
18 parties, and more voice for independents and moderates. That
19 will lead to tangible results for the people of Pennsylvania.

20 For those of you that are concerned about wiping
21 the slate clean and establishing competitive districts, I
22 direct your attention to my Senate District 6. Our registered
23 voter party affiliation is split 54 to 45 to 1. Our Senator's
24 party affiliation, it's with the 45 percent. How can that be?
25 Competitive districts encourage legislators to serve all the

1 people, and all the people to vote. You know your ballot can
2 make the difference between a win and a loss. Every vote
3 counts in a competitive district. As we saw with Resolutions
4 4A and SA today, you may not always get what you want, but
5 you'll get some of what you want and you'll feel represented.
6 You'll feel that you have a chance to influence a decision.
7 And so you vote for the person that makes you feel heard,
8 regardless of party affiliation.

9 Both of my districts, Senate District 6 and House
10 District 29, are competitive. Both of my legislators are
11 responsive to my calls and requests for meetings. Both
12 support redistricting practices, and both win because they
13 listen to their constituents. They have a better
14 understanding of the issues facing a greater number of people
15 and more compassion for their plight. They have an ear on the
16 people to hear which way they're leaning on an issue, and
17 they're able to respond accordingly. Competitive districts
18 allow the will of the people to influence decisionmaking.
19 When the **will** of the people changes, we see a shift in
20 decisionmaking. This shift is crucial in a healthy democracy.
21 Competitiveness equals compromise, which equals a healthy
22 Commonwealth. Therefore, I ask that you create a map with
23 enough competitive districts to statistically impact
24 decisionmaking. Examples can be seen on Gave's Redistricting
25 website under "Notable Maps - Pennsylvania."

1 Third, be transparent. No matter what lines you
2 draw, some people will be unhappy. Nonetheless, more people
3 will be content if you establish that your tough decisions
4 were based on ethical values. I live in Warwick Township. We
5 have issues that affect us as a whole. In particular, our
6 water supply. If you split a small community like ours,
7 explain. Clarify why a line may not be good for a particular
8 community, but is good for the State as a whole. Let every
9 Pennsylvanian feel like their community was considered. If a
10 tough choice had to be made, so be it, but explain, tell us
11 why so we know that it's not to keep one person or one party
12 in power at the expense of a community. Restore our faith in
13 government with transparent values and reasoning.

14 Due to time constraints, I will submit the rest of
15 my testimony in writing. I note that I address, in my written
16 testimony, the idea of horizontal versus vertical lines in
17 Bucks County, and I advocate for diagonal lines in order to
18 maximize competitive districts.

19 To conclude, start with a clean slate. This
20 action itself will send a much needed message to the
21 Commonwealth that the people of Pennsylvania, not incumbents,
22 come first. Through a transparent, collaborative process,
23 Pennsylvania will be a model for redistricting. After years
24 of gerrymandering, our map can showcase how redistricting can
25 be done fairly, responsibly, and responsively. You have the

1 power to produce a map that will be the paradigm for fair
2 districts. When citizens of the United States are reminded
3 over and over again that Pennsylvania, a once gerrymandered
4 State, is now the epitome of excellence in map-drawing, the
5 State where the legislature listens to the people, where
6 things get done, where districts are fair, our population will
7 grow. Then in 10 years, we will redraw the lines not
8 adjusting for a loss, but a gain.

9 Thank you for your service and the opportunity to
10 speak.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

12 Are there any questions or comments?

13 (There was no response.)

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Again, let me say thanks very
15 much to you.

16 MS. GUREGHIAN: Thank you.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next speaker will be Will
18 Gonzalez. He is from Philadelphia, and he will discuss Latino
19 neighborhoods as communities of interest.

20 Welcome, Mr. Gonzalez.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Buenas tardes. Good afternoon. My
22 name is Will Gonzalez. I am the Executive Director of CEIBA.
23 CEIBA is a coalition of Latino community-based organizations
24 in Philadelphia. Our mission is to promote the economic
25 development and financial inclusion of Philadelphia's Latino

1 community through collaborations and advocacy aimed at
2 ensuring Latino access to quality housing. Thank you for
3 giving us the opportunity to testify today.

4 We know we're preaching to the choir somewhat, but
5 we want to remind you to please ensure that basic principles
6 of demographics, geography, and equity guide the redistricting
7 process in Pennsylvania. Among these principles is the
8 important concept of communities of interest. Communities of
9 interest are groups of people who live in a specific location,
10 have collective pursuits, and share many things in common -
11 customs, arts, social institutions, achievements, and
12 challenges. The prioritization of communities of interest in
13 redistricting in Pennsylvania is vital. We urge you to draw
14 legislative districts taking into account the streets,
15 neighborhoods, and important hubs, commercial districts that
16 make communities unique. Consider landmarks, cultural,
17 commercial districts, industries, employers, where kids go to
18 school, where families go to church, and the location of
19 neighborhood-based and social service organizations which
20 serve these communities.

21 For example, the Philadelphia Hispanic community
22 is in all parts of Philadelphia, but most Latinos live in
23 eastern North Philadelphia. The Latino community of eastern
24 North Philadelphia epitomizes the definition of a community of
25 interest. It is a self-defined group of people who share

1 bilingual and bicultural characteristics that have their own
2 culturally and linguistic appropriate nonprofit organizations,
3 churches, schools, business corridors, and social institutions
4 that share common interests and live in a compact urban
5 footprint without geographic barriers. The backbone of the
6 eastern North Philadelphia Latino community is a robust
7 network of nonprofit organizations.

8 A 2018 study by students from the University of
9 Pennsylvania's Masters of City Planning found that 15 Latino
10 nonprofits leveraged \$86 million in government grants to
11 sustain 4,160 local jobs, generate \$222 million in wages and
12 salaries, build over 1,333 new homes, and rehab nearly 10,000
13 housing units. While the full benefits of these investments
14 are incalculable, they are collectively worth at least \$517
15 million per year. At that time, these 15 nonprofits
16 transformed the social and physical landscape for some 124,000
17 --I repeat, 124,000--households and 1,900 businesses in
18 Philadelphia. The work of these nonprofits continues to
19 benefit the community today, and the Commonwealth of
20 Pennsylvania as well. The importance of a Latino community to
21 the Commonwealth and to the City of Philadelphia cannot be
22 overstated.

23 Growth in the Hispanic population in Pennsylvania
24 far outpaced that of the whole State and successfully offset
25 the declines of population of other ethnoracial groups in the

1 Commonwealth. Pennsylvania's population only grew 2.4 percent
2 between 2010 and 2020, or about 300,000 people. In that same
3 period, Pennsylvania's Hispanic population grew 45.8 percent,
4 or by about 330,000 people. Growth in the Hispanic population
5 far outpaced that of the whole State and successfully offset
6 the declines that occurred in other populations.

7 In other words, I know I repeated myself, the
8 Latina's share of total population change in Pennsylvania was
9 110 percent. In Philadelphia, the city's population growth
10 was also fueled by the expansion of its Latino community. The
11 total population of the city grew 5 percent, or by 77,791
12 people between 2010 and 2020. During the same period, the
13 Hispanic population of Philadelphia grew by 27 percent. South
14 Philadelphia, Allentown, Bethlehem, Reading, and many other
15 jurisdictions in Pennsylvania also experienced growth in their
16 respective Latino communities. We respectfully request that
17 you keep these Latino communities of interest intact within
18 their corresponding State House and State Senate districts.

19 As you can see from my previous comments about the
20 economic power of just 15 Latino nonprofits in Philadelphia,
21 it is best for the economic development of the Commonwealth to
22 keep Latino communities of interest intact within legislative
23 districts. CEIBA, our organization, looks forward to
24 continuing this dialogue about redistricting with you. CEIBA
25 believes that we can work together with you to insure that the

1 public is actively engaged in every step of the process, that
2 maps are drawn in a manner that accurately reflect changes in
3 the Commonwealth's population, that we avoid gerrymandering,
4 and that we take affirmative steps to insure that
5 reapportionment does not run counter to the protections
6 offered by the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions, the Voting
7 Rights Act, and the principle of one person, one vote.
8 Pennsylvania's Latino communities are ready to be stewards of
9 change rather than victims of it.

10 We thank you for your attention to this important
11 process, and we look forward to working with you.

12 Gracias.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Martinez. Are
14 there any questions? Or Mr. Gonzalez, I'm sorry.

15 Are there any questions for the witness?

16 Yes, Leader Benninghoff.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19 I appreciate your comments. I just wanted to
20 clarify. You gave out two stats as far as the overall growth
21 of the population in Pennsylvania, and then you also gave out
22 statistics on the growth in Latino population in the 10-year
23 time period. Could repeat those two numbers, please?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes. Hold on for me. Let me pull
25 up the numbers. Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I think you said 2.2
2 percent growth. I just wasn't sure--

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, so Pennsylvania's population
4 only grew 2.4 percent between 2010 and 2020, or by about
5 300,000 people. In the same period, Pennsylvania's Hispanic
6 population grew by 45.8 percent, or by about 230,000 people.
7 And growth in the Hispanic population far outpaced, out of the
8 whole State, and we accounted for 110 percent of the share of
9 population change in Pennsylvania.

10 Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you. Those are
14 impressive statistics.

15 Any other questions or comments?

16 (There was no response.)

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, thank you again, sir.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you for your patience.

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Kathleen
20 O'Connell, who is from Lemont, and who wishes to testify that
21 the State College community should not be split among four
22 different House districts.

23 Ms. O'Connell.

24 MS. O'CONNELL: Thank you, and good evening to the
25 Members of the LRC, and thanks for this opportunity to speak

1 briefly with you again. My name is Kathleen O'Connell, and
2 I've lived in Centre County for 50 years or more. Tonight, I
3 just want to speak up for the State College community of
4 interest, that area, and ask why are we split into four
5 Representative districts? I was a 6th grade teacher for many,
6 many years. Here in my school district, when I had my
7 students write to their Representatives, we had to do so much
8 map sleuthing to figure out which child would write to which
9 person.

10 So in your efforts to redistrict the State to
11 truly represent our changing population, and I realize this is
12 an incredibly complex task, please consider making the urban
13 areas of Centre County perhaps two districts. I believe we
14 have the population to merit that. Then I would have the
15 ability to speak with someone in Harrisburg who could respond
16 to our unique and quite different needs. Right now, our
17 Centre County Representatives might contend with a district
18 that's perhaps 80 miles long, stretching into rural, sparsely
19 populated areas whose concerns are dissimilar from the denser
20 slice of the Centre region. I realize that means you will
21 have to truly revision the State Representative districts.
22 And rather than just tinkering with an old map, you have to
23 look with new eyes at the current Census information about our
24 changing Pennsylvania.

25 I really appreciate this consideration about the

1 Centre region, and I wish you all good luck with the huge task
2 that you have been charged with for the fair representation of
3 the people of Pennsylvania.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

6 Any comments or questions?

7 Leader McClinton.

8 REPRESENTATIVE McCLINTON: Thank you, Chairman.

9 Good evening. Thank you so very much for being
10 very straightforward and succinct, Kathleen.

11 I just wanted to make sure, so that I'm clear, as
12 I'm taking my notes here for my Caucus, that you'd agree that
13 the size of the urban area of State College will be beneficial
14 to have about two Representatives, and if you could just
15 expound a little bit. Thank you.

16 MS. O'CONNELL: I don't have the exact figures. I
17 believe that the urban population in Centre County is about
18 120,000, so I don't know if that would qualify us for two
19 whole State Representative districts, but I think
20 Representative Benninghoff said it was about, I'm looking at
21 my notes, 64,000 for a State Representative. So that actually
22 seems to fit pretty well.

23 REPRESENTATIVE McCLINTON: Thank you.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Leader Benninghoff, your name

1 was mentioned. You should have a chance to speak.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you.

3 Hi, Kathleen. Thank you for your work. I think
4 you testified with us earlier. I think our population is
5 actually about 145,000. As you know, we have an influx of
6 40,000 students also as part of that population, which makes
7 it prohibitive, I think, to have just two legislative
8 districts, and historically why we've had three. And if you
9 look to the east of us, where Clinton County has had such
10 little growth in population, that's why they end up protruding
11 into us. So we're kind of surrounded by counties with not a
12 lot of growth, not a lot of industry, and obviously we are
13 helped to be buoyed up with Penn State. So we'll do our very
14 best keeping that in mind. I know in the last redistricting
15 we put downtown State College back together, because it was
16 split basically down through College Avenue, and I just want
17 to let you know your comments are heard.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 MS. O'CONNELL: Thank you.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

21 Our next speaker will be David Cruz, who is from
22 Lancaster, and who also will talk about the importance of
23 Latino voices and perspectives in redistricting.

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Okay. We will then move on to

1 Don Hossler, from Middletown, who is going to testify that we
2 should keep Dauphin County in one Senate district.

3 Sir, welcome.

4 MR. HOSSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the LRC
5 has a copy of my comments, I would like to just summarize them
6 rather than read them, if agreeable to you and the Commission.

7 CHAIR NORDENBERG: We do have copies of your
8 comments, and they have been circulated, so that would be very
9 agreeable to the group.

10 MR. HOSSLER: Thank you very much.

11 As already has been spoken about, Dauphin County
12 now has two State Senators from the 15th and the 48th
13 Districts. So we've already kind of went through that, and
14 it's a very interesting shape, the 48th District, and as
15 Senator Costa mentioned, Senate 15 went across the river into
16 Perry County. Basically, the State Senate district should
17 have about 260,000 persons, and the population in Dauphin
18 County is about 8 to 10 percent over that. And so that means
19 there's a range or a deviation of about 8 to 10 percent, and
20 I'd like to just say let's make the county where the
21 Pennsylvania State Capitol is located just have one State
22 Senator. And I think if you looked at Article II, Section 16,
23 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution, it talks about, you
24 know, as nearly equal as in population as practicable, and I'd
25 certainly like to second that. I know it's been spoken about

1 earlier.

2 The second point I wanted to make was basically to
3 propose that Dauphin County river communities be combined into
4 a State Rep. area: Royalton, Middletown, Highspire, Steelton,
5 Lower Swatara, and Londonderry Township, as well as Swatara
6 Township and Conewago Township. Why add Swatara Township?
7 It's because it's an adjoining community. The roads and
8 bridges connect to the river communities and has a similar
9 racial and ethnic minority person population to the river
10 communities, and it seemed to be the best numerical and
11 adjoining fifth to reach a total of 65,000 persons. Conewago
12 Township is included in my river communities because that
13 township is already with Middletown and Lower Swatara in the
14 106th State Representative District. Londonderry is now
15 actually part of Lancaster County. It's in the 98th District
16 in Lancaster County, yet Londonderry is in Dauphin County, and
17 my proposal to make it a river corridor area would bring
18 Londonderry back to Dauphin County.

19 I'm also very sensitive to the school districts.
20 I do like, as an earlier speaker spoke about, trying to keep
21 it to one or two Representatives. But if you look at southern
22 Dauphin County where Lower Dauphin School District is, there's
23 about 4,000 students there. They surround Derry Township.
24 Lower Dauphin is north of Derry Township, west of Derry
25 Township, and south of Derry Township. So it's kind of hard

1 to configure something that's, you know, going to make sure
2 that you have like one Representative for a school district.
3 That's a little difficult.

4 So these two ideas I have I think respect the
5 counties and municipalities related to Article II, Section 16,
6 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution. And I might add, the
7 last sentence there in Section 16 says, "Unless absolutely
8 necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough,
9 township or ward shall be divided in forming either a
10 senatorial or representative district." So I appreciate the
11 work of organizations like Fair Districts PA and Draw the
12 Lines PA. These organizations help me as a citizen-voter to
13 improve my understanding of redistricting and realize that
14 this process is a difficult job for all of us, not just a few
15 of us.

16 Thank you very much, sir.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, Mr.
18 Hossler.

19 Are there any questions or comments?

20 Senator Costa.

21 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 Just a comment. Again, I want to thank the
23 gentleman for his testimony here today and recognizing one of
24 the issues that we believe are important in terms of the
25 continuity of keeping these counties as whole as possible.

1 Certainly, you referenced the deviation. I don't know whether
2 or not we would be able to keep the whole county intact, but
3 at least 260,000 to 270,000, in our view, should be part of
4 Dauphin County for the reasons you stated.

5 So thank you for bringing it up. You're the
6 second person to testify along those lines, and I think it's
7 important that we hear your voice.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you again, Mr. Hossler.

10 MR. HOSSLER: Thank you.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Mark Lafer,
12 from State College, who will advance the proposition that the
13 growth of the Centre County region justifies splitting State
14 College in two.

15 MR. LAFER: Good afternoon, honorable Members of
16 the Commission. My name is Mark Lafer. I'm from State
17 College. I am a member of the Centre County Chapter of Fair
18 Districts Pennsylvania, however, I am here today representing
19 just myself.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Mr. Lafer, do you want us to
21 see you? Because if you do--

22 MR. LAFER: Oh.

23 CHAIR NORDENBERG: --your camera must not be on.

24 MR. LAFER: It should be. Let's see. There's the
25 video. Here we go. There I am. Okay.

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Welcome.

2 MR. LAFER: Good afternoon, again.

3 While I am going to be using Centre County as an
4 example, I'm not actually talking specifically about a Centre
5 County issue but the greater one of coherence in creating
6 maps. I've lived in the 77th Legislative District of the
7 Commonwealth for more than 33 years. Subsequent to each of
8 the Censuses - 1990, 2000, and 2010 - the legislature redrew
9 the district lines most likely with gerrymandering in mind.
10 Over those reapportionments, coherence by school district and
11 by minor civil division deteriorated. We are now awaiting the
12 next 77th District gerrymander based on the 2020 Census.

13 For part of my career, I did health and human
14 services planning for the Commonwealth. A core consideration
15 was coherence. I needed to justify both inclusions and
16 exclusions from service areas. Looking only at school
17 districts, the structure of the 77th Legislative District
18 neglects this basic consideration. If I am reading the Centre
19 County School District map--I don't know if you can see it
20 clearly. No, you can't--I could not include it in the
21 testimony that I uploaded, but if I've read the map correctly,
22 the 77th includes all of the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School
23 District, the Bald Eagle Area School District serves Huston
24 Township, which is fully in the 77th. Then there is the State
25 College Area, it covers all of six minor civil divisions in

1 the county, however, none of three of those - College,
2 Halfmoon, and Harris Townships - are part of the 77th. Patton
3 Township is split between three districts -- excuse me --
4 between two districts, the 77th and the 81st.

5 Ferguson Township falls in three - the 77th, 81st,
6 and 171st. Only State College Borough is an intact component
7 of the district.

8 The split goes beyond geography. It also reflects
9 the split between political parties. I believe two of the
10 three legislative districts are Republican and one is
11 Democrat. Which means for Ferguson Township, they have at
12 least two, if not three, separate political agendas among the
13 representation that they have.

14 A final note is on Huston Township. Its 2010
15 population was under 1,400 permanent residents, which means it
16 contains less than 1 percent of the county's official
17 population and about 1 percent of its permanent population.
18 It is fully within the Bald Eagle Area School District. It is
19 the only minor civil division within that School District that
20 is in the 77th Legislative District in whole or in part. It
21 is the minor civil division linking the two larger segments of
22 the district. This was not true in earlier reapportionments.
23 Neighboring it is Port Matilda. Port Matilda is no longer
24 part of the 77th, but basically there is now a single link
25 between one major component of the 77th, including primarily

1 Philipsburg and the areas including State College and the
2 State College Area School District.

3 The growth of the Centre region justifies
4 splitting the current legislative district that includes State
5 College in two. This should happen. However, more broadly,
6 when reapportionment does occur, I urge the General Assembly
7 to keep school district and minor civil division boundary
8 lines contiguous.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you--

10 MR. LAFER: Thank you for this opportunity.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: --very much.

12 MR. LAFER: You're welcome.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Any comments or questions for
14 Mr. Lafer? If not -- oh, yes.

15 Leader Benninghoff.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I thought it was only
17 fair to correct myself when I said the population of Centre
18 County was about 145,000. Our newest numbers actually show
19 158,172. So just for that clarification.

20 I also think in earlier testimonies at another
21 hearing, it was not always advised to only be looking at
22 school districts, because sometimes they overlapped, and they
23 didn't always follow township lines. Keeping in mind that we
24 need to keep things as compact as possible, and we are
25 cognizant of all those things, but it's not always that simple

1 as following the same lines. We've got a lot of different
2 breaks in municipalities and boroughs and townships and county
3 lines here in Pennsylvania.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, to pick up on your point,
6 I leaned over to Senator Ward not long ago and said, the more
7 I hear, the more challenging this appears as if it will be.

8 Thank you, Mr. Lafer.

9 And Mr. Lafer also mentioned Port Matilda in his
10 testimony. Our next witness is from Port Matilda. He is Kyle
11 Peck, and he wishes to discuss why Centre County should not be
12 split into four House districts but only two.

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Okay, Mr. Peck has not logged
15 in.

16 Our next witness then is -- okay, well, but we're
17 sticking with a theme here because we have yet another person
18 from State College.

19 Okay, we're back to Mr. Peck from Port Matilda.

20 MR. PECK: Thank you.

21 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Welcome, sir.

22 MR. PECK: Thank you. I'll make it brief. I was
23 just going to say things that have been said repeatedly, and
24 so I will bow out and bow to whom I assume your next speaker
25 is, another Kyle from our area. I think our thoughts have

1 been well-represented, and so I will yield to Kyle Hynes.

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, Mr. Peck.

3 And with that, we will turn to the other Kyle.

4 Kyle Hynes from State College, who will testify how State

5 College and Centre County should be redistricted.

6 Sir, welcome.

7 MR. HYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Nordenberg
8 and Members of the Commission. Thank you for allowing me to
9 share my thoughts with you today. My name is Kyle Hynes, and
10 I have worked with Fair Districts in our county, and I work
11 with Draw the Lines PA, but currently I'm speaking for myself
12 and my own views and not trying to represent any organization.

13 I'm currently a freshman at Carnegie Mellon, and
14 I'm from State College, as you alluded to earlier. Also, just
15 as a side note, if Mrs. O'Connell is still watching, I'm a
16 Park Forest Middle School alumni class of 2017, and I have a
17 lot of friends who say she's the best teacher that they've
18 ever had. So for whatever that's worth, that's out there.

19 Now, I've spoken at prior meetings about my more
20 general thoughts on how to map the State, and so I won't spend
21 too much time focusing on that. Put simply, I hope the
22 Commission makes every attempt to maximize competitive
23 districts in every part of the Commonwealth, because in my
24 mind, a seat with a Representative who can sit on their
25 laurels is a seat with disenfranchised voters.

1 I don't want to spend too much time in the weeds,
2 so I'll try to be concise. Today, I want to zero in on the
3 State House map in central Pennsylvania, particularly the
4 areas around State College, my hometown. As I see it, there
5 are two ways to draw a fair map in Centre County.

6 The first would prioritize preserving municipal
7 boundaries and communities of interest, which, despite my
8 personal disagreement with using them as the top tactics of
9 the traditional strategies, all the townships and boroughs
10 north of Bald Eagle, except for Taylor, Worth, Huston, and
11 Port Matilda, could be included in one district, as well as
12 somewhat similar areas in the Hublersburg and eastern Penns
13 Valley areas. That seat, with only 30,000 residents, would
14 have to be combined with a third area, most likely in Clinton
15 County, which is right next door, to complete a full district.
16 In the lower part of the county, a western district and an
17 eastern district would be drawn, with the dividing line
18 running near Atherton Street through State College. This will
19 maintain the Nittany Valley community of interest and minimize
20 municipal splits--my apologies--to the greatest extent
21 possible. I'm happy to attach the visual of the map, if the
22 Commission wants.

23 The second would prioritize competitive districts,
24 which is my preferred way. In this plan, the bulk of the
25 county's area would be divided into two districts - one in the

1 western part of the county, one in the eastern part. The
2 eastern district would include Bellefonte, Boalsburg, and
3 Harris Township, and the southern part of State College. The
4 western district would include Philipsburg, Milesburg, Patton,
5 Benner, and most of College Township, as well as much of the
6 Penn State campus. Finally, a third and complete district
7 would cover western State College and Ferguson Township, with
8 about half of its population required to go to Huntingdon
9 County to the south. In this plan, the two main districts
10 would be near-tossups, which is great for competitive
11 elections, while the smaller southern district, although
12 heavily Democratic, would be easy to connect with rural areas
13 of Huntingdon to create a third purple district. I'm also
14 happy to attach this, if the Commission wants.

15 Now, while my preference is for the second,
16 because I believe competitive districts are the way we should
17 be going with this, either of these would be better than the
18 status quo. Right now, we're divided into four districts,
19 with most following no rhyme or reason whatsoever. One seat
20 currently covers the Borough of State College in Rush Township
21 in a snake-shaped pattern, which is convoluted enough that
22 Route 322, which is one of the main highways through the
23 region, crosses the district line eight times. There's
24 another district, the 171st, which some of the Commission
25 might be more familiar with, which surrounds State College and

1 then takes up a big rural swath of Centre and Mifflin
2 Counties' rural areas. There's a third district which pulls
3 away a little area of State College's suburbia and then covers
4 most of Huntingdon County. And then we have a fourth district
5 which takes many of the rural areas and combines them with
6 Lock Haven and Clinton County to the northeast.

7 But overall, the current map combines constituents
8 with very few shared interests into these four seats - three
9 safe Republican, one safe Democrat - in a county that hasn't
10 voted Republican in nine years. And that seems, to me at
11 least, to not be indicative of voter preferences.

12 Of course, there are ample, fair ways to split up
13 Centre County when the Commission comes forward with its final
14 map, and the solutions that I've proposed are only a subset of
15 the possibilities. There are undoubtedly many, many more
16 along these lines. I hope and trust that when the final map
17 for Centre County is proposed it will be a transparent process
18 that involves lots of feedback from the voters in our neck of
19 the woods so that our votes will matter and our
20 Representatives can serve our real communities.

21 Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer
22 any questions.

23 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, Mr. Hynes.
24 Are there any comments or questions?

25 (There was no response.)

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, I have a question and a
2 comment. How has your time at Carnegie Mellon been so far?

3 MR. HYNES: Fantastic. Thank you.

4 CHAIR NORDENBERG: That's the question.

5 The comment is to just point out to everyone that
6 this bright, young person from State College had to come to
7 Pittsburgh to get a high-quality education.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I'm going to make a
9 motion to adjourn, at that point.

10 SENATOR COSTA: Strike it from the record.

11 MR. HYNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

14 And I know as a result of his earlier in-person
15 appearance before the Commission, Kyle has hooked up with the
16 Commission's demographer, and they've had a chance to connect
17 in Pittsburgh, too.

18 Let me thank all of our witnesses. Let me again
19 thank all of you. This brings us to the end of this hearing,
20 the sixth hearing that has been held by the Legislative
21 Reapportionment Commission. And I think I can speak for the
22 entire Commission in saying that we've learned a lot from the
23 testimony that has been offered, and we're grateful to each of
24 the witnesses who have taken the time to share ideas and
25 perspectives with us.

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Thanks again, and good night. The hearing is
adjourned.

(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 6:20
p.m.)

1 I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence
2 are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me
3 during the hearing of the within cause, and that this is a
4 true and correct transcript of the same.

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8 

9
10 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
11 Official Reporter
12 Legislative Reapportionment
13 Commission

14
15 THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY
16 REPRODUCTION OF THE SAME BY ANY MEANS UNLESS UNDER THE DIRECT
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20 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
21 Official Reporter
22 Legislative Reapportionment Commission
23 P.O. Box 203079
24 Harrisburg, PA 17120
25

EXHIBITS

Agenda
Hearing #6
Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission

September 21, 2021
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
North Office Building, Hearing Room 1

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks
2. Comments from Interested Citizens
3. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

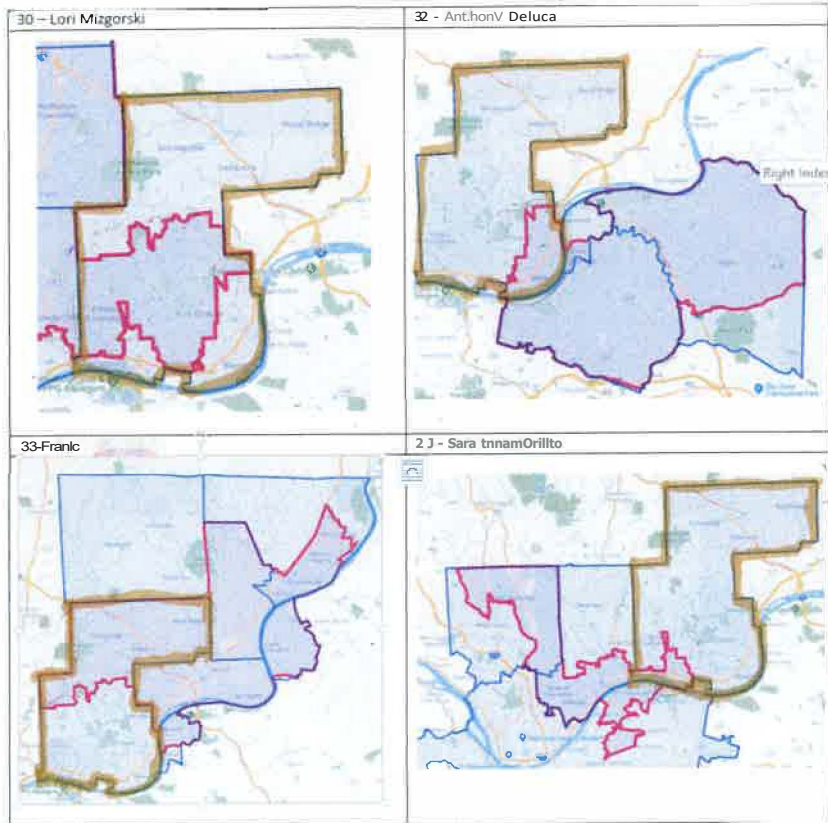
Remarks to Legislative Reapportionment Commission - September 25, 2021

My name is Suzanne Broughton. I live in a retirement community in the Town of McCandless. I am a past president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. Since 2016, I have given 53 presentations for Fair Districts PA. However, I speak here only for myself.

At the age of 84, I leave to younger generations the task of telling you the details of the maps they need in their future. Through my professional career in physics and in computer software, I know the importance of well-defined and well-implemented processes to reach defensible conclusions. I will use that experience to look back at two maps that I see as examples of poor implementation.

Keeping "Communities of Interest" together is not a requirement for redistricting. But in the last decade, that consideration has become important to many citizens. One such community is a school district.

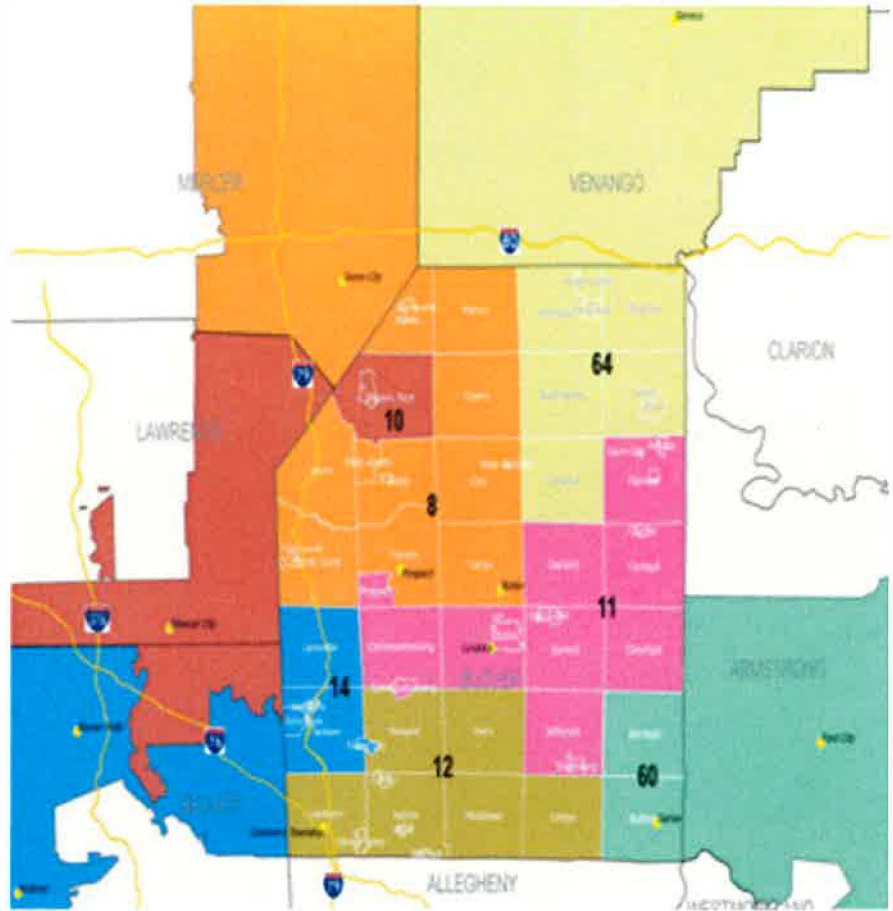
In the 2011 redistricting, the LRC treated the Fox Chapel School District as shown in these maps. The school district is outlined in yellow, the House districts in red. Start in the lower left corner box to see that the northern part of the school district is in House District 33. In the upper left corner box, see that most, but not all, of the southern part of the school district is in House District 30. The two boxes



on the right show that there are small portions of the school district in House Districts 32 and 21. A division among several legislators who may be only vaguely aware that part of the school district is in their House district makes it impossible for school officials to have a strong voice in Harrisburg. It's not a formal requirement, but I urge this commission to give school districts serious consideration.

Remarks to Legislative Reapportionment Commission - September 25, 2021

My second example is the House districts in Butler County and the surrounding counties. Take a quick look at this map. How many districts are in whole or in part in Butler County? Did you count seven? Districts 11 and 12 are completely within Butler County. Five districts are partially within Butler County but wander through five other counties. Article II, Section 16 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states "[u]nless absolutely necessary no county ...



shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district." If there was any absolute necessity for this division of Butler County, I fail to see it. I have never seen an explanation for it. This actual, formal requirement- a real provision of the Pennsylvania constitution - has been ignored by previous commissions.

Apparently, the people who wrote the Commission process into Article II, Section 17 in 1968, and specified the mapping requirements of Section 16, thought that their well-defined process was sufficient to produce fair maps. But, as I have said, a process must be well-implemented to produce acceptable results. In 2011, the commission's implementation did not prioritize districts that were fair and constitutional.

This 2021 commission has made a huge improvement through its openness to citizens. As you draw the maps, your implementation must pursue the goal of districts that are fair and constitutional..

Thank you for your time. I offer my best wishes as you proceed in the difficult task that you have undertaken.

Chairman Nordenberg and members of the Commission:

On behalf of the County of Lebanon, its citizens and the membership of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, we want to express our appreciation for your giving us the opportunity to address the important decisions that you will be making.

Our home is the County of Lebanon.

It is located in the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, the area of our state that has seen almost all of the state's population growth¹. Over the past decade, Lebanon County's population increased by 9,689 people, or 7.3 percent - making it one of just six Pennsylvania counties to grow by more than 5 percent.²

Out of the 50 seats in the Pennsylvania Senate, 16 counties can lay claim to at least one member of the body (or more) based simply on population. As our attached exhibit shows, Montgomery County, for example, has sufficient population to justify three senators, Lancaster two, Cumberland one.

Another nine counties can lay claim to a resident senator based upon having at least 51 percent of a full Senate seat. This includes Lebanon County at 55 percent. This leaves half the Senate to be divided among the remaining 42 counties, none of which have at least one half of a seat by population.

Surrounding Lebanon County are larger counties which, when combined with the House, have sufficient population to justify substantial delegations (Berks and Lancaster), one county of similar size (Schuylkill), with a comparable delegation, and Dauphin, with sufficient population to justify its own Senate seat and a larger overall delegation.

Thus, we come to the General Assembly adjacent to delegations that exceed us in size and power.

Since 1953, when the legislature adopted a law that established nine county subgroupings, called 'classes', for the purpose of legislating and regulating county affairs, statutes have been written using these classifications to drive out either rights or responsibilities to local governments. These classes range from First to Eighth, with two types of Second class counties, where the most populated counties are grouped into the lower classes (i.e. First, Second, Third) and the least populated in the higher classes (i.e. Sixth, Seventh, Eighth). The counties that make up each class are determined by the population figures reported by the U.S. Census. Lebanon County (143,257) is near the top of the class for Fifth Class Counties - 90,000 to 144,999. Its neighbors, Dauphin to the west, Berks to the east, and Lancaster to the south, are all Counties of the Third Class; not to mention other nearby counties like Cumberland and Chester. These larger counties, because of their size and the one-man-one-vote rules, bring a lot of firepower to the legislative table. Without, at least, a home senator and two representatives, Lebanon will find itself constantly outgunned as a smaller county.

Only two Fifth Class counties - Adams (2.4%) and Lebanon (7.3%) - grew in the last decade.

Whether this fast growing region of our state, as a whole, is hurt or benefitted by the new map depends in part upon how Lebanon County is drawn. There are two options:

¹ Misinco, John, The Morning Call, "MAP: Which Pennsylvania counties gained and lost the most population in 2020 Census?", August 12, 2021. Map attached, interactive map available on line.

² The others are Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Lancaster and Lehigh counties.

- A. Lebanon County can be divided in such a way so as to use its population as "filler," completing Senate seats in other areas based in surrounding counties, which need not be adjacent. This could result in outcomes such as Montgomery controlling four districts, or Lancaster controlling three districts, or Berks with two. Under this scenario, Lebanon County would - for the first time since the 1960s - be without a resident state senator to be its advocate while each of its neighbors would have at least one, and perhaps two, such legislators with larger House delegations.
- B. Keep the entire population of Lebanon County in a single district that is completed by including smaller parts of neighboring counties such as Berks, Lancaster or Dauphin. This has been the model used since the 1960s - for example, in the 80s, the 48th District included all of Lebanon County along with portions of Berks and Lehigh counties.

The issue presented is this: While Model B is obviously best for Lebanon County, the real question is which model best supports the entire region and its population of the area encompassing the fastest growing region of our Commonwealth?

We suggest it is Model B.

The rationale is simple and straightforward. With Model A, none of the neighboring counties gain any additional strength in advocacy based on the way the map is crafted. Lancaster would have two senators, as it does now, and Berks, Dauphin and Schuylkill would likely be limited to one, as they are now. However, residents of Lebanon County would know that they are being represented by a "tail-end Charlie," someone who knows that they are only a small portion of the population represented; he or she does not want to offend but isn't as strongly driven to be a strong advocate for Lebanon because his or her district is centered and driven by another county.

Adopting Model A also results in shifting our resident senator to another one of the state's fastest-growing counties.

On the other hand, with Model B, those counties that include the "Lebanon" senator would, in a larger struggle, have an additional member of their delegation to help pull the wagon.

This is not just a theory; it has happened over the last 40 years, time and time again. Some examples:

- In the 1980s, the Governor controlled the Federal Small Communities funding that came from the National government. Lehigh County, which included Slatinton Borough, was denied participation by a GOP administration because, they were told, it was "part of a rich county." The senator who represented Slatinton was not from Lehigh, but from Lebanon, and he was able to build a bipartisan consensus that created a formulary approach using hard data to win an annual appropriation for this Lehigh County community based on its demographics.
- In the 1990s, Berks County leaders wanted to construct a convention center and needed legislation to enable it to adopt a hotel tax. The lead senator from Berks was apparently reluctant to create the new tax and these local leaders called upon the "other" senator - one from Lebanon County who also represented northern Berks County - to take the lead. He did, and the Berks Convention Center is still going strong today. Both senators cooperated in this effort.

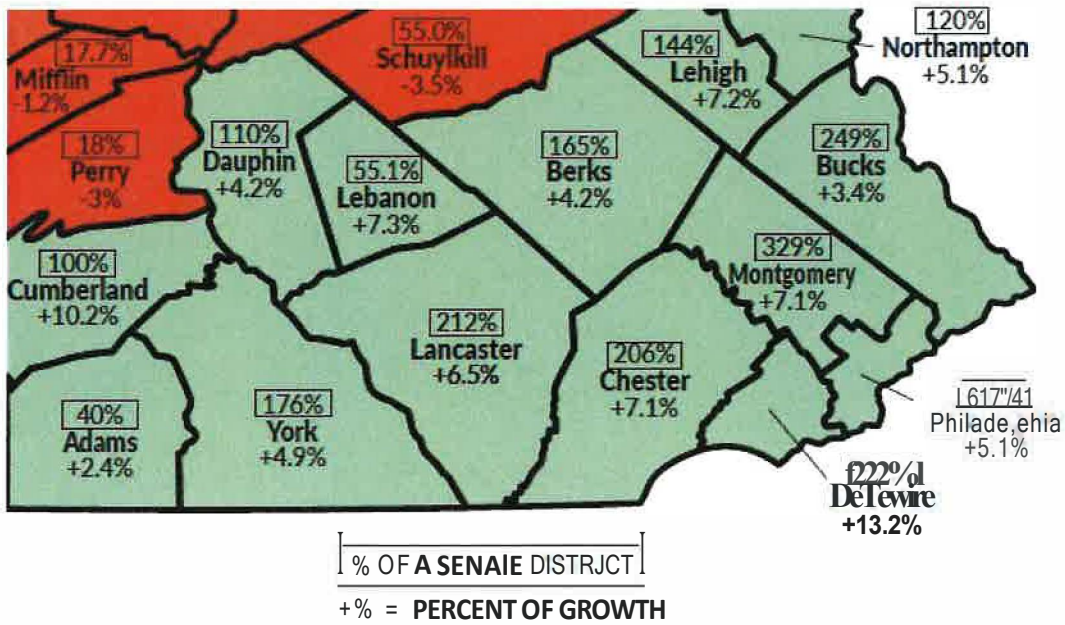
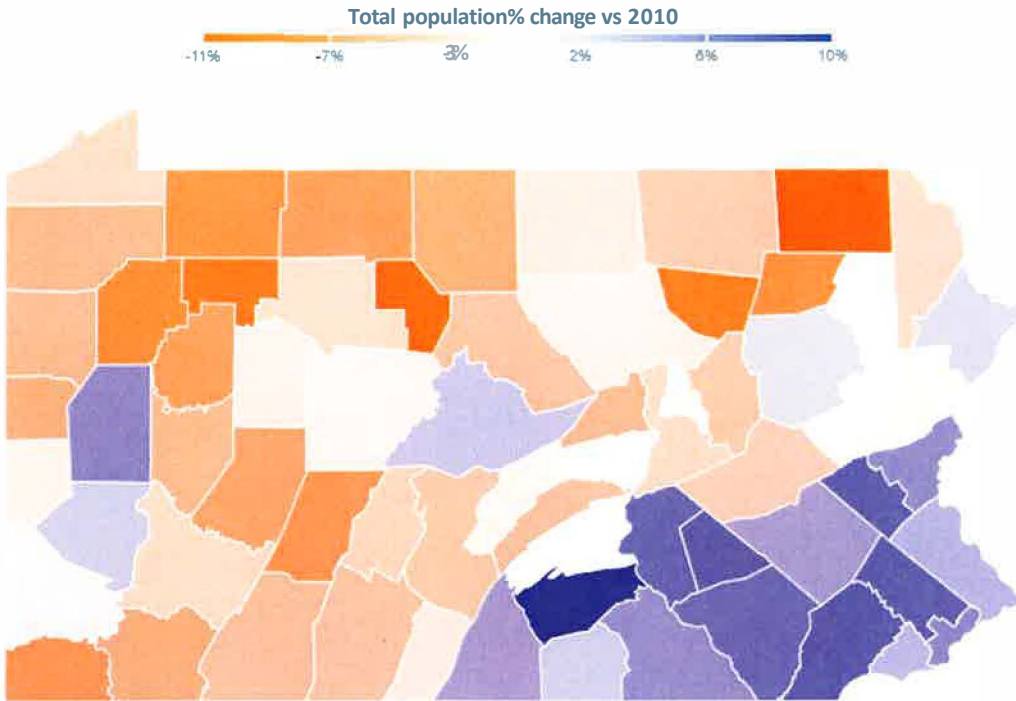
- In Northern Lehigh County, the Pennsylvania Turnpike wanted to eliminate a bottleneck created by the existence of a single two-lane tunnel through a small mountain. It decided to expand one set of lanes by going over the mountain. This greatly displeased local residents, and the Lehigh House delegation was able to insert a provision to create a second tunnel. In the Senate, with the Lebanon senator assuring bipartisan support, it passed. Again, Lebanon's member supported Lehigh County and provided a voice in each caucus.
- A similar but less dramatic scenario occurred during the construction of the Lancaster Convention Center after the year 2000. The County's Senate representation included two from Lancaster and one from Lebanon, who happened to be the majority leader.
- When Hershey Foods (based in Dauphin County) and Sovereign Bank (based in Berks County) needed important amendments to the law to carry out their missions and be able to succeed as strong local businesses, it was a Lebanon County member who was able to provide the Senate leadership for legislation in both instances. At those times, his district included part of the impacted county.
- In a successful Senate fight to authorize a change in the liquor laws to allow Pennsylvania brewers to make apple cider based on the desire of a Northern Lehigh brewery to use locally grown apples, Lehigh County had the resources of a bipartisan delegation - one from each party.
- Finally, in the early part of this century, when a rogue mayor of the City of Lebanon tried to take over the water authority that served not just the city, but also its surrounding townships, it was the single Senator, who represented the entire county, who pushed through a carefully crafted bill to stop him. This protected the surrounding municipalities. Had the county been divided as with Model A, there is a strong likelihood that the senate would have been split, because of competing interests, between the city mayor and the surrounding townships.

Had the Legislative Reapportionment Commission historically adopted Model A, in none of these situations would the extra support been there from the Senate representative from Lebanon, since none would have existed and Lebanon County's impact would have been totally diluted and nonexistent. This would have had a negative impact on the adjacent counties.

Some might argue that the examples above are rooted in the approach taken by individual senators, rather than the way maps were drawn. However, the fact that Lebanon County's population is 55% of a Senate district means that any senator from Lebanon County must strongly advocate for the portions of his or her district outside of Lebanon County - put simply, a senator from Lebanon cannot ignore 45% of the district.

Lebanon County has been a regional player since the 1960s with its Senator consistently displaying a strong willingness to work with the team and constituencies representing its neighbors. It is in the best interests of the entire Central Pennsylvania region that this continue.

We respectfully ask that you follow the precedent - one that has worked well - and keep Lebanon County whole as the heart of the Senate 48th.



Respectfully Submitted,
 Karen Groh
 President and CEO,
 Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce

Redistricting the PASSHE System Communities

By Stanley Chepaitis

My name is Stanley Chepaitis. I have lived in Indiana, PA since 1992, when I joined the faculty of music at IUP. At that time, IUP was thriving and the State System of Higher Education was thriving. It was clear that IUP offered much to Indiana county in terms of employment opportunity and quality of life. IUP, Like almost all of the 14 Universities in the system, is situated in a small town. The University attracts a community of highly educated people that, though not monolithic in its viewpoints or affiliations, is clearly distinct from its surroundings. So it was a surprise to me, when I heard our former state representative say that he did not bother to campaign much in the Borough of Indiana, because that was not where his voters were. In looking at the PA house district map for Indiana County, district 62 encloses the borough of Indiana and much of the county further south. Just to the north is district 66, which also includes Jefferson County. Of particular interest to me is a small piece of district 66 which juts further south than the rest, right up to the border of Indiana. This is Rayne Township. Due to lower housing prices and availability of land, Rayne Township is a popular area for University faculty, staff, and administrators to live. It is reasonable to assume that a substantial portion of the nearly three thousand residents of this area have some affiliation with the University community. Why, then, was it cut out of district 62, while the more rural townships to its East and West remained in District 62? I would add that while the 2011 maps do seem to respect township borders, these borders were established in the 1800's and bear little relevance to demographic patterns of the present. I doubt very much that new hires to IUP realize that when they buy a house five miles away in Rayne Township, they are moving into a state house district which does not include Indiana or IUP. Why does this matter? Since 2011, the state system has been in steep decline. Governor Corbett made substantial cuts to the system's funding. When the next governor attempted to restore funding, the legislature blocked that effort. Now the state system is on the verge of collapse with faculty retrenchments and whole universities being merged. Locally, I am not aware of much support or advocacy for the system from our state representatives. They seem very concerned that the RGGI will cause the loss of a few hundred jobs in coal but not terribly concerned about the dire effects for Indiana County of a collapsing State University System. I am asking that you please look very carefully at all the communities which host the Universities of the PASSHE system. I believe you will find that they were districted to dilute the voice of the educated communities that universities attract. Reversing these gerrymanders will probably not change the statewide calculus in a tangible way, but it will allow these communities of interest more of a voice in their local government. It will encourage state representatives to be more mindful of that voice. It may just help save the State system of Higher Education, if that is still possible Thank you

Testimony of Jean Handley
Dauphin County Resident
Before the Legislative Reapportionment Commission
Hearing on Legislative Redistricting
September 21, 2021

Good evening Chairman Nordenberg, Leaders Ward, McClinton, Benninghoff and Costa. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you about the current state legislative redistricting.

My name is Jean Handley. I have lived in Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County for 37+ years.

Today I focus on three areas to consider:

- 1) Lack of choice or competitiveness in elections
- 2) Division of school districts
- 3) Conforming district boundaries to natural boundaries

Election Choice and Competitiveness

When speaking to groups and individuals, I have repeatedly heard statements like "Why bother to vote when my vote doesn't matter?", "There is only one candidate running so why vote?" Their frustration and disillusionment are palpable. Democracy is based on as many eligible voters as possible lending their voice to the conversation.

I cite the 2018 and 2020 state Senate and House general election races as reasons for this disillusionment. **Note:** A win margin of greater than 10% is widely used as a standard to determine election competitiveness. Greater than 10% = safe district and considered non-competitive.

(See Table 1)

25 state Senate general elections in each year - 2018 and 2020:

2018- 17 were considered non-competitive and 6 of those had no opposing major party candidate

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2020- 21 were considered non-competitive and 6 of those had no opposing major party candidate

203 state House general elections in 2018 and 2020:

2018- 176 were considered non-competitive and 78 of those had no opposing major party candidate

2020- 174 were considered non-competitive and 73 of those had no opposing major party candidate

You can see why many voters feel left out, left behind and believe they have no voice. Gerrymandering is not the only reason for these numbers but in many cases, it is a major contributing factor.

Divided School Districts

Although not mentioned in the Pennsylvania Constitution, this should be an important consideration. In many cases, the residents have common interests, concerns and values. In addition, having multiple legislators representing a school district hinders the ability to have their specific concerns and needs heard and addressed.

Dauphin County has 5 school districts that have at least 2 state representatives (See Table 2). Two of those five (Central Dauphin and Lower Dauphin school districts) have 4 representatives and 2 senators each. (See Figures 1 and 2). Although the physical size of the district may be a factor, there is no reasonable justification to split the districts among so many legislators.

Based on the 2020 census population data, Central Dauphin would justify 2 representatives and 1 senator. Lower Dauphin would justify 1 representative and 1 senator.

Conforming Districts Boundaries to Natural Boundaries

Senate District 48 includes Lebanon County and the lower portion of Dauphin County on the east shore of the Susquehanna River and a portion of the northeastern part of York County on the western shore (See Figure 3). Other than by air or water, there is no way to remain within District 48 and cross the river. There are no bridges that connect the district. This is a clear violation of the

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meaning 'contiguous' in redistricting. (See Note). This type of violation should not occur.

Another geographic factor is the Allegheny Mountain ridges that transverse Dauphin County. (See Figure 4) These ridges create a sort of "demarcation line" and in many cases, a physical barrier between the southern, more urban and suburban parts of the county and the northern, more rural section. The road system also makes the connection between Northern and Southern Dauphin County 'challenging'. The issues, priorities, concerns and culture of the residents of northern Dauphin County are different than those in the southern section and more in line with Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties. I suggest that Dauphin County be kept whole as much as possible, but when division is necessary for population, these factors be considered.

Although Middle Paxton Township (See Figure 5) is among the ridges, because it is in Central Dauphin School District, it should be included in the southern section. Also, East Hanover Township, because of its historical, cultural, and economic connections to Derry, Londonderry, South Hanover and Conewago Townships and Hummelstown Borough should be combined in one southern district.

In Summary

The districts you draw will impact legislative agenda, policy and Pennsylvania politics, for at least the next decade. I ask that you take into serious consideration whenever possible the following:

- **Election choice and competitiveness**
- **Division of school districts**
- **Conforming to natural boundaries**

It is also crucial that the public be given ample time to review the preliminary maps and adequate opportunity for comment before completing the final maps.

The opportunity to make an historic, positive impact on PA state legislative redistricting and restoration of the public trust rests in your hands. I commend your efforts at transparency and public input thus far. However, it is not what is said, but the end result that will determine your success. Citizens are calling for transparency, accountability, meaningful public input and well defined, sensible map-drawing criteria. They are counting on you.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

NOTE: A district is considered contiguous if all parts of the district are in physical contact with some other part of the district. Generally, a district is also considered *contiguous* if the district is split by a body of water, but there is a method of transport ~~over~~ the water, such as a bridge.

Ba/lotpedia

Table 1

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS CHOICE AND COMPETITIVENESS

2018 STATE SENATE RACES (25)	
UNOPPOSED BY MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATE	5 (D) 1 (R)
GREATER THAN 10% WIN MARGIN	2 (D) 6 (R)
TOTAL CONSIDERED NON COMPETITIVE	17 OF 25
2018 STATE HOUSE RACES (203)	
UNOPPOSED BY MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATE	SS (D) 23 (R)
GREATER THAN 10% WIN MARGIN	() \$ ()
TOTAL CONSIDERED NON COMPETITIVE	176 OF 203

2020 STATE SENATE RACES	
UNOPPOSED BY MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATE	S (D) 1 (R)
GREATER THAN 10% WIN MARGIN	3 (D) 12 (R)
TOTAL CONSIDERED NON COMPETITIVE	21 OF 25
2020 STATE HOUSE RACES (203)	
UNOPPOSED BY MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATE	35 (D) 38 (R)
GREATER THAN 10% WIN MARGIN	() ()
TOTAL CONSIDERED NON COMPETITIVE	174 OF 203

Note: Information obtained from Ballotpedia

Tab/e2

DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>HOUSE DISTRICT</u>	<u>SENATE DISTRICT</u>
CENTRAL DAUPHIN	103-KIM (D) 104-HELM (R) 105-LEWIS(R) 106-MEHAFIE (R)	15-DISANTO (R) 48- GEBHARD R)
DERRY TOWNSHIP	106-MEHAFIE (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
HALIFAX AREA	104-HELM (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
HARRISBURG CITY	103-KIM (D)	15-DISANTO (R)
LOWER DAUPHIN	98-HICKERNELL (R) 104-HELM (R) 105-LEWIS (R) 106-MEHAFIE (R)	15-DISANTO (R) 48-GEBHARD (R)
MIDDLETOWN AREA	106-MEHAFIE (R)	48-GEBHARD (R)
MILLERSBURG AREA	104-HELM (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
STEELTON-HIGHSPIRE	103-KIM (D)	48-GEBHARD (R)
SUSQUEHANNA	104-HELM (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
SUSQUENITA	104-HELM (R) 86 (Perry)- STAMBAUGH (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
UPPER DAUPHIN	104-HELM (R) 125-KERWIN (R)	15-DISANTO (R)
WILLIAMS VALLEY	104-HELM (R) 125-KERWIN (R)	15-DISANTO (R)

Figure 1

House Districts

Dauphin School Districts

CD = Central Dauphin

- 103
- 104
- 105
- 106

LD = Lower Dauphin

- 98
- 104
- 105
- 106

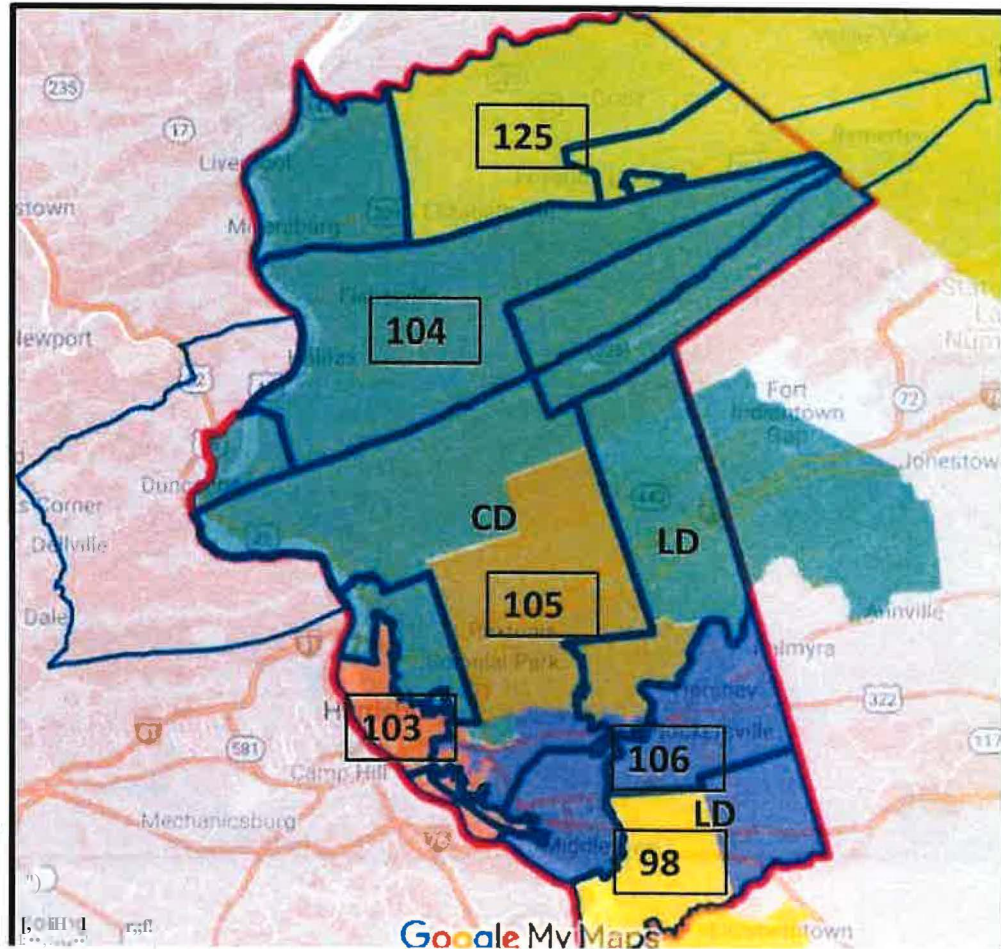


Figure 2

Senate Districts 15 and 48

Dauphin School Districts

CD = Central Dauphin

- 15
- 48

LD = Lower Dauphin

- 15
- 48

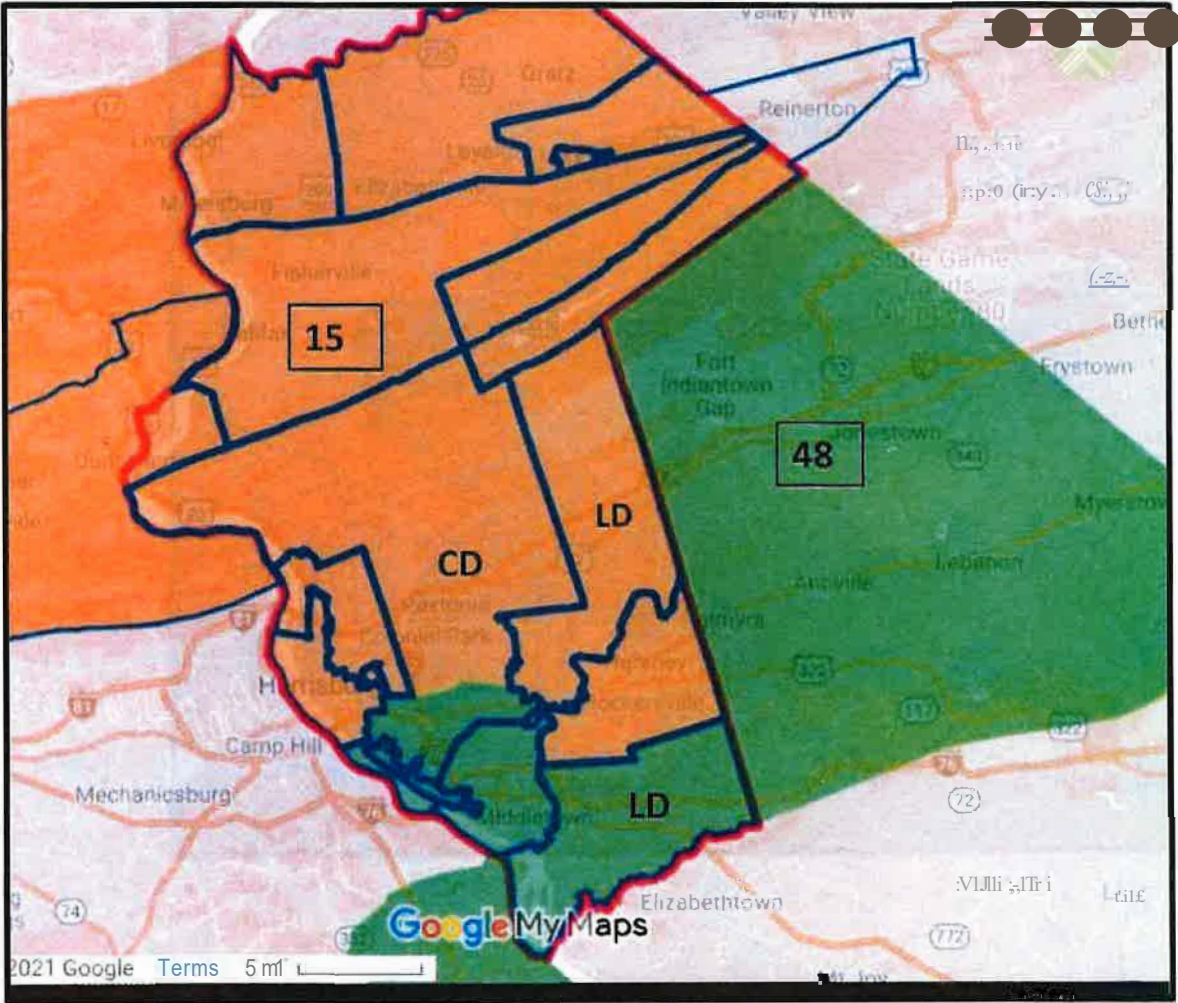


Figure 3

Senate District 48

- Lebanon
- Dauphin
- York

A district is considered contiguous if all parts of the district are in physical contact with some other part of the district. Generally, a district is also considered *contiguous if the district is split by a body of water, but there is a method of transport over the water, such as a*

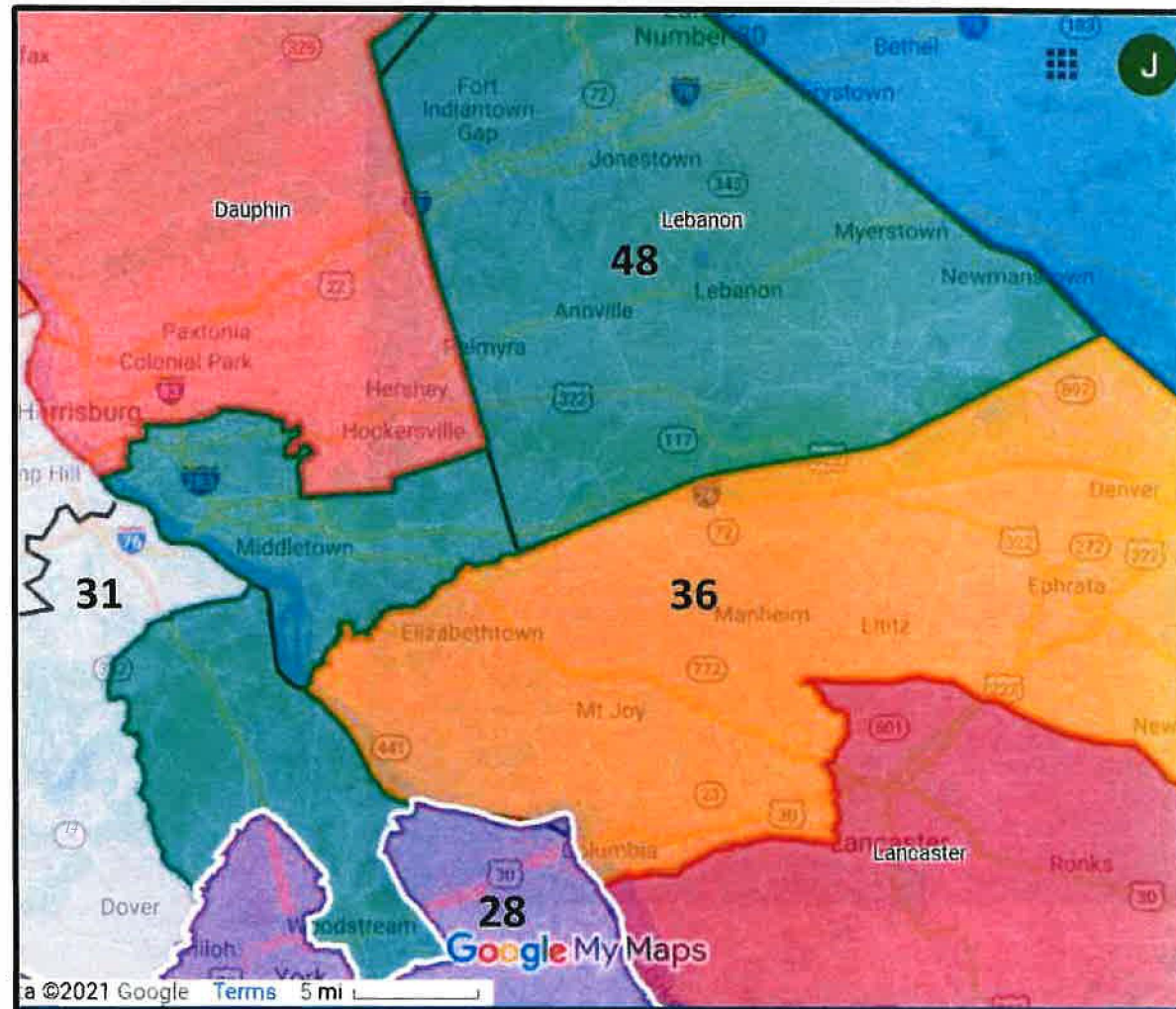
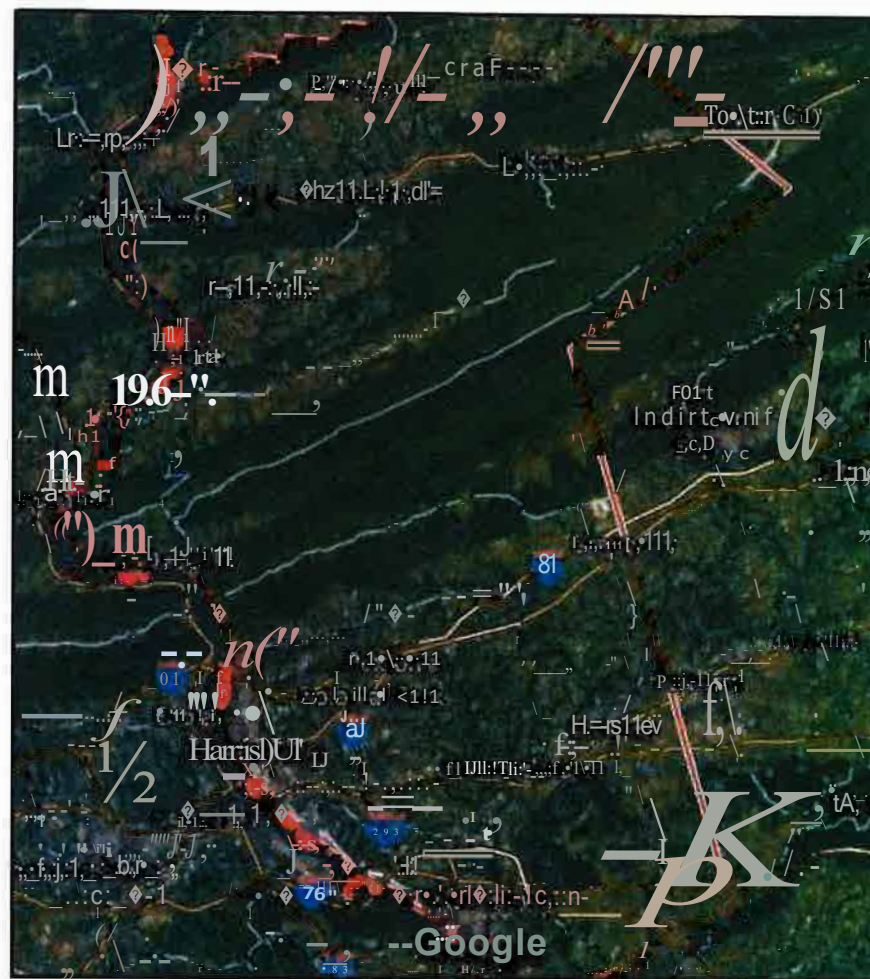


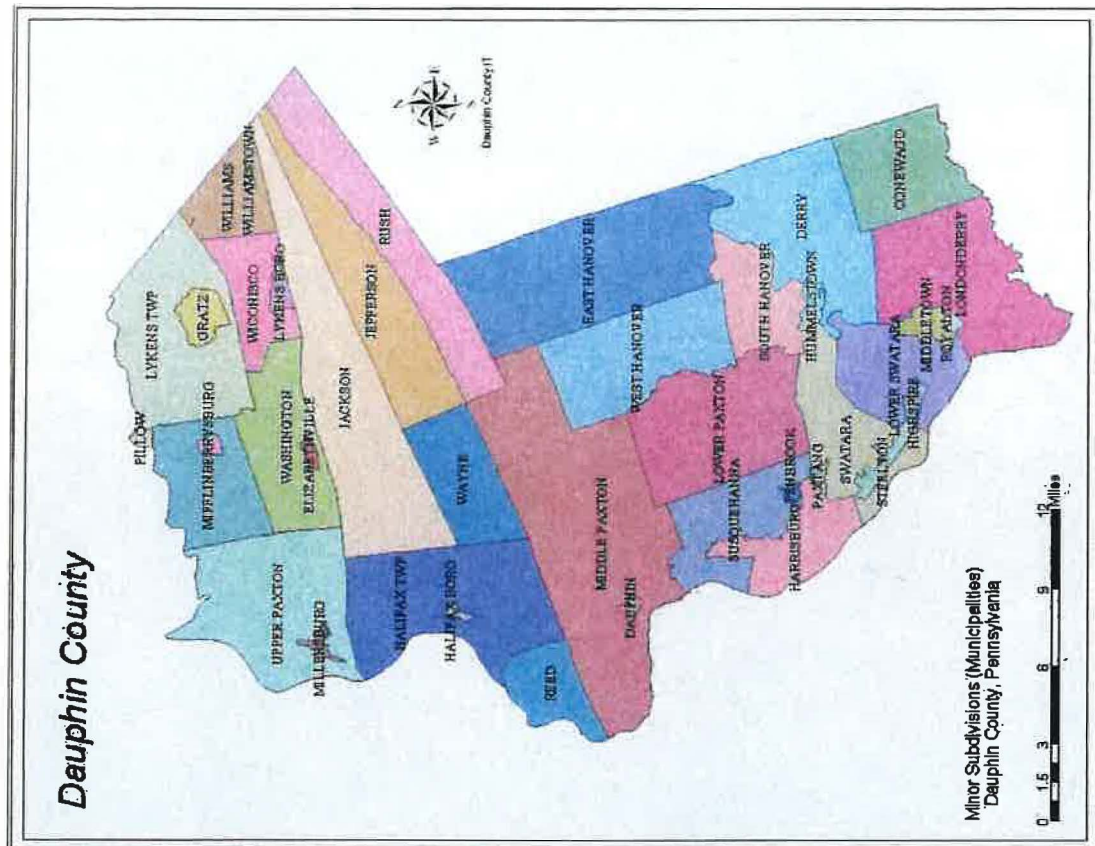
Figure 4

Dauphin County Geography





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My name is Tamara Gureghian. I have lived in Pennsylvania for 52 years, 42 of those years have been spent in Bucks County. I'd like you to keep two goals to keep in mind when drawing legislative district lines: restoring our faith in government and creating fair districts. There are four main ways to reach these goals:

- 1) First, start with a clean slate. Do not worry about incumbents. Drawing district lines is challenging. There are many competing considerations: school districts, natural boundaries, community interests. Incumbent retention should not be one of them. If an incumbent excels, they will have a list of reasons why they should be elected in whatever district they find themselves in **after** a map is drawn from scratch. If they find they no longer comfortably live in a district in which they once served, then they can feel free to move into that district. Politicians should move to serve the people. District lines should not move to serve politicians. So wipe the slate clean and start fresh.
- 2) Second, establish your values. Drawing lines requires tough choices. There are many competing ways to draw maps. After wiping the slate clean, you must establish your top priorities in drawing a new one. While adhering to legal requirements, prioritizes competitive districts.

We are a purple state. Our districts should reflect that purpleness. Yes, some areas will always lean more blue or red, but those naturally occurring "safe" districts should be equalized. There should be enough competitive districts so we have more compromise, more give and take between the two major political parties, and more voice for independents and moderates, which will lead to tangible results for the people of Pennsylvania.

For those of you concerned about wiping the slate clean and establishing competitive districts, I direct your attention to my senate district, 6. Our registered voters' party affiliation is split 54 to 45 to 1. Our senator's party affiliation? It's with the 45%.

How can that be? Competitive districts encourage legislators to serve **all** the people and **all** the people to vote. You know your ballot can make the difference between a win and a loss. Every vote counts in a competitive district. As we saw with Resolutions 4A and SA, you may not always get what you want, but you get some of what you want. You feel represented. You feel you have a chance to influence a decision. And so you vote for the person who makes you feel heard, **regardless of party affiliation.**

Both of my districts, senate district 6 and house district 29, are competitive. Both of my legislators are responsive to my calls and requests for meetings. Both support fair redistricting practices. Both win because they listen to their constituents. They have a better understanding of the issues facing a greater variety of people and more compassion for their plight. They have an ear on the people to hear which way they are leaning on issues and they are able to respond accordingly.

Competitive districts allow the will of the people to influence decision making. When the will of the people changes, we see a shift in decision making. This shift is crucial in a healthy democracy. Competitiveness equals compromise which equals a healthy Commonwealth.

Therefore, I ask that you create maps with enough competitive districts to statistically impact decision making. Aim to balance the number of naturally occurring "safe" districts found in the heart of our urban and rural communities. Make them equal. Then, have enough competitive districts to allow legislator from those districts to work together on varying issues and be able to effectively negotiate and move Pennsylvania forward. If you have a significant amount of competitive districts, you will have legislators looking for support from each other, rather than their party heads. This will give the legislators themselves more power and control to meet the needs of their constituents.

Examples of maps with competitive districts can be seen on Dave's redistricting website under PA Notable maps.

Most competitive senate map: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::7bd0098f-0218-4ffd-ab5e-65da71b12115>

Most competitive house map: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::b7f70ed3-b312-4c57-bdda-12351ddc7815>

- 3) Third, be transparent. We understand that no matter what lines you draw, some people will be unhappy. Nonetheless, more people will be content if you establish that your tough decisions were based on ethical values. Public satisfaction is one of the many reasons why my second request, establish your values, is so important. Establishing your values will facilitate your ability to communicate your reasoning to the people. Thoughts that are outlined and revealed to the public will go a long way in restoring faith in our government.

If you split a small community, explain. Clarify why a line may not be good for a particular community, but is good for the state as a whole. Let every Pennsylvanian feel like their community was considered. If a tough choice had to be made, so be it, but tell us **why**, explain, so we know it is not to keep one person or one party in power at the expense of a community. Restore our faith in our government by being transparent with your values and reasoning.

- 4) Fourth, consider citizen drawn maps. The citizens of Pennsylvania have been working long and hard on trying to provide you with the best guidance possible in preserving our Commonwealth. Citizen made maps are available on [Draw the Lines PA](https://drawthelinespa.org/contests-page/2021-contest-winners) (<https://drawthelinespa.org/contests-page/2021-contest-winners>). You can see that the [map by Nicholas Booth](https://drawthelinespa.org/about-us/nicholas-booth-1st-place-statewide-youth) (<https://drawthelinespa.org/about-us/nicholas-booth-1st-place-statewide-youth>) prides itself on ensuring that districts are very compact and competitive. He outlines his reasoning for splitting counties. [Corey Cohen](https://drawthelinespa.org/about-us/corey-cohen-2nd-place-statewide-adult) (<https://drawthelinespa.org/about-us/corey-cohen-2nd-place-statewide-adult>) does the same with his map which also considers minority representation. The maps on Draw the Lines PA, and their explanations, can serve as models of how to be transparent with map drawing.
- 5) As you move forward, I ask for the following:

- a. Continue to allow public feedback. Present maps to the public and allow and invite public comment and guidance. This task is daunting and we are all here and willing to help. We can let you know if a community or geographic boundary or economic tie was inadvertently overlooked.
 - b. Allow sufficient time for feedback on maps to be given-explicitly, at least a week.
- 6) Now, to be specific. Even though my legislators are responsive, this is not to say that I want my districts to remain exactly as drawn. I'm willing to risk my current legislators being in another district, in order for you to wipe the slate clean and draw competitive districts, not just for me, but for as many Pennsylvanians as possible.

Population wise, Bucks County should have 2.5 Senators. We have three main areas in Bucks: Upper, Central and Lower. I agree that these are communities of interest. Some have suggested Bucks be divided horizontally out of respect for these communities. That would create two opposing safe districts and one competitive district. Nevertheless, prioritizing competitiveness would allow you to create two competitive districts.

Balance community interests with competitiveness by drawing lines **diagonally** through Bucks County to create at least two competitive senate districts, rather than just one. If you do that, our representatives will have a better understanding of the needs and interests of more members of the entire Bucks County community. When it comes to voting, our legislators will be able to work with their similarly situated colleagues to come up with creative solutions that will satisfy the needs of both districts and more of Bucks County as a whole.



One way to get two very competitive senate districts out of Bucks County is to go from the top of the county down to and including: New Britain, Doylestown, Buckingham, Wrightstown, Newtown and Lower Makefield. The next district would exclude those and include Lower Southampton, Middletown, Bristol and Falls Ward.

When forming the house districts, make them competitive. Keep in mind Warwick Township should stay intact. We have issues that affect us as a whole. In particular, our water supply. Our township is very small. We don't even have our own post office. Our township leaders do a great job representing us, forcing them to do double time by coordinating with multiple representatives would make it more challenging for them to represent us and secure the resources we need.

- 7) Finally, I will end where I began. Start with a clean slate. If you do, you will send a much needed message to the Commonwealth that the people of Pennsylvania come first. I strongly believe a good map will come from starting fresh and disregarding where incumbents live. Many map

makers have shown this to be possible. Set as your goal competitive districts. Use that as a starting point. Be transparent with the process and with your values and let the people give input on the maps you create before they are finalized.

Through a transparent collaborative process, Pennsylvania will be a model for redistricting. After years of gerrymandering, our map can showcase how redistricting can be done fairly, responsibly and responsively. You have the power to produce a map that will be the paradigm for fair districts. When citizens of the United States are reminded over and over again that Pennsylvania, a once gerrymandered state is now the epitome of excellence in map drawing, the state where the legislature listens to the people, where things get done, where districts are fair, our population will grow. Then, in ten years, we will redraw the lines, not adjusting for a loss, but a gain.

Thank you for your service and the opportunity to submit testimony.

Some sources:

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/2021%20Primary%20VR%20Stats.pdf> (Voter registration record for May 2021 showing registered voter proportions: Democrats 46%, Republicans 39%, and other 14%)

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/2020%20Election%20VR%20Stats%20%20FINAL%20REVIEWED.pdf> (Voter registration record for Nov. 2020 showing registered voter proportions: Democrats 46.5%, Republicans 39%, and other 14.5%)

<https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/a-citizens-guide-to-redistricting.pdf> (competitive districts)

"Plenty of incumbents have run for office in competitive districts - or in districts where voters otherwise favor the opposing party- and have won in landslides.212" Bruce E. Cain et al., Competition and Redistricting in California: Lessons for Reform 4 (2006)

John D. Griffin, Electoral Competition and Democratic Responsiveness, 68 J. Pol. 911 (2006) (finding that competitive districts produce legislators who are more responsive to slight changes in the ideological leanings of the district).

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/current%20VoterRegStatsBySenatorialDistricts.xlsx> (PA senate district voter registration statistics)

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/current%20VoterRegStatsBylegislativeDistricts.xlsx> (PA house district voter registration statistics)



Testimony of Will Gonzalez, Executive Director of Ceiba, Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission

Buenas tardes - Good afternoon.

My name is Will Gonzalez.

I am the Executive Director of Ceiba. Ceiba is a coalition of Latino community-based organizations in Philadelphia whose mission is to promote the economic development and financial inclusion of Philadelphia's Latino community through collaborations and advocacy aimed at ensuring their access to quality housing.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify today.

Redistricting is not easy, but it is not rocket science.

We encourage you to ensure that basic principles of demographics, geography, and equity guide the redistricting process.

Among these is the important concept of communities of interest, i.e., groups of people who live in a specific location, have collective interests, and share many things in common: customs, arts, social institutions, achievements and challenges.

The prioritization of communities of interest in redistricting in Pennsylvania is vital.

We urge you to draw legislative districts taking into account the streets, neighborhoods, and important hubs that make communities unique; consider landmarks, cultural districts, industries, employers, where kids go to school, where families go to church and the location of neighborhood based and social service organizations which serve them.

For example, in Philadelphia Hispanics live in all parts of the City but most Latinos live in Eastern North Philadelphia.

The Latino community of Eastern North Philadelphia epitomizes the definition of a Community of Interest.

It is a self-defined group of people who share bilingual and bicultural characteristics; that have their own culturally and linguistically appropriate nonprofit organizations, churches, schools, business corridors, and social institutions; that share common interests; and live in a compact urban footprint without geographic barriers.

The backbone of the Eastern North Philadelphia's Latino community is a robust network of nonprofit organizations.

A 2018 study by students from the University of Pennsylvania's Masters of City Planning found that 15 Latino nonprofits leveraged \$86 million in government grants to sustain 4,160 local jobs, generate \$222 million in wages and salaries, build 1,333 new homes, and rehab nearly 10,000 housing units.

While the full benefits of these investments are incalculable, they are collectively worth at least \$517 million per year. At that time, these 15 nonprofits transformed the social and physical landscape for some 124,000 households and 1,900 businesses in Philadelphia.

The work of these non-profits continues to benefit the community today.

The importance of the Latino community to the Commonwealth and the City of Philadelphia cannot be overstated.

Growth in the Hispanic population far outpaced that of the whole state and successfully offset the declines in population of other ethno-racial groups in the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania's population only grew 2.4% between 2010 and 2020 or by about 300,000 people. In the same period, Pennsylvania's Hispanic population grew 45.8%, or by about 330,000 people. Growth in the Hispanic population far outpaced that of the whole State and successfully offset the declines in population of other ethno-racial groups in the Commonwealth. In other words, the Latino share of total population change in Pennsylvania was 110%.

In Philadelphia, the city's population growth was also fueled by the expansion of its Latino community. The total population of the City grew 5%, or by 77,791 people, between 2010 and 2020. During the same period, the Hispanic population of Philadelphia grew by 27%.

South Philadelphia, Allentown, Bethlehem, Reading, and many other jurisdictions in Pennsylvania also experienced growth in their respective Latino communities.

We request that you keep these Latino communities of interest intact with their corresponding State House and State Senate districts.

As you can see from my previous comments about the economic power of just 15 Latino nonprofits in Philadelphia, it is best for the economic development of the Commonwealth to keep Latino communities of interest intact within PA's legislative districts.

Ceiba looks forward to continuing this dialogue about redistricting with the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

Ceiba believes that we can work together with this Commission to ensure that Pennsylvania's redistricting process:

- Actively engages the public at every step of the process
- Draws maps in a manner which accurately reflect changes in the Commonwealth's population
- Avoids gerrymandering, and
- Takes affirmative steps to ensure that reapportionment does not run counter to the protections offered by the:
 - o US and Pennsylvania Constitutions
 - o Voting Rights Act, and
 - o Principle of one person, one vote

Pennsylvania's Latino communities are ready to be stewards of change rather than victims of it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

PA STATE LEGISLATIVE ELECTION COMPETITIVENESS

2018

STATE SENATE RACES (25)

Unopposed by major party 5 (D) 1 (R)
>10% win margin 2 (D) 9 (R)

Total: 17 of 25 non competitive

STATE HOUSE RACES (203)

Unopposed by major party 55 (D) 23 (R)
>10% win margin 29 (D) 69 (R)

Total: 176 of 203 non competitive

Information from Ballotpedia

2020

STATE SENATE RACES (25)

Unopposed by major party 5 (D) 1 (R)
>10% win margin 3 (D) 12 (R)

Total: 21 of 25 non competitive

STATE HOUSE RACES (203)

Unopposed by major party 35 (D) 38 (R)
>10% win margin 43 (D) 58 (R)

Total: 174 of 203 non competitive

Testimony of Don Hossler for Legislative Re-Districting Committee 9/21/21

I, Don Hossler have voted in the same Middletown, PA, Dauphin County precinct for 47 years. My current state Senatorial District is District 48 and District 106 for state Rep..

Evidence of my concern about redistricting is my testimony to the House and Senate State Gov. Committees in June of 2011 and a desire to follow the PA State Constitution when drawing lines of legislative districts.

I watched the 10am livestream meeting this morning and when Senator Ward said the LRC has a lot of difficult work ahead of us, I was in complete agreement. I've taken parts of one county to review today and it is a truly difficult task, portioning the population into state rep. and senator districts. I appreciate the work of each member of the LRC.

One State Senator for Dauphin County

Dauphin County now has 2 State Senators, 15th & 48th districts.

State Senator district 15 in N. Dauphin County goes across the Susquehanna through much of Perry County. The 15th does not include these Dauphin County Townships or Boroughs----Londonderry, Conewago, Steelton, Swatara, Highspire, Middletown, or Royalton.

The 48th Senatorial District which stretches from Myerstown, Lebanon County, to include Dauphin county areas :Londonderry twp, Conewago twp, Steelton, Swatara twp, Highspire, Middletown and Royalton then crosses the Susquehanna River at a marina(no nearby bridge) moving to North York in York County PA, covering 3 counties.

State Senate Districts should have 260,000 persons. The population of Dauphin County is approximately 10% over the 260,000 persons per district.

One state senator in Dauphin County keeps all the Dauphin County school districts, boroughs, cities and townships together. **Wow, a county with 1 state Senator, Article 2, Section 16 of the PA State Constitution comes to life!!**

THE 106th State Representative District.

Make the current 106th State Rep District a Susquehanna river -pa. route 230 corridor District. For current redistricting it appears a State Rep. District should have 64,000 persons.

I propose the Dauphin County river communities of Royalton, Middletown, Highspire, Steelton, Lower Swatara and Londonderry Township be together in a State Rep. District which totals about 34,000 persons and add Swatara Township of 28,000 and Conewago township about 3,000 persons which would equal about 65,000 persons.

Why add Swatara Twp. to the Susquehanna River corridor communities? It adjoins the river communities, roads & bridges that connect it to those communities, has a similar racial and ethnic minority person population to the river communities and it is the best numerical/adjoining fit to reach 65,000 persons.

Conewago twp. Dauphin County is added because it adjoins the river communities and currently is part of the 106th, which also already includes Middletown and Lower Swatara township Dauphin County.

Londonderry twp., Dauphin County is now part of the 98th District in Lancaster County, and with this proposed plan returns Londonderry to Dauphin County as a river community.

Some Dauphin County school districts created long ago have interesting shapes. I try to be sensitive to keeping districts in one state rep. area. However, the 11,500 students in CD school district make that difficult and Swatara township, Dauphin County is in the CD school system. Additionally, in Southern Dauphin County, Lower Dauphin school district (4,000 students) extends east to west to the Susquehanna river and surrounds Derry Twp. school district.

In summary, I ask for consideration of the L.R.C. to

1) Ensure Dauphin County has 1 State Senator. All Dauphin county municipalities and school districts would be intact and have one state senator. This would create a senatorial district that is 10% larger than the 260,000 persons per district standard.

The 48th senate district goes across the Susquehanna River at a marina (no nearby bridge) to North York township, in York County. The 48th Senatorial District lines have an interesting shape and occupies 3 counties

The current 15th senatorial district occupies 2 counties (Dauphin and Perry).

2) Create a Susquehanna River corridor state rep. district in S. Dauphin County that brings Londonderry Twp. back to Dauphin County from Lancaster county representation. The Susquehanna River, Rt. 230 corridor is a major transportation hub to Harrisburg, has common interests in recreational, environmental, water related to the river/tributaries and a racial and ethnic mix of persons residing in the area.

This plan respects counties and municipalities related to pa. senate and house district boundaries discussed here.

I appreciate the work of organizations like FAIR DISTRICTS PA and DRAW THE LINES PA. These organizations helped me as a citizen-voter to improve my understanding of re-districting and realize that this process a job for all us, not a few of us.

Thank you.

Testimony of Mark Later, LRC 09/21/2021

Testimony of Mark Lafer, for the September 21, 2021 Meeting on the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Committee To the honorable members of the commission: I have lived in the 77th legislative district of the Commonwealth for more than 33 years. Subsequent to the US Census of 1990, 2000, and 2010, the legislature redrew the district lines with gerrymandering in mind. We now are awaiting the next 77th district gerrymander, purportedly based on the 2020 Census. For part of my career, I did health and human services planning for the Commonwealth. A core consideration was coherence. I needed to justify both inclusions and exclusions from service areas. Looking only at school districts, the structure of the 77th legislative district neglects this basic consideration. If I am reading this map correctly, the 77th includes all of the Philipsburg/Osceola Mills School District. The Bald Eagle Area School District serves Huston Township, which is fully in the 77th. Then there is State College Area. It covers all of six minor civil divisions (MCD). However, none of three - College, Halfmoon, and Harris Townships - are part of the 77th. Patton Township is in the 77th and 81st. Fergusson Township has a three-way split: the 77th, 81st, and 171st. Only State College Borough is an intact component of the district. The split goes beyond geography. It also reflects a split between political parties. The growth of the Centre region justifies splitting the current legislative district that includes State College into two. This should happen. When it does, I urge the General Assembly to keep school district and MCD boundary lines contiguous.

Good evening, Chairman Nordenberg and members of the Commission, and thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you today. My name is Kyle Hynes and although I've worked with Fair Districts Centre County and work with Draw the Lines PA, here I'm speaking for myself and my own views, not attempting to speak on behalf of any organization. I'm currently a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University and I'm from State College in Centre County.

I've spoken at prior meetings about my more general thoughts for how to map the state, so I won't spend much time on that. To put it very simply, I hope the Commission makes every attempt to maximize competitive districts in every part of our Commonwealth, because, in my mind, a seat with a representative who can sit on their laurels is a seat with disenfranchised voters.

I don't want to spend too much time deep in the weeds, so I'll try to be concise. But today, I want to zero in on the State House map in Central Pennsylvania, particularly the areas around State College, my hometown. As I see it, there are two potential ways to draw a fair map in Centre County.

The first would prioritize preserving municipal boundaries and communities of interest, which, despite my personal disagreement with using them, are the traditional strategies. All of the townships and boroughs north of the Bald Eagle Mountains - except for Taylor, Worth, Huston, and Port Matilda - would be included in one district, as well as the somewhat similar areas in the Hublersburg area and eastern Penns Valley. That seat, with only 30,000 residents, would have to be combined with another area - most likely in Clinton County - to complete a full district. In the lower part of the county, a western district and an eastern district would be drawn, with the dividing line running near Atherton Street through State College. This will maintain the Nittany Valley's community of interest and minimize municipal splits to the greatest extent possible. I'm happy to attach the visual of the map if the Commission wants.

The second would prioritize competitive districts, my preferred way. In this plan, the bulk of the county's area would be divided into two districts, one in the western part of the county and one in the eastern part. The eastern district would include Bellefonte, Boalsburg in Harris Township, and the southern part of State College; the western district would include Philipsburg, Milesburg, Patton, Benner, and most of College Township, as well as much of the Penn State campus. Finally, a third, incomplete district would cover western State College and Ferguson Township, with about half its population required to go in Huntingdon County to the south. In this plan, the two main districts would be near tossups, while the smaller, southern district, although heavily Democratic, would be easy to connect with rural areas of Huntingdon County to create a third purple district. I'm also happy to attach this if the Commission wants.

Either of these outcomes would be better than the status quo. Right now, our county is divided into four districts, with most following no rhyme or reason. One seat covers the Borough of State College and Rush Township in a snake-shaped pattern, convoluted enough that Route 322, one of the main highways through the region, crosses the district line eight times, while one which should be more familiar to some on this Commission surrounds State College before consuming a giant swath of Centre and Mifflin Counties' rural areas. The third pulls away a small area of State College suburbia before covering rural Huntingdon County, and the fourth takes over the remaining rural areas and combines them with Lock Haven. Overall, the current map combines constituents with few shared interests into four seats - three safely Republican, one safely Democratic - in a county that hasn't voted Republican in nine years.

Of course, there are ample fair ways to split up Centre County when the Commission comes forward with its final State House map. The solutions I've proposed are only a subset of the possibilities, and there are undoubtedly many more. I hope and trust that when the final map for Centre County is proposed, it will be in a transparent process that involves lots of feedback from the voters in our neck of the woods, so that our votes will matter and our representatives can serve our real communities.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Appended maps: Top map is the communities-of-interest drawing and the bottom is the competitive map

