

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

Friday
January 7, 2022
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Sen. Jay Costa	Rep. Kerry Benninghoff
Sen. John Gordner,	Rep. Matthew Bradford
(Deputy Commissioner for	(Deputy Commissioner for
Sen. Kim Ward)	Rep. Joanna McClinton)

Also Present:

Robert L. Byer, Esq., Chief Counsel
G. Reynolds Clark, Executive Director
Dr. Jonathan Cervas, Redistricting Consultant
Leah Mintz, Assistant Counsel
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

Reported by:
Ann-Marie P. Sweeney
Official Reporter

Also Present:

Justin Klos, Director, House Democratic Office of
Demographic Analysis

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 morning, everyone. This
2 is one of those days when you're inclined on the one hand to
3 give everybody a little bit of extra time to get in. On the
4 other hand, you're also inclined to reward those who already
5 are here. We have had our first three speakers lined up on
6 Zoom since about quarter to 9:00. I guess this is one of
7 those days when we give thanks for that technology, and also
8 for the commitment of the people who have made the effort to
9 participate in this hearing either in person or remotely.

10 My name is Mark Nordenberg. I'm the Chair of the
11 Legislative Reapportionment Commission. I will call this
12 meeting to order, and also want to note the presence of the
13 other Members of the Commission who are here today. They
14 include Senator Jay Costa, the Democratic Leader of the
15 Senate; Representative Kerry Benninghoff, the Majority Leader
16 of the House of Representatives; Senator John Gordner, who is
17 sitting in for Majority Leader Senator Kim Ward this morning;
18 and I understand that Representative Matt Bradford, who will
19 be sitting in for the Democratic Leader of the House, Joanna
20 McClinton, will be here momentarily. So we've got a full
21 group on the Commission side, we have people lined up on the
22 Zoom link. We actually have people in the in-person audience.
23 I'm not sure the camera will ever swing in your direction, but
24 we're grateful to you for being here.

25 And I think we should start by inviting the first

1 witness on Zoom to present her testimony.

2 MS. GOBRESKI: Good morning.

3 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Good morning. This is Susan
4 Gobreski, from Philadelphia, who is affiliated with the League
5 of Women Voters.

6 Welcome. Thank you.

7 MS. GOBRESKI: Thank you, and thank you to the
8 Chair and all the Members of the committee. I know that what
9 you do is not only thankless, but very difficult. So let me
10 say thank you. I know others have done so, but it deserves to
11 be said multiple times.

12 As folks I think are mostly aware, the League of
13 Women Voters is a longstanding organization with the principle
14 to protecting the vote and insuring that everyone has that
15 franchise, that voting is a fundamental right. We have made
16 some comments and continue to work with partners who are
17 working to help advocate for fair maps. I'm going to focus on
18 a couple of positives. I'm not going to get into details.
19 I'm not a map person and I'm not a mathematician, but I know
20 how to listen to them, and I'm glad that you all do, too.

21 On the positive side for the House, one of the
22 things we wanted to acknowledge is that it did really do a
23 good job at following the population shift that has occurred
24 over the past two decades, and, importantly, we really want to
25 thank the Commission for doing work to undo the gerrymandering

1 that was frankly so entrenched that to undo it is for people
2 to think it is unfair. So I think that it is hard to undo
3 gerrymandering. We know that there are a lot of competing
4 interests and a lot of these things are tradeoffs, but we
5 think there was great progress made. There is still actually
6 more to make. You know, this map still doesn't quite get at
7 some of the longstanding patterns that have existed in our
8 gerrymandering, but progress is progress, so we want to thank
9 you for that and thank you for keeping communities of interest
10 together on the House map.

11 On the Senate side, I think that, again, progress
12 was made. I think that Senate District 15, in particular,
13 looks good, but I really want to focus on the population
14 issue. You know, one of the key principles is one person, one
15 vote, and the map has such a great population difference. And
16 although it may be within the constraints of the law, just
17 because you can does not mean that you should. And so we are
18 very concerned about the population deviations. So the ideal
19 is 260,000. I know that people know this, but the range here
20 now is 247,391 to 272,319, a difference of 24,928, which is a
21 .096 difference. So just about a 10-percent difference. That
22 really means that votes count for more and less, and that
23 range is .95 to 105, and what that means is that if we had
24 \$200 and agreed to divide it evenly, I might get \$105 and
25 you'd get \$95. And I would look at you and say it's even.

1 It's even. We got the same. But that's not actually the
2 case. And if you extrapolate that over larger numbers, if we
3 had \$200,000, I'd get \$105,000, and you'd get \$95,000. At the
4 greater numbers, which is what we're talking about when we're
5 talking about population and one person, one vote, it really
6 does start to add up.

7 Furthermore, a key consideration here is that this
8 bias is regional. And so while we are doing a lot of work to
9 move the maps to follow the population, this actually
10 preserves the value of the votes in western Pennsylvania at
11 the expense of the values of the votes in the east. And that
12 has to be corrected. So it is not insubstantial, and the
13 regional bias, I think, is going to cause a lot of problems,
14 and those trends are extremely likely to grow over the decade.
15 So by the end of the decade, we would expect them to be much,
16 much worse. So we think that's really important to do.

17 And I think that we would just draw your attention
18 and underscore some of the points that others have brought up.
19 We would see Lancaster, Allentown as problems. We think that
20 the pairing of Monroe with Carbon County doesn't make sense.
21 Monroe County is a population that is changing. That river
22 area is where the population is growing, so it pairs a growing
23 and diverse population in a region that is experiencing change
24 with a region that doesn't. So we think some tweaking in that
25 whole Lehigh Valley and northeast river area is going to be

1 important.

2 The other thing I would just really want to focus
3 on is that I appreciate the fact that you are taking these
4 comments from people, because ultimately representation is
5 about community, it's about people being able to be heard, so
6 I think the work that people need to do together, the feedback
7 that you're taking from people about whether or not their
8 community is being recognized and properly paired is really
9 important.

10 And I'm really sorry. I was told I had 10
11 minutes. I see the timer going. I'm happy to cut it short,
12 but I just need another minute or so.

13 I think you are most of the way there. So taking
14 this feedback about tweaking is going to be important.
15 Agreeing to represent people in how these maps go, but I think
16 that one of the things that has to really be looked at is
17 moving a Senate district farther to the east. And I think
18 that happens, potentially putting another Senate district in
19 southeast Pennsylvania or south central, in that area in order
20 to get at what's happening in the population, especially over
21 the decade.

22 And once again, I just wanted to acknowledge that
23 what you guys are doing is thankless. I frankly have been a
24 little shocked at the vitriol. I think the process has
25 largely worked.

1 The final thing I want to make is that I do think
2 that given how important community is to people, given how
3 important representation is, I would like to encourage the
4 Commission, as a set of recommendations coming out of this
5 process, to think about what can be done between now and the
6 next time around to try and get more data, get more input, get
7 more feedback from people about where they feel like they
8 belong, what they feel like the changes are.

9 Thank you, and thank you, Chair Nordenberg. I
10 think you've absorbed a lot of energy around this from people,
11 negatively and positively. It is a very, very difficult job,
12 and actually all of the Members of the committee, you both
13 represent small "p" political interests and you have to ignore
14 them, and that's a very hard balancing act.

15 So I thank you, and we will still continue to hold
16 you to a high standard, but not without appreciation.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, both for
18 your short-term suggestions in terms of these maps, and some
19 of the thoughts you had about what might be done even between
20 the work of this Commission and the next Commission.

21 Are there questions or comments from Members of
22 the Commission?

23 (There was no response.)

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: I guess you've handled
25 everything so perfectly, there are no questions. So thank

1 you, and thank you, again, for leading us off on a snowy
2 morning.

3 MS. GOBRESKI: I will send in, I'm sorry that I
4 don't have it, I will send in written comments and I will send
5 out, I do have some numbers together that I will send out.
6 I'm sure you have people much better able than I, but I will
7 attach something to my comments. So thank you, again.

8 CHAIR NORDENBERG: We'd appreciate receiving them.
9 Thank you.

10 SENATOR GORDNER: Mr. Chair, if I could make just
11 a brief comment. Thank you.

12 Just in regard to the population deviation, and
13 I'll mention my own 27th Senatorial District and the district
14 of Gene Yaw up above, there is importance of keeping counties
15 together, if you can. I know this map that the Commission has
16 put together has less county splits than was done 10 years
17 ago. But I can tell you, as someone who represents four full
18 counties and part of another one, that it's very important
19 that I have those four full counties. In the map from 20
20 years ago, and I was here in the Senate 20 years ago, I also
21 had an additional part of the upper part of Dauphin. And it
22 was a small part, but it was done as part of the process of
23 splitting counties. So while I appreciate the comments in
24 regard to the population deviation, sometimes there are
25 benefits to doing that in order to keep counties whole. And I

1 know, again, with this map that was adopted by the Commission,
2 that there are less county splits than there were 10 years
3 ago, and I think that's important. Thank you.

4 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much for those
5 contextual comments.

6 MS. GOBRESKI: May I make one quick response?

7 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Yes, please.

8 MS. GOBRESKI: Thank you. I think that's right,
9 and I think this is all about tradeoffs, and I completely
10 understand that. I live in Philadelphia, which inherently has
11 to be split, so, you know, I think that balancing when to
12 split and when not to split is really important, and that gets
13 to what the communities that people are in actually
14 experience, right? Some municipal areas are at county borders
15 though and their region might look different and cross a
16 county line. So, Senator Gordner, I appreciate the comment.
17 You know, and I do understand that these are tradeoffs, but I
18 also understand that when you have a big regional bias like
19 the one that we are seeing in this map, then it requires a
20 broader solution with consideration of those interests, and we
21 really do, I am with you, there are things that we have to
22 look at in the details that matter. It's not easy to just do
23 these things on paper.

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again.

25 Our next citizen witness is Scott North, who is

1 from Brookville, back out more west, and he is going to speak
2 about Jefferson County.

3 Welcome. Good morning.

4 MR. NORTH: Good morning. Thank you all. I
5 appreciate this opportunity. Also, I'd like to acknowledge
6 this difficult work, and I appreciate the complexities.

7 To pick right up on what I'd like to address as a
8 Commissioner in Jefferson County, and in particular I'm a
9 resident of the Punxsutawney area, I appreciate and applaud
10 the efforts to maintain county integrity to the greatest
11 extent possible. I understand that, as has already been
12 mentioned, that can't always be the case, and more especially
13 so in the urban and suburban counties. One thing I would like
14 to ask the team to consider is refining that pencil a bit
15 further. The impact on the more rural counties, I would
16 suggest to you, is greater in that when you look at a regional
17 issue, the concentration of representation, say for example,
18 to use Allegheny County or Philadelphia County as examples, as
19 has been previously stated, you have a concentration of
20 representation. In rural counties, my concern is in those
21 instances where we did have to split counties or we're
22 proposing to split counties, that that integrity be
23 inadvertently or an unintended consequence of dispersing that.

24 So in short, what I'm asking the Commission to do
25 is to look at the rural counties in particular and see where

1 county integrity could be maintained. Again, I understand
2 that you're having to balance several issues here. I look at
3 Jefferson County in the proposed map, for example, the
4 southern third, approximately 8,000 residents, would come into
5 the 41st District. That would encompass all of Armstrong, all
6 of Indiana, part of Westmoreland. The northern two-thirds of
7 Jefferson County would be involved with several other
8 counties, which county integrity is being maintained, which I
9 think is excellent and that's a good standard to try to
10 achieve. However, Centre County is in a similar position that
11 we be in the 25th District, having to split that integrity.

12 Again, I want to acknowledge the effort and the
13 type of work you have to do. I understand that there are
14 complexities here that you're trying to balance. But with
15 regard to the rural counties in particular, I would ask if you
16 could take another look at that, see what we could do to
17 maintain that county integrity, even in a greater level than
18 has been done. In a glance at the map, you can see good work
19 has been accomplished. I appreciate that. I just wish
20 Jefferson County could be a part of that.

21 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, and I can
22 assure you we'll take another look at that.

23 MR. NORTH: Thank you, sir.

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Are there any questions or
25 comments?

1 Majority Leader Benninghoff.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 If following this you have other specific
5 examples, it would be helpful. One of the things that we have
6 heard time and time again is having communities of interest,
7 sometimes the challenge we have in having to bifurcate or
8 split a county more than once is the fact the population is so
9 high, and you used Centre as an example. Centre County,
10 having a population of about 150,000, we can argue about are
11 that population considering 40,000 are students and 4,400 of
12 them are inmates. Nonetheless, it's in the U.S. Census count,
13 but if there are specific areas outside of Jefferson also that
14 you would like us to look at, it would be helpful.

15 We do try to follow the Constitution to the best
16 of our ability in trying to keep townships and municipalities,
17 who are generally a little bit more intimate communities of
18 interest, together, but I found it fascinating as we've gone
19 through this the different viewpoints of what a community of
20 interest is. Some is very, very parochial and very, very
21 small. Some it's a little more on a grand scale. So we
22 appreciate your input, and any additional information on
23 specific examples would be helpful.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

1 Senator Gordner.

2 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you.

3 And from my previous comments, you know my
4 feelings in regard to trying to keep counties together. I do
5 know, at least in regard to the Senate map, if I'm correct,
6 and you're from Punxsutawney, I do believe that we kept the
7 entire Punxsutawney School District in one senatorial
8 district. And that ends up being in the 41st Senatorial
9 District, but we realize the importance of keeping that school
10 district intact and not splitting the school district. So I
11 think we did put the entire school district in the 41st.

12 MR. NORTH: You did. That is encompassed in the
13 proposed map.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Any other comments or
15 questions?

16 (There was no response.)

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, thank you very much,
18 Mr. North.

19 MR. NORTH: Thank you. Thank you all.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our third speaker is Suzanne
21 Broughton, who is from the Allison Park ZIP Code, at least,
22 and who is going to be testifying about McCandless. And
23 unless my memory is failing me, we have heard from you before.
24 So, welcome back.

25 MS. BROUGHTON: Thank you. Before I start, I need

1 to just let you know about an unexpected thing that happened
2 to me. Last night I experienced a fall and spent the evening
3 in the Passavant Hospital emergency room. The result is I
4 have a fractured humerus bone and have several stitches here.
5 The reason that's important is that I am operating under pain
6 medication, and so if I don't speak as quickly or as well as I
7 should, I hope you will indulge me a bit.

8 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, we're very sorry to hear
9 that, appreciate your determination to be with us with your
10 arm in a sling, and I hope you got good treatment at
11 Passavant.

12 MS. BROUGHTON: They were very good. Yes. But
13 it's going to be a problem for four to six weeks, I think.

14 So, to begin. Yes, my name is Suzanne Broughton,
15 and yes, in September, I did present testimony in which I
16 described the splits in Butler County and in the Fox Chapel
17 School District in the 2011 redistricting. Today, I will
18 speak on the proposed map of the House districts only. I have
19 one specific comment, and two more general comments.

20 First, specifically, the town of McCandless, where
21 I live, even though it's that Allison Park ZIP Code, has been
22 split by moving Wards 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 to District 30, while
23 leaving Wards 3 and 4 in District 28. That also splits the
24 North Allegheny School District. The split from 2011 in the
25 Pine-Richland School District still remains. Several

1 municipalities have been added to District 28, splitting both
2 the Avonworth and Quaker Valley School Districts. Provision
3 of services, through cooperation of several municipalities
4 along the Route 8 corridor, will also be disrupted, as Leader
5 Benninghoff heard on Tuesday from the managers of Shaler
6 Township. I think the Commission should take another look at
7 the North Hills general area to determine whether the split in
8 McCandless is absolutely necessary and whether the splits in
9 the many school districts and the disruption of cooperative
10 municipal arrangements are really needed.

11 Second, I watched the meeting in which the maps
12 were adopted, and I would like to respond to Leader
13 Benninghoff's comments there. That some incumbents must run
14 against each other can be attributed to two factors. One is
15 that population shifts, and I think we just heard about that,
16 since 2011 has been away from rural districts. For example,
17 the population in one northwest Pennsylvania region was
18 816,792, represented by 16 Republican legislators. The 2020
19 Census data shows that region's population is now 765,040,
20 down 51,752. The target population for one of the House
21 Districts is about 64,000. So that region will likely lose at
22 least one House seat to a more populous area. This isn't a
23 plot. These primaries are the result of simple math due to
24 population shift.

25 The other factor is the gerrymandering done by the

1 2011 legislative Commission, as Susan noted. They mangled
2 district borders to produce an overabundance of safe
3 Republican seats. That gerrymandering has been effective. In
4 each election since 2012, the percentage of Republican seats
5 in the Pennsylvania House has exceeded the percentage of
6 Republican votes. In 2018, that discrepancy was particularly
7 egregious. Republicans won only 45 percent of the vote but
8 retained 54 percent of the seats. The proposed map does undo
9 some of those gerrymanderings. So the partisan actions of the
10 2011 LRC have been revisited upon the legislators who took
11 those seats in primary contests 10 years later.

12 Third and finally, I want to mention the
13 allegations of bias that I have seen directed at Commission
14 Chair Nordenberg. I have lived in the Pittsburgh area for 57
15 of my adult years, and I think I know it well. To my
16 knowledge, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Emeritus
17 Nordenberg's reputation for thoughtfulness and fairness is
18 indisputable. I understand that this criticism is not coming
19 directly from any Member of this Commission, but I know of no
20 effort on the Commissioner's part to quiet or refute it.

21 Thank you for your attention.

22 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you for your comments,
23 and particularly your comments about the school districts in
24 the North Hills, which we should take another look at.

25 Are there any questions or comments for the

1 witness?

2 Leader Benninghoff.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I just want to thank
4 you for your comments as well, and your reference to some of
5 the testimony that we had in Pittsburgh earlier this week. I
6 think having that community involvement, some of those leaders
7 out there, they were probably better able to emphasize what's
8 important for their communities, as you are doing, and I hope
9 you have a quick and speedy recovery.

10 MS. BROUGHTON: Thank you. I listened to all of
11 that testimony on Tuesday. I thought that the group from
12 House District 33 was particularly effective, as was the
13 Shaler Township Manager.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, thank you again, and we
15 all join in the good wishes expressed by Leader Benninghoff
16 for your quick and complete recovery.

17 MS. BROUGHTON: I'm a tough cookie.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MS. BROUGHTON: I've had a lot of surgeries. I'll
20 get through this.

21 CHAIR NORDENBERG: We don't doubt that.

22 Thank you, again.

23 Our next witness will be Regis Synan or Synan.
24 I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing your name. I guess since I
25 said it twice in different ways, we're guaranteed that I

1 mispronounced it at least once. Who is from Murrysville.

2 Welcome, sir. Thank you.

3 MR. SYNAN: Thank you. It is Synan, Mr. Chairman.

4 Mr. Chairman and Majority and Minority Leaders, I
5 want to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you
6 today. My name is Regis Synan. I have spent my entire life
7 engaged and volunteer in the communities that I live as a
8 volunteer fireman, local council member, and now as Mayor of
9 Murrysville. Today, I'm addressing you not just as mayor but
10 as a concerned volunteer who cares deeply about my community.
11 Today I'm speaking to you as a citizen, not on behalf of a
12 political agenda.

13 Today, although you will hear from many people, I
14 hope that you will remember what I share with you. Please do
15 not split the municipality of Murrysville between two State
16 legislators. We are a self-sufficient community and ask for
17 very little from our State or Federal government in terms of
18 funding, but we do work closely with our elected officials to
19 help navigate these issues. This is help that does not come
20 with headlines, so help that does not come easily. Put
21 yourself in my shoes for a moment. If I needed help at the
22 State level, who should I go to? Legislator A or Legislator
23 B? Please understand that these are all hardworking elected
24 officials, but they are also elected officials. With that
25 comes pride for the job they do, but also ownership for the

1 job they do. To put it plainly, if I need help and go to
2 Legislator A, will Legislator B feel left out? Or, if I go to
3 our State Senator, will Legislator A and B feel left out?
4 Would Legislator A and B work well together?

5 Those are questions and issues that a small town
6 mayor does not want to wade into. We want to continue to be
7 self-sufficient. We want to continue to have good working
8 relationships at all levels of government, but we also don't
9 want to be involved in State politics, and that is precisely
10 what splitting our municipality will do. In fact, we lived
11 this scenario for a decade and were fortunate enough and
12 grateful to have it rectified in the 2011 map.

13 I could share many stories with you about how
14 having one State Representative benefits the citizens of
15 Murrysville. I would like to add, this type of scenario
16 spills over into the school districts as well. But in the
17 case of the school district, that is now split over three
18 Representatives. I hope that you can appreciate the position
19 the preliminary map would put myself, our council, our
20 hardworking staff, and ultimately the residents of Murrysville
21 in, and humbly ask that you rectify this oversight in the
22 final plan.

23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much for your
25 testimony, and both its quality and the fact that you're a

1 volunteer fireman, a mayor, and a volunteer insures that we'll
2 pay particular attention because our Executive Director, who's
3 back in Pittsburgh watching this, was the volunteer fire
4 chief, the mayor, and a volunteer in Franklin Park, north of
5 Pittsburgh. So you've got a bond to the Commission staff as
6 well.

7 Are there questions or comments for Mr. Synan?

8 (There was no response.)

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: I would say, too, sir, that
10 there was some jockeying back and forth about bakeries last
11 night. Is there anything you want to say about the pies at
12 Dick's Diner?

13 MR. SYNAN: Of course, we think they're the best
14 in the county at least, if not on this end of the State.

15 (Laughter.)

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again, for being
17 with us and for sharing those thoughts.

18 MR. SYNAN: Thank you very much for listening.

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: I understand that Kevin
20 Sheahen, who was on the list to be next, is not yet checked
21 in, but that John Barrett is now appearing on the screen
22 before us. He is from South Fayette Township. We heard some
23 very useful testimony about South Fayette last evening, and so
24 welcome. We're interested in your perspectives, too.

25 MR. BARRETT: Well, thank you very much for having

1 me. First of all, can you all hear me okay?

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Yes, we can hear you fine.

3 MR. BARRETT: Great. Perfect.

4 Well, thank you for the introduction. My name is
5 John Barrett. I'm the Township Manager in South Fayette
6 Township in Allegheny County, currently in the 46th
7 Legislative District. I'm here today representing our board
8 of commissioners and, you know, as Mayor Synan referenced, a
9 lot of our concerns kind of echo his, right. So I'll try not
10 to repeat a lot of what his testimony was but maybe add to it.

11 So, you know, like Franklin Regional and
12 Murrysville, South Fayette School District is a standalone
13 school district. So the proposed map would split this school
14 district into two. So, you know, we think it functions better
15 singularly, as the school district reflects being a single
16 Representative community.

17 Secondly, you know, South Fayette currently is the
18 fastest growing community in Allegheny County, and a lot of
19 the drivers behind that are transportation related. The
20 completion of the southern beltway is really something that is
21 new to us and provides us with the opportunity to kind of
22 control growth and to, you know, recognize the opportunity
23 that that amenity brings to us. And that's really allowed us
24 to join in discussions with our partners in Washington County,
25 Robinson Township, the borough of McDonald, Cecil Township,

1 but communities like that where having a shared district also
2 has allowed us to have those discussions more globally.

3 Secondly, you know, the issue of our local
4 watersheds tend to align more closely with the municipalities
5 currently in the district. So I'm thinking of along Miller's
6 Run in South Fayette as that goes into Washington County,
7 there's a lot of water quality and stormwater issues that
8 we've been able to make some traction on through some
9 partnerships. And we think, you know, keeping the districts
10 reflective of that and the township in it is the path that the
11 commissioners would like to see, as well as the community at
12 large.

13 And lastly, you know, I think our EMS services are
14 aligned with those municipalities that I mentioned before, so
15 keeping us kind of in that 46th District seems to make a lot
16 of sense for us. So members of my board felt it was important
17 that, you know, their voices were heard. They submitted a
18 letter to the Commission, and, you know, I'm here today just
19 to kind of echo those and to make our feelings known.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much. I will
21 say, we certainly have received that correspondence and are
22 grateful for that. We did hear from legislative
23 Representatives from your area last evening, and your
24 testimony compliments both of those other forms of evidence.

25 Are there any questions for Mr. Barrett?

1 (There was no response.)

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, sir.

3 MR. BARRETT: My pleasure. Thank you all for
4 having me.

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Jean
6 Handley, who is from Harrisburg. Even though she is this far
7 down on the list, I think she has been in position on Zoom for
8 45 minutes or so now. She has testified before this
9 Commission in the past, and it's a pleasure to welcome you
10 back.

11 MS. HANDLEY: Good morning, Chairman Nordenberg,
12 Leaders Benninghoff and Costa, and Senator Gordner and
13 Representative Bradford, representing the other Leaders. I'm
14 a longtime resident of Dauphin County, and full disclosure,
15 the Dauphin County Coordinator for Fair Districts PA.
16 However, I appear today as a resident, and I appreciate the
17 opportunity to speak with you this morning about the
18 preliminary State House and Senate maps. I applaud your
19 efforts to solicit input through the many hearings and
20 website, and hope this will set a standard for redistricting
21 in the decades to come. However, it would have been helpful
22 for the public to know the criteria the LRC planned to use and
23 priorities assigned to each when starting this process in
24 order to provide more focused input.

25 There has been prior testimony regarding metric

1 performance. Generally speaking, the LRC preliminary House
2 and Senate maps are better than the current maps created
3 during redistricting in 2011. That being said, adjustments
4 can always be made to produce an end product that is more
5 beneficial to all the citizens of the Commonwealth. As a
6 resident of the Commonwealth, I limit my further comments to
7 the districts drawn in this area. And I have a couple of
8 slides that I will share with the districts -- if I can get
9 this working. There we go.

10 All right, I'm going to start with the Senate map.
11 And since the Senate 2020 Census population exceeds the size
12 of a new Senate district, unfortunately, the county must be
13 divided. The Senate map creates a more competitive District
14 15, which is more reflective of the suburban, urban, and
15 industrial areas of the county and considers the unique
16 commercial, environmental, and infrastructure issues of the
17 lower half of Dauphin County down here. No school districts
18 are divided in District 15. Thank you.

19 The northern part of Dauphin County, among the
20 ridges, is much more rural, agrarian, and conservative and is
21 similar to other areas in District 34. However, the
22 Susquehanna River divides Perry and Cumberland Counties from
23 northern Dauphin. The only direct link to travel between the
24 east and west portions of District 34 is the Clarks Ferry
25 Bridge, which you can see on the map, near Duncannon that

1 carries Routes 322 and 22. Otherwise, one must travel through
2 District 15 to access bridges in the Harrisburg area where
3 they have to come down here (indicating). An alternative
4 would be to include northern Dauphin with parts of Schuylkill,
5 Lebanon, or Northumberland Counties, thus eliminating the
6 Susquehanna River split. The only Dauphin County divided
7 school district in District 34 is Williams Valley, which
8 extends into Schuylkill County District 39.

9 Next is the House map. And the House map creates
10 districts that are more compact with only one, District 103,
11 extending beyond the county borders. They are more
12 representative of the various communities of interest.
13 Districts are also more competitive, which reflects the
14 registered voter population of Dauphin County. Registered
15 voters of both major parties were almost equal in the
16 Cumberland County area included in District 103. Central
17 Dauphin School District is only divided among three districts,
18 and Lower Dauphin School District is divided among two,
19 instead of the current four for each district. However, by
20 dividing the city of Harrisburg between Districts 103 and 104,
21 the Harrisburg School District, with its significant
22 challenges, would be divided instead of whole, as in the
23 current House map.

24 Areas of concern. District 103. Debate continues
25 about whether to include parts of eastern Cumberland County

1 and Dauphin County in one district. There are two schools of
2 thought on this. One is do not divide Harrisburg city, and do
3 not include communities from the West Shore. Harrisburg has
4 its own unique challenges, significant Black and other
5 minority populations, and is a community of interest and
6 should remain whole. Or, two, include parts of Cumberland.
7 Proposed District 103 has some common challenges and concerns.
8 This is also a shared area of recreation, shopping,
9 restaurants, and medical care for residents on both sides of
10 the river. To include communities that help increase
11 diversity and equity may be beneficial to legislative
12 achievements in this area. However, there are also
13 significant differences between the East and West Shores that
14 may present challenges for a legislator.

15 Hummelstown Borough, kind of down here
16 (indicating). Hummelstown has strong ties with East and South
17 Hanover, Derry, Conewago, and Londonderry Townships, and is
18 part of the Lower Dauphin School District. It should be
19 included with these municipalities in one district. By doing
20 so, it would eliminate splitting the school district and help
21 represent the common interests of this area.

22 Lower Paxton District 22, there is an interesting
23 tail protruding from District 125 separating Districts 105 and
24 106. This is Lower Paxton District 22, and its residents have
25 much more in common with either those of District 105, or

1 Derry and South Hanover Townships in District 106.

2 And then the river communities. There has been
3 previous testimony regarding keeping the river communities
4 together as a community of interest, starting with Harrisburg
5 city and ending with Londonderry Township down here. The LRC
6 map has divided this area between Districts 104 and 106. If
7 possible, the communities would benefit by remaining in one
8 district.

9 In conclusion, I am not a skilled mapper and thus
10 do not know the impact of potential changes on either Dauphin
11 County or the LRC map as whole. The Fair Districts PA
12 People's House and Senate Maps may offer alternatives and
13 solutions to adjust and improve these districts. If there is
14 a possibility of making any adjustments that are not too
15 disruptive, I ask that you please consider doing so.

16 Thank you for your continued efforts to produce
17 House and Senate maps that are representative of all the
18 citizens of the Commonwealth, and I personally wish you all
19 the best while working toward finalization of both the House
20 and Senate district maps. And with that, if anybody has any
21 questions, I'm here.

22 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much for your
23 testimony and for your good wishes.

24 Are there are any questions?

25 Leader Benninghoff.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3 I appreciate the comments by the young lady. Just
4 for clarification, I was trying to decide whether you were
5 actually emphasizing one map over another. You had talked
6 about the 103rd specifically in the divide and the impact of
7 the river and having that one going across the river. I
8 thought I heard you pretty well that in the Senate seat you
9 saw that as a problem, and I was just curious if you see it as
10 a similar problem, and would you advocate more on your example
11 of not dividing it or on the other example? Do you have a
12 preference?

13 MS. HANDLEY: Are you specifically referring to
14 the House seat, or both the Senate and the House, Leader
15 Benninghoff?

16 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Specifically to the
17 House. It seems as though you had concerns of the divide
18 causing a problem or not being as favorable in the Senate
19 seat. I was just curious if that was consistent, because you
20 actually gave two examples of what could occur there, but I
21 didn't really feel either one was weighted.

22 MS. HANDLEY: Yeah.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I was just curious if
24 you had a preference in either one of those for the House.

25 MS. HANDLEY: Well, you picked up on it. By the

1 way, thank you for the "young" comment. I appreciate that.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: My mother always
3 said, err on the side of caution.

4 MS. HANDLEY: Well, you did very well with that.

5 As far as District 103, and you picked up very
6 well on that, there is a continued discussion, as I said, over
7 the years of whether to include going across the river into
8 Cumberland County with Dauphin County or not. And personally,
9 I look at this and say, you know, I don't necessarily have a
10 preference. I'm just pointing out that there are positives of
11 doing that, as I mentioned, and some of the common interests
12 that are there and the common concerns, and there are also
13 some potential problem areas because of the differences in the
14 culture, possibly of things with school funding or policing or
15 affordable housing or minority populations that may affect
16 Harrisburg city much more than some of the communities on the
17 West Shore. As I said, personally, it's kind of like I don't
18 know. But you have to weigh both sides of it.

19 And as far as the Senate district, there is
20 positives for that. My problem with that, if anything, would
21 be because of the river split and the only one access point to
22 the rest of western 34 from Dauphin County is that Clarks
23 Ferry Bridge.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Well, I appreciate
25 your candor on that. I was kind of hoping if you'd say pick

1 this one and then if we pick it and somebody says they don't
2 like it, I'd say, well, Jean told us to pick that one.

3 I come from a more mountainous area, and we have
4 the same kind of conundrum where you have a big mountain over
5 here and then if I travel 30 miles kind of south of me, I hit
6 another big mountain, and whether we like it or not, those
7 geographic barriers do make a change, and sometimes maybe it's
8 just our parochial thinking at times that we just can't
9 visualize that there can be any kind of sense of community.
10 One of the things we've heard consistently over the months is
11 communities of interest, and so, inherently as human beings, I
12 think we get very parochial in our thinking, and I just
13 thought it would be helpful to have someone who lives there
14 give us some better input.

15 So, thank you very, very much for that.

16 MS. HANDLEY: Just another comment about the
17 Senate district. The communities are similar across the
18 river. And as you well know, the current Senate district,
19 District 15, went across the river, northern Dauphin County,
20 and went over into Perry County. So it's not the populations
21 that are totally dissimilar, although maybe down in Cumberland
22 County it might be. What I guess I am saying is that as an
23 alternative, there are also similar communities in
24 Northumberland, Schuylkill, or Lebanon County that would match
25 very well with the northern part of Dauphin County also, if

1 you wanted to eliminate that river split.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you.

3 Mr. Chairman, one quick question?

4 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Historically, has the
6 Representative that represented Harrisburg been predominantly
7 from the city over the last several decades?

8 MS. HANDLEY: Representatives, historically pretty
9 much so, yeah. At least Representative Kim represents the
10 Harrisburg area at this point, and she's been there for a
11 while. I do not recall, and it could go back a ways, but I do
12 not recall that Harrisburg city was put in with anything
13 across the river for a long while, if ever.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I think her
15 predecessor was Ron Buxton. I was just curious if there was
16 ever a time where they were represented by somebody outside
17 the city versus across the river. I appreciate your comments.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the lenience on that.

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you. And we have a
20 question from Senator Gordner.

21 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you. I'm not sure if a
22 question or a comment. But just from a historical
23 perspective, I got elected to the 27th Senatorial District
24 back in 2003, and as part of the 27th Senatorial District at
25 the time, I had the upper part of Dauphin County. At that

1 time, 20 years ago, Dauphin County was split between three
2 senatorial districts. There was the 15th, the 27th, which I
3 represent, as well as the 48th, Chip Brightbill was the
4 Senator at that time. And we actually shared a senatorial
5 office up in Millersburg, and I actually loved that upper area
6 - Millersburg, Lykens, I still like the name Pillow, Gratz,
7 that whole area.

8 I got to know the Ned Smith Center very well and
9 took my son's Scout troop up there, memorable because we saw a
10 bear while we were hiking up there at the Ned Smith Center.
11 But as compared to the three Senatorial districts that was
12 there 20 years ago, I'm pleased, you know, I hated to lose
13 that part of the upper Dauphin area, but was pleased that
14 Dauphin became two, and with this map, it still remains two.
15 Frankly, if you look at that 34th District, it is very
16 compact. When you look at the Cumberland, Perry, and the
17 upper part of Dauphin, and once you get around that Peters
18 Mountain area, it becomes a more residential area than a
19 commercial, industrial type of place. And there is a lot of
20 similarities between the upper part of Dauphin and Perry. So
21 having those co-joined seems to make sense. And to the extent
22 I think that Dauphin can remain in two Senatorial districts
23 and not in three, as it was 20 years ago, also I think it
24 makes a lot of sense for Dauphin County.

25 MS. HANDLEY: Thank you very much. I appreciate

1 those comments.

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, Senator.

3 I should ask if there's anything you want to add
4 to the bear story right now? If you wrestled him to the
5 ground, this is your chance.

6 (Laughter.)

7 SENATOR GORDNER: No, it was just memorable. I
8 think he scared us, and we scared him.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thanks, again, for your
10 testimony and for the ideas that you have shared with us
11 throughout the process.

12 MS. HANDLEY: Thank you, Chairman Nordenberg, and
13 the rest of the Commission, and continue your good work.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Maria
15 Gutierrez, who is with CASA. She is in York, and she's going
16 to talk about the Latinx communities in York and Lancaster.
17 Welcome.

18 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thank you. Good morning,
19 respected Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative
20 Reapportionment Commission. My name is Maria Gutierrez,
21 Membership Director of CASA and a resident of York County,
22 Pennsylvania, since August 2019. I lived in West Manchester.
23 Now I'm living in the southeast part of York.

24 CASA is a national organization and the largest
25 grassroots immigrant group in the mid-Atlantic region with 36

1 years of experience organizing over 150,000 lifetime immigrant
2 Latino and working-class members. We have been in
3 Pennsylvania for more than five years now. The growth of
4 Latinos, especially in York and Lancaster Counties, is
5 remarkable. You can see us when you walk down the streets.
6 Many are restaurant owners whose businesses such as El Yunque,
7 El Casero, Picalonga, El Rodeo, Mi Adobo, and you can watch us
8 working everywhere, including during these pandemic times.

9 The 2020 Census indicates that the population of
10 York increased by 4.9 percent, and of this percent, Latino
11 growth makes up 61.3 percent, and Blacks 15 percent. As for
12 Lancaster, the 2020 Census also indicates a 6.5-percent
13 increase in the Latino population in the last 10 years. And
14 the trend will continue not only in rural areas but also in
15 urban ones, as Puerto Rican families, like Luis and Ramone,
16 their cousins, Angel and Jasmine and others, settle here.
17 Pennsylvania's Latino population grew from 5.7 percent in 2010
18 to 8.1 percent of the total population in 2020, a nearly
19 50-percent increase. Communities of color now make up 27.5
20 percent of the total State population. With these numbers,
21 how can we explain that Pennsylvania has never had a Latino
22 Senator, has only four Latino Representatives? It is
23 important to note that none of the Latinos I know have
24 returned to their country of origin. On the contrary, I
25 constantly meet newcomers who add significant value to the

1 State.

2 Given all this growth between 2019 and 2020, we
3 recruited, trained, and supervised Latinos from York,
4 Lancaster, and neighboring counties to educate them about the
5 importance of being counted in the 2020 Census. We helped
6 thousands of families to fill out the Census, who otherwise
7 might not have been counted. I knocked with them on thousands
8 of doors in Lancaster and York and have spoken with Latinos,
9 many of whom had in common had recently emigrated to
10 Pennsylvania, like me. We made sure our community was
11 counted, but now we need it to be fairly represented.

12 So in the summer of 2021, CASA organizers from
13 York, Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Hanover educated our members
14 on the redistricting process. Almost no one in our
15 communities knew the term. They had never heard it. Me
16 neither. Our members then turned and shared that knowledge
17 with their communities. Suddenly, we all began to understand
18 why most elected politicians in our counties and the State
19 legislature did not represent us or look like us. It is not
20 that they are not good enough to be elected. It is quite the
21 opposite. They do not have enough like-minded voters because
22 of the drawn district lines. These voters, these populations,
23 have historically been split in the redistricting process to
24 prevent people of color from electing a candidate of choice.
25 Their voting power has been diluted.

1 Fair maps must be racially equal maps. The good
2 news for all of us here is that 10 years ago, we did not have
3 the opportunity to participate in a hearing like we are here
4 today. Ten years ago, we did not know the importance of the
5 Census or the redistricting process. Today we--Latinos,
6 Blacks, people of color--are educating our communities about
7 the political processes that are so important to democracy,
8 and most importantly, they are understanding and
9 participating.

10 Our communities, together with CASA, drew more
11 than 250 community maps between York and Lancaster,
12 identifying the geographic areas of common interest. From
13 those community maps, unique district maps called Unity Maps
14 were drafted to reflect the proper growth of the Latino and
15 Black populations, which the 2020 Census only confirmed.
16 These districts will allow communities to elect a candidate of
17 their choice.

18 Today, we want to say that the preliminary House
19 map proposed last month by the Commission is much, much better
20 than the previous one and does a lot to undo a lot of the
21 harmful district lines that have negatively impacted our
22 communities over the last decade. We hope most of the House
23 map remains the same, but we do have some suggestions that
24 could strengthen the map.

25 My suggestion to the Commission regarding

1 Lancaster is this: We first applaud that nearly 89 percent of
2 the proposed Unity Map in this region remains intact as you
3 propose HD 95. However, our version included 53 percent
4 people of color in terms of eligible voters, CVAP. So we're
5 looking into VRA concerns here since your proposal doesn't
6 meet the same percentage.

7 Regarding York, the LRC kept 70.5 percent of our
8 proposed Unity Map into your HD 15. The Commission has the
9 opportunity to create a majority district of people of color
10 by total population by adding the communities to the west and
11 southeast of the county. Our Unity Map illustrated how this
12 can be done.

13 Today, we ask you again to use what is presented
14 by our communities. We have decided that the difference in
15 language and culture between people of color, far from being
16 barriers, will be opportunities for organization, growth,
17 solidarity, and support. Therefore, we will continue to stay
18 present in all this process with great pride, affirming our
19 cultures, our languages, and overcoming the obstacle of those
20 who want to continue undermining our power. We are here, and
21 we will continue here until we achieve fair and racially
22 equivalent maps. Our claim this morning is to work together.
23 Let's join efforts to make sure that all candidates from York
24 and Lancaster reflect our population by drawing maps that do
25 justice to our communities.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the
2 Commission.

3 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much for your
4 time and your thoughts.

5 Are there questions from within the Commission?
6 Senator Gordner.

7 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you.

8 And thank you for your testimony today and your
9 comments. My district goes just to the outside of Hazleton,
10 and we have a very strong and active Latino community in that
11 area, both in the city of Hazleton but also in the border
12 communities, some of which I represent. I've got to point out
13 the significance of the 14th Senatorial District under this
14 proposed map. Under the proposed map, there would be a
15 district created, 14th Senatorial District, in the Allentown/
16 Bethlehem area which would have no incumbent and would have a
17 very strong Hispanic/Latino community. It could be made a
18 little stronger if all of Bethlehem was added to it, but even
19 without adding Bethlehem to it, there would be, again, a seat
20 with no incumbent and a very large, strong Latino growing
21 community there. And I think that portends well. You
22 mentioned that there's never been a Latino Senator. There is
23 a great opportunity for one in that 14th Senatorial District.
24 So, hopefully, that stays at least the way it is right now, or
25 possibly grows, to provide that opportunity in that area of

1 our State.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

4 I'd like to pick up on one important part of
5 Senator Gordner's statement. One of the things that we tried
6 to do in both maps, because of testimony we had received
7 earlier in the process, was to create districts with strong
8 Latinx populations and with no incumbents, because we were led
9 to believe that overcoming the natural powers of an incumbent
10 was very difficult. You didn't mention that in your comments,
11 and so I just wondered if you had a reaction to it?

12 Do we still have you?

13 MS. GUTIERREZ: Yes, I am here. I will ask you,
14 you know, if I have the opportunity to talk with my members
15 and our partners and can get back to you as soon as we can.

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: That would be fine.

17 MS. GUTIERREZ: I prefer to have the opportunity
18 to, you know, speak with our people.

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: That would be fine. It's an
20 important question, and taking time to provide that feedback
21 would be good. So thank you, again.

22 Leader Benninghoff also has questions.

23 LEADER BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
24 I appreciate your comments as well, piggybacking a little bit
25 on that.

1 First of all, Maria, thank you very much for
2 taking time. I think this has been a pretty good educational
3 curve for some of us in the last six months, listening to some
4 of the testimony. Other members of the Latino community have
5 done a good job testifying both prior to the maps drawn and
6 subsequent of that.

7 The issue of incumbency continues to be an issue
8 overall, not only for the Commission but people outside of
9 here. One of the concerns I thought was raised yesterday,
10 while there are those who want to have complete objectivity
11 and think that incumbency should be the last thing that we
12 consider, in the case of the current two members who are
13 Latino incumbents, there were issues raised that their
14 districts actually have a loss of Latino voters in the current
15 map. So statistically that would, to me, seem to put people
16 at a disadvantage, being the 180th District, I believe, and I
17 apologize, I don't have my glasses, so it's hard to read my
18 own writing, and the 127th District. So as you research those
19 things, I think it would be helpful for you to look at that.
20 I believe, if I remember hearing the one testifier yesterday,
21 the 127th District was down by 13 percent, and their fear was
22 as we see cyclical results or participation in election
23 cycles, sometimes whether it's weather or whether it's timing,
24 what sadly some people consider an off-year election, which I
25 never think any election is, but some people think unless it's

1 Presidential, it's an off-year, that those two incumbents
2 specifically could be at a disadvantage. So I'd encourage you
3 to look at that.

4 Another interesting testifier we had yesterday was
5 actually a previous candidate who is Latino and ran for office
6 and only lost by 50 votes or 55 votes, I can't remember
7 exactly the numbers she said. That particular district did
8 get changed to the point not only carving her out of it, but
9 reduced the Latino population by over 3,000 voters eligible of
10 the Latino community. So I think it would be important to
11 have you weigh in on that, whether you have time to do that
12 online. And we as a committee definitely need to look at
13 that, because it was raised early on that the overall growth
14 in Pennsylvania's population, while rather stagnant, was
15 predominantly and very significantly impacted by a significant
16 growth in the Latino population, and our maps should reflect
17 that.

18 I'd appreciate hearing from you.

19 MS. GUTIERREZ: Yeah, thank you for the
20 suggestion. We will continue, you know, revising and
21 analyzing all the work that you have done and definitely we
22 will bring back more suggestions and more comments about it.
23 You know, what we have to make sure is that our growth needs
24 to appear in the maps.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Well, again, thank

1 you for engaging.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time on that.

3 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

4 And reflecting your growth in the maps I know is
5 one goal that is shared by everyone on the Commission, and so
6 we appreciate your reminder, and we appreciate the contextual
7 comments you've made.

8 MS. GUTIERREZ: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Kris Henderson, who is from
11 Amistad Law in Philadelphia. Welcome.

12 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you to the Legislative
13 Reapportionment Commission for all of the vital work you've
14 done to map communities across the Commonwealth, and for being
15 here today to listen directly to the people whose communities
16 you have mapped. I've lived in Philadelphia for 12 years.
17 During most of that time, I lived in west Philadelphia. I
18 recently moved to the Germantown neighborhood. My old
19 neighborhood falls almost to the center of what is proposed to
20 be the 188th District. My old church, old apartment, old
21 grocery store, barber shop, and many of my friends are neatly
22 within the boundaries of that proposed district.

23 I currently live in what would be the 198th
24 Pennsylvania House District on Pulaski Avenue, a block away
25 from Fernhill Park. The Germantown neighborhood is divided

1 amongst the proposed 198th and 201st Pennsylvania House
2 Districts. The two grocery stores where I shop, ShopRite on
3 Fox Street and the IGA on Cheltenham, are both outside of the
4 198th District. I have many family friends in the area who
5 live in what is proposed to be the 201st District. The Kinds
6 live at Wayne and Queen Lane, The Collias live on Marion
7 Street off of Manheim. The Mendozas live on Manheim off of
8 Germantown Avenue. And if the Baker-Evanses lived across the
9 street from their current home on Hansberry, between Pulaski
10 and Wayne, they would be in the 198th. But as the proposed
11 maps currently stand, they will be in the 201st.

12 Germantown should be united in one district.
13 People in Germantown feel pride in our neighborhood, in our
14 parks, in the Awbury Arboretum, in The Colored Girls Museum,
15 and in numerous coffee shops and shops and restaurants. We
16 are one community of interest and should be in a single House
17 district.

18 Pennsylvania needs fair maps that allow people
19 across the Commonwealth to get the representation they
20 deserve. Pennsylvania's population growth is being entirely
21 driven by growth in the Black, Latinx, and AAPI communities.
22 According to the 2020 Census, communities of color now make up
23 27.5 percent of the total Commonwealth population, and this
24 trend will only continue to grow. These maps must reflect the
25 changing demographics of our Commonwealth and must create

1 opportunities for historically undercounted communities.

2 These maps must uphold the democratic ideal of one person, one
3 vote. We want the voters to choose their representatives,
4 rather than parties choosing their voters.

5 The LRC is on its way to creating more equitable
6 maps than we've ever had. Overall, the House map is
7 significantly better than the last one, and we are grateful
8 that the Commission has taken public input seriously. Still,
9 there are small changes that would make the map even stronger.
10 We call on you to make these minor changes based on public
11 feedback.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

14 Are there any questions for the witness?

15 (There was no response.)

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you. We really
17 appreciate your interest and your contributions.

18 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Moses
20 Wamalwa. We are back in the west. He's from Pittsburgh.

21 Welcome to Harrisburg, sir.

22 MR. WAMALWA: Thank you very much, and excellent
23 pronunciation of my last name. A lot of people tend to mess
24 it up, so that was phenomenally done.

25 Good morning, Chairman Nordenberg and the Members

1 of the Commission. My name is Moses Wamalwa, and I am the
2 Pennsylvania Chapter Manager for the Action for the Climate
3 Emergency. And I live here in Pittsburgh, and I'm honored to
4 be here speaking with you all. And thank you all so much for
5 the hard work that you've been doing. One of the things that
6 I've realized in this process, as I've sort of been learning
7 how to read these maps, is this is difficult work.

8 I'm speaking to you as an individual, but I'm also
9 speaking to you as part of the Keystone Counts Coalition, a
10 more than 44-member grassroots BIPOC organization coalition
11 that created the Unity Maps, which are proposed district maps
12 in areas whose demographic makeup makes them crucial to
13 insuring that these maps are truly and fairly racially
14 equitable. These nonpartisan maps are created almost
15 exclusively by communities of color and really center the
16 voices of community members and how they wanted their
17 districts to look. So I'm really happy to see that the
18 reapportionment plans have prioritized the need for growing
19 populations of color across the State to elect the candidates
20 of their choice. As a Black man and a climate advocate, being
21 able to choose a representative that really represents me is
22 truly important.

23 The proposed maps are a tremendous improvement
24 over the previous Pennsylvania reapportionment plans in
25 insuring a fair voting power for all. That being said, the

1 work is not done, and we're committed to working with you to
2 insure that these maps truly represent the people and
3 communities that they will impact.

4 As mentioned previously, the proposed House map is
5 much better than the previous one and does a better job of
6 reflecting the shifts in population that have occurred over
7 the last decade. They're also more compact and fair. I
8 especially think of House District 34, which, while it might
9 not match up 100 percent with our Unity Map, I think it still
10 really effectively represents the interests of working class
11 communities in that area, and I commend you for drawing the
12 district in this way.

13 An area that I thought, based on comments from the
14 community, that could be improved is House District 19, which,
15 while again, still better than it was previously, I don't
16 think has adequately captured the movement of communities in
17 that area. From map-drawing sessions with community members,
18 it was clear that this district should include McKees Rocks,
19 where many Black community members have relocated. We like
20 that the Hill District is now included in House District 24,
21 since it makes the most sense, but the community members would
22 love to see House District 19 stop at Mount Oliver and not
23 extend a tail down all the way down to Hazelwood.

24 Overall, I want to say thank you for this
25 opportunity to testify and represent my community. I'm going

1 to be honest, I'm not super well-versed in mapmaking, and I'm
2 mainly speaking as a representative and from the perspective
3 of wanting fair maps that will accurately represent the
4 shifting population that is driven by growth in the Black,
5 Latinx, and AAPI communities which now makeup almost 30
6 percent of the State. When you go back to make the final
7 maps, please don't go backwards, but do advance these maps
8 forward to even more equal and representative maps that
9 represent the diverse and growing communities here in
10 Pennsylvania.

11 Thank you so much for this opportunity. I would
12 love to take questions. I'm going to be honest though, there
13 might be some that I will not be able to answer and will have
14 to get back to you on. But thank you, once again, for this
15 opportunity.

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, you may not be a map
17 expert, but you're quite a testifier. So, thank you for the
18 information that you already have shared.

19 Are there any questions from the Commission?

20 (There was no response.)

21 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again, for being
22 here, and I look forward to meeting you on the streets of
23 Pittsburgh sometime.

24 MR. WAMALWA: Thank you so much. Much
25 appreciated.

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is William
2 Haws, who is from Bangor, and is here to talk about the school
3 district.

4 Welcome, sir.

5 We seem to have lost the video. Are you still
6 with us?

7 (There was no response.)

8 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Oh great, we've got you back.

9 MR. HAWS: I'm back? All right.

10 CHAIR NORDENBERG: You're smiling and we're
11 smiling.

12 MR. HAWS: Technology is what it is, right?
13 Anyway, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.
14 My name is William Haws. I am the Superintendent of the
15 Bangor Area School District, and I'm asking the Commission to
16 reconsider its reapportionment map that splits our school
17 district community into two separate House districts.

18 The Bangor Area School District is one of two
19 districts that make up a community known as the Slate Belt.
20 The Slate Belt is a distinct and unique community with its own
21 deep-rooted traditions and values. The people are proud, have
22 a deep sense of community, and they value their rich heritage
23 and history. The Bangor Area School District is the center of
24 its community: Friday night football games at Paul Farnan
25 Field, the annual Slater Fest back-to-school kickoff festival,

1 and theater performances that draw huge crowds of school
2 district families. In fact, this year we'll have our 103rd
3 rivalry football game with our neighboring district that
4 comprises the Slate Belt, which is over a century of
5 tradition.

6 Many school districts have a mascot such as a
7 tiger, an eagle, or a panther. You attend the Bangor Area
8 School District, you are a Slater. A Slater is a person who
9 carves slate, emblematic of the rich slate quarrying history,
10 whose workers formed the first communities in the region.
11 Talk to one of our school district families and ask them where
12 they come from, they will not reference their local
13 municipality, they will tell you they are from Bangor and that
14 they are a Slater. This is one reason there are so many
15 multi-generational families living in the district. District
16 parents are proud to raise their children in the same district
17 where they and their parents before them went to school.
18 These families gather at Slate Belt festivals like the Roseto
19 Big Time, the Bangor Halloween Parade, Portland 4th of July
20 Parade, and the Blue Valley Farm Show to reconnect and share
21 stories. Most of these stories link back to the time spent at
22 Bangor Area School District hallways, classrooms, and playing
23 fields. The school district unites these people and provides
24 one identity as a Slater. I believe that the Slate Belt is
25 the epitome of a community of distinction.

1 Currently, the Bangor Area School District is part
2 of Pennsylvania House District 137 in Northampton County.
3 This Representative has a deep understanding of the school
4 district and the region. Under the proposed map, our district
5 would be split between Districts 138 and 176. District 138 is
6 in Northampton County, District 176 would be primarily
7 composed of residents from Monroe County. The issues that
8 face these two counties can be very different, and the two
9 counties, in my opinion, have little in common. Our school
10 district would be working with two new Representatives, and I
11 believe our voting voice would be negligible in both
12 districts. Based on the unique and distinct nature of the
13 Slate Belt that has its own cultural heritage and is separated
14 geographically from surrounding communities, I am concerned
15 that our voice would be diluted and that our community will
16 not get a say in matters that affect them. Voices may be
17 heard, but it's voting voice that matters. I do not want to
18 see the Bangor Area School District students and community
19 become insignificant and potentially lose funding, resources,
20 and consideration.

21 Chairman Nordenberg, you are quoted as saying, I
22 have no doubt that we will be able to improve this map, and I
23 also have made no claims that we understand every part of the
24 State and the communities that reside in those parts. I hope
25 that by appearing here today I have been able to share a

1 little insight on a part of the map that you may not know and
2 ask the Commission to reconsider and keep the Bangor Area
3 School District and the Slate Belt community whole.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, Superintendent, and
6 you clearly have raised the awareness of those of us on the
7 panel.

8 Are there questions?

9 (There was no response.)

10 CHAIR NORDENBERG: How does one become an honorary
11 Slater?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Draw the map the way
13 he wants it.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Leader Benninghoff suggested
15 that maybe if we drew the map the way you want, we all could
16 become honorary Slaters.

17 MR. HAWS: Listen, put us back together, and I'll
18 make you all honorary Slaters.

19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again, very much.

21 MR. HAWS: Thanks again for your time. Have a
22 nice day.

23 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Oh, this is going to be a
24 treat. We now have an in-person witness, Ronald Ruman, from
25 West Manchester Township, who wishes to speak about the Senate

1 map.

2 Welcome, sir, and thanks for being here on a snowy
3 morning.

4 MR. RUMAN: Good morning, Chairman Nordenberg,
5 Leader Benninghoff, Leader Costa, and Senator Gordner and
6 Representative Bradford. My name is Ron Ruman. I'm a
7 Township Supervisor in West Manchester Township, York County,
8 and having worked as a Senate staff member in the 1990s and
9 closely observed the redistricting process, I recognize the
10 job that you have, and when you make changes to one district,
11 you must then make changes to many districts.

12 The board at our reorganization meeting this
13 Monday authorized me to present you with our concerns about
14 the preliminary Senate map, which moves our township from the
15 28th Senate District to the 31st. York City and West York
16 Borough are also included in this move, and I would also note
17 that Manchester Township, which borders our township, is
18 currently and would remain in the 31st District. We oppose
19 moving West Manchester Township from the 28th to the 31st
20 District because we believe this would violate the criterion
21 of keeping communities of interest together in legislative
22 districts. The central municipalities in York County form a
23 community of interest. These municipalities include the city
24 of York, which is the hub of our county, along with those
25 municipalities which are either adjacent or nearly adjacent to

1 the city - West Manhester, Spring Garden, Springettsbury, and
2 York Townships, as well as West York and North York Boroughs.
3 People living in these municipalities largely, though of
4 course not exclusively, work in these communities as well. So
5 there is strong economic connection in that regard.

6 Even stronger economic ties exist among these
7 communities as residents of these areas typically spend their
8 money there. Residents of what I see as metro York shop at
9 the West Manchester Town Center or the York Galleria. On
10 Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, we go to York Central
11 Market, and on these days, as well as First Fridays, we
12 patronize many of the restaurants and growing specialty shops
13 in downtown York. We follow minor league baseball watching
14 the York Revolution at PeoplesBank Park in downtown York, and
15 take in cultural events at downtown York's Appell Center or
16 Penn State York's Pullo Center. We watch movies at York Town
17 Center's Regal Cinemas.

18 Conversely, people in the 31st Senate District are
19 part of the Harrisburg metro area. This district is based on
20 Cumberland County's West Shore and extends, as it has for the
21 past few decades, into northern York County. This area
22 includes Dillsburg Borough, Fairview, Newberry, Carroll, and
23 Monaghan Townships, along with some other more rural
24 municipalities a bit farther south in York County, which have
25 stronger ties to the West Shore/Harrisburg community of

1 interest than they do to metro York. Many people who live in
2 these northern York municipalities work on the West Shore or
3 in Harrisburg. They shop and go to the movies at Camp Hill's
4 Capital City Mall or the East Shore's Harrisburg Mall.
5 Current 31st District residents, including those living in
6 northern York County, frequent Second Street's restaurant row
7 in downtown Harrisburg and enjoy Saturday nights in the city
8 there. These folks take in cultural events at downtown
9 Harrisburg's Whitaker Center or Penn State Harrisburg's
10 Kulkarni Theatre, and enjoy minor league baseball watching the
11 Senators at FNB Field on City Island.

12 A part of many communities in central
13 Pennsylvania, as we heard from our last testifier, is high
14 school sports. Here too, West Manchester Township and the
15 rest of metro York reside in a clearly different community of
16 interest from the West Shore and northern York County. The
17 West York Bulldogs, as well as the York High Bearcats, play in
18 the York-Adams League. Many of the York County schools are
19 now part of the 31st District, including Northern York and
20 Cedar Cliff, which is one of the two high schools in the West
21 Shore district, which itself spans two counties, play in the
22 Mid-Penn Conference. They compete against Camp Hill, East
23 Pennsboro, Cumberland Valley, Harrisburg, Central, and Lower
24 Dauphin, very different communities of interest.

25 So I ask you to consider strongly keeping West

1 Manchester Township, as well as our neighboring
2 municipalities, all together in the 28th Senate District.
3 This is where our community of interest lies. We largely
4 live, work, and spend our money and enjoy our leisure time
5 together. Putting us in a district based in Cumberland County
6 on the West Shore and including that part of York County which
7 identifies with the West Shore and metro Harrisburg I believe
8 does us a disservice. We would become a minority in a
9 district which often has different needs and interests. This
10 would make it very difficult for any one legislator to
11 represent all the constituents well.

12 Again, I respect the work you're doing and
13 acknowledge the difficult task you have. Thank you very much
14 for listening to my comments on behalf of the 19,206 residents
15 I represent, and I'd be happy to try and answer any questions
16 that you might have.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, we're grateful to you for
18 the work you do on behalf of those 19,206 residents and for
19 bringing their concerns here today.

20 Are there questions for the witness?

21 Senator Gordner.

22 SENATOR GORDNER: I just want to make a comment.

23 Thank you for being with us today. And as someone
24 who has worked for the Senate back in the 1990s, interesting
25 your background, and I appreciate your work as a supervisor.

1 As I'm sure you know, this is a challenging process. And I
2 mentioned earlier that at one point, Dauphin County had three
3 Senators, because I was one of them, and with this proposed
4 map, you basically have Dauphin, I believe, with two, York
5 with two as compared to four, because I believe that there are
6 four Senators representing parts of York right now, and two in
7 Cumberland. So in regard to trying to split these counties
8 less and have larger parts represented by fewer number of
9 Senators, this map actually, I don't know -- it may not, I
10 won't say it's a grand slam, it hits a home run in regard to
11 two for Dauphin, two for York, two for Cumberland, as compared
12 to the many, many splits that are in the current map. So the
13 challenge, I mean, so you have to appreciate that part of it.
14 And, you know, I do understand that maybe there's some room to
15 move a municipality or two in regard to corrections. But I do
16 believe that this map does a great job reducing the
17 representation among those three counties.

18 MR. RUMAN: And I recognize that, Senator, and I
19 agree. I think in that regard it does. My argument would be
20 that the community of interest, when it comes down to
21 choosing, is more important than county lines in many areas.
22 And for the reasons I outlined, the difference between the
23 West Shore and where I live. And although you make a good
24 argument, but I think that changes could happen that would
25 increase the county splits a little bit but I think keep the

1 communities of interest together to achieve the population.
2 There are areas of the West Shore that could be put back into
3 the 31st District that I think more closely identify with them
4 now than the rural district they're in. I think the 34th, the
5 Hanover area, had been in the 33rd District before. It's
6 taken out of that. It could be put back in there to equalize
7 the population, even though there would be a county split, but
8 again, Hanover and McSherrystown, which is in Adams County,
9 just across the line, they're indistinguishable. You go from
10 one to the other and unless you see the road sign, you
11 wouldn't know it. In keeping with my high school sports
12 analogy, Hanover and Delone Catholic, which is in
13 McSherrystown, are huge rivals, and people from eastern Adams
14 County shop and go to the movies and so on in Hanover.

15 So, I recognize and respect your comment, and I
16 think that's a good argument, but I would argue that
17 communities of interest, when it comes down to choosing the
18 two, perhaps should outweigh the county lines.

19 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you for your testimony.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: And thank you for making that
21 argument, because I do think that one of the most difficult
22 questions is prioritizing what splits should take a priority
23 over others, and it's nice to hear your viewpoint.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Leader Benninghoff.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Mr. Chairman, that
2 accentuates that well.

3 I just want to say two things. One, you're a very
4 good testifier, very precise, to the point, and, you know,
5 really outline some of the things that we need to take care
6 of.

7 But just for the listeners that may not have been
8 here yesterday or earlier today, to highlight the fact that
9 you think the area's community of interest should be a
10 priority, you know, you're talking about a State that has 501
11 school districts, 67 counties, and 2,600 municipalities. As I
12 stated a little bit earlier, we all get a little parochial in
13 our thinking. Most of us think that our schools are the best,
14 some of us think our universities are the best, and we like to
15 jostle each other on that, but when we talk about the
16 communities of interest, I think it's important to hear from
17 those who live there about what that cultural interaction
18 really is and that cohesiveness. And you only need to have a
19 town that suffers some kind of tragedy where you really see
20 that kind of unity come together, people come together who
21 never saw each other before, and I want to make sure that we
22 don't lose that worrying about a squiggly line here and there.
23 So, I appreciate your precise comments.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

1 Our next witness is Gennaro Piraino. This will be
2 our second witness this morning from Murrysville, and the
3 subject of his testimony will be the Franklin Regional School
4 District. We had references to that a little bit earlier in
5 the morning, you'll be pleased to hear.

6 Welcome.

7 MR. PIRAINO: Thank you very much, and I happened
8 to listen to the mayor speak about the division of
9 Murrysville, and that will be my topic today. I've been the
10 Superintendent of the Franklin Regional School District for
11 the past nine years. And as you know, Franklin Regional
12 serves the communities of Delmont, Export, and Murrysville in
13 Westmoreland County. I'm also currently a resident of
14 Murrysville in the 54th District, and my children attended the
15 Franklin Regional School District.

16 Personally, I have minimal to no interest in
17 partisan politics but a great interest in the success of our
18 Commonwealth. However, my role as a school superintendent
19 requires me to be politically astute and active in serving the
20 best interests of the children, school system, and community.
21 Currently, I work very closely with the Honorable Robert
22 Brooks, as well as Mayor Synan, to serve our residents in the
23 54th District, or, more importantly to me, our students in the
24 Franklin Regional School District. This arrangement serves us
25 well. We work very closely, we put the politics aside to

1 serve our entire community, especially our children.

2 Through the relationships that we have fostered,
3 this arrangement has been instrumental in insuring a strong
4 and vibrant educational system. We work together,
5 collectively and individually, to better our schools and our
6 overall community. As a school and community leader, I value
7 these relationships with our Representatives. I have called
8 them personally to discuss policy concerns or suggestions on
9 many occasions. And likewise, they have taken the opportunity
10 to reach out to me about various educationally-related bills
11 in the pipeline or on the floor, or things that are happening
12 in our local municipality. Having a State Representative
13 representing an entire community has allowed me to forge a
14 stronger relationship, accomplish more for our schools, and
15 provide valuable insight into the actual impact of
16 legislation. There's the concept of legislation, and then how
17 it impacts people in organizations. And so that relationship
18 has been critical to really help forge legislation and policy
19 that benefits our students and our community.

20 The current proposal divides Murrysville into two
21 separate legislative districts, and, ultimately, it dilutes
22 the influence of our community and school district.
23 Ultimately, this dilution or division of Murrysville into two
24 separate legislative districts will negatively impact our
25 school system and the children that I serve. Since parts of

1 Murrysville will now be in a legislative district where the
2 overwhelming majority of residents reside in the Penn-Trafford
3 School District, the voice of these two small communities will
4 be overshadowed. Not only does the proposed division of
5 Murrysville unfairly weaken the influence on this community as
6 a whole, but it also weakens the school system's influence on
7 ensuring the passage of effective legislation that serves our
8 students, families, staff, and our taxpayers.

9 I have a big concern if we move forward that this
10 division of Murrysville will be arbitrary and that it is
11 unnecessary. Therefore, I request that you adjust the map to
12 have one Representative for Delmont, Export, and Murrysville.
13 I'm asking you to please make this adjustment in the best
14 interest of our children, schools, and community. And I want
15 to thank you for this opportunity and taking the time to
16 listen.

17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, we want to thank you for
18 offering your testimony.

19 Are there questions?

20 Senator Costa.

21 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not
22 really a question but a comment.

23 Thank you for your testimony today and really
24 highlighting for us again, through this process, the
25 conversation around school districts and how valuable they are

1 as it relates to maintaining as much as possible a school
2 district community of interest as you described and how
3 important it is in terms of the superintendent of a district
4 to be able to have those relationships with a particular
5 Member of the legislature, whether it be the House or the
6 Senate, to be able to articulate the impact of the work you do
7 and the education of your students. So I think this time
8 around, through this reapportionment process, I believe there
9 has been a lot of conversation about maintaining school
10 districts as best we can, unlike I think what happened 10
11 years ago, and I think that's an important point, and you
12 illustrated it well. And I just want to say thank you, and
13 good luck with everything else.

14 Thanks.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Anything else?

16 Leader Benninghoff.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: My apologies if you
18 said this. I just had one quick question.

19 As a superintendent, obviously, you have different
20 size schools between elementary schools and high schools.
21 Your overall population that you serve, do you know how many
22 legislative districts they come from currently? And does that
23 change much in the current map? Again, I apologize if you
24 articulated that specifically earlier.

25 MR. PIRAINO: So right now, we do have two

1 legislative districts, the 54th and the 57th.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: For the entire
3 district?

4 MR. PIRAINO: For the entire school district.
5 Now, Murrysville is one community and it's not divided.
6 However, Delmont right now currently is represented by Eric
7 Nelson with the 57th.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I appreciate that
9 clarification.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again,
12 Superintendent, for being with us today.

13 MR. PIRAINO: Thank you, and thank you for your
14 time.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is David
16 Bolton from Abbottstown, who is going to discuss the House map
17 and Adams County.

18 Welcome. We're glad to have you with us.

19 MR. BOLTON: Good morning. Thank you, and I
20 apologize that I did not get there in person today. I am
21 David Bolton. I'm currently a Ph.D. student in public policy
22 at Liberty University. I'm doing my dissertation on public
23 school funding and property taxes. I serve as the Borough
24 Manager for Abbottstown, as the Vice President for Adams
25 County Borough's Association, and am on the board of directors

1 for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, and for
2 the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management
3 Association.

4 Today, I hope to present to you the reasons for
5 and feasibility of keeping Abbottstown Borough in the 193rd
6 House District. The first reason is our intergovernmental
7 agreements. We currently have intergovernmental agreements
8 for waste hauling with East Berlin Borough and Straban
9 Township, who are currently designated in the 193rd. We also
10 have intergovernmental agreements for the East Berlin Area
11 Community Center, which includes East Berlin and Hamilton
12 Township, which are also in the 193rd.

13 The second reason is that we currently have our
14 district office in the borough of Abbottstown, which creates
15 great accessibility for our Representative. Not only that,
16 but that office is shared by our U.S. Representative, so if we
17 were to lose that District Representative's office, we would
18 also lose our Representative's office for the U.S. House.

19 The third reason is that Abbottstown Borough is
20 the closest borough to our current Representative's front
21 door, which creates a great sense of accountability. I know
22 that many of our residents can reach directly out to him, and
23 he can get them answers immediately, as well as his staff. To
24 lose that would be a great disservice to our residents.

25 The fourth reason is our Representative's history

1 with our community. Prior to his service, he served on such
2 committees as the East Berlin Area Community Center and
3 understands exactly what our communities are going through.
4 Since these establishments are shared with our neighboring
5 municipalities in the 193rd, it makes sense to keep
6 Abbottstown Borough in those coalitions that we have built
7 over the past 10 years.

8 Now, I have always been told that if you bring a
9 problem forward, you should bring a solution. So here's my
10 feasibility solution. Abbottstown Borough has a population of
11 1,026 people, which is an increase of 1.48 percent, or 15
12 people, since the previous Census. We're a booming, thriving
13 community.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. BOLTON: The new map proposes to move us to
16 the 91st District, which is still Adams County, with a
17 population of 64,472, while the 193rd we would be removed from
18 has a population of 63,951. Should Abbottstown be placed back
19 into the 193rd from the 91st District, it would create
20 population totals for the 193rd of 64,977, and for the 91st of
21 63,466. Both of these population ranges are within acceptable
22 levels, as the 195th is at 63,221, and the 196th is at 65,953,
23 which would border both of our totals.

24 Our county is already split, so allowing us to
25 remain in the 193rd with our coalition group makes absolute

1 sense and does not affect anything else. We humbly implore
2 you to take our recommendation and keep Abbottstown in the
3 193rd District.

4 I thank you for your time, and I'll entertain your
5 thoughts.

6 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much, sir. I
7 know that we appreciate your insights, your sense of humor,
8 and the fact that you came with a solution.

9 Any questions?

10 (There was no response.)

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: It seems as if you've won us
12 over. Thank you very much for being here.

13 MR. BOLTON: Thank you for your service on this
14 committee, and God bless you.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Our next witness is Mark
16 Pinsley, who is from Allentown, and he is going to be talking
17 about Lehigh County.

18 Welcome, sir.

19 MR. PINSLEY: Yeah, thank you. I just want to
20 make sure I could share my screen as well. So I'll start. My
21 name is Mark Pinsley. I'm the Controller of Lehigh County, a
22 resident of South Whitehall, a small business owner, and a
23 vet.

24 Mr. Nordenberg, my comments are primarily
25 addressed to you. You have made it clear that your hope is to

1 draw more districts for minorities, an admirable goal and one
2 that I share. However, more important than just drawing
3 districts for minorities is making sure we save democracy.
4 *The New York Times* had an editorial on January 1, stating that
5 we should consider every day January 6. I hope you heed that
6 warning. The Republicans across the country have been telling
7 us that they will try to gerrymander their way to power. They
8 have said it out loud. In fact, Representative Seth Grove
9 from Pennsylvania is already trying to undermine the work of
10 the LRC by trying to create a change to our Constitution
11 allowing for a more partisan committee. You were appointed by
12 the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. They didn't do this so you
13 could call balls and strikes. They put in your hands the fate
14 of democracy. And, Chairman, I do not believe that is
15 hyperbole. You are meant to assure the people of Pennsylvania
16 fair maps.

17 My focus is on the Lehigh Valley Senate map. In a
18 5-0 vote, you split two major cities, Allentown and Bethlehem.
19 You also chose not to create a complete district within Lehigh
20 County. As you know, the Pennsylvania Constitution provides
21 guidance in creating districts as many people have quoted
22 before me: It must be absolutely necessary to break up a city
23 or a county. It was not absolutely necessary to break up
24 Lehigh County nor Allentown nor Bethlehem, nor should you
25 allow a map that creates one district that packs Allentown and

1 Bethlehem into one super-district. I hope Senator Costa will
2 hold the line on that. We don't need a ghetto.

3 Everyone understands that one of your primary
4 missions is to draw maps to increase minority influence.
5 However, I believe this information was used to convince you
6 that you were doing the right thing by splitting up two
7 cities, Allentown and Bethlehem. You weren't told that
8 stronger minority districts could be built by keeping each
9 city intact. I have now seen numerous maps that have been
10 built keeping Allentown whole and Bethlehem whole. In each
11 case, the minority district was at least or slightly stronger
12 than the one proposed by the LRC. As a person of Jewish
13 faith, I can assure you that without democracy working, the
14 minorities you are fighting for will have no power and no
15 vote. A lack of democracy is bad for Black people, brown
16 people, Muslims, Jews, and really any minority.

17 Democracy starts here with the creation of fair
18 maps, maps that shouldn't be influenced by incumbency. This
19 is first time in America's history we did not have a peaceful
20 transition of power. Pennsylvania was and is on the front
21 lines of this battle for democracy. Nearly 10 percent of the
22 arrested insurrectionists came from Pennsylvania. We were
23 third in the ranking as the State with the most insurrection-
24 ists. So first Florida, then Texas, then us. We need to
25 protect our voting more than any other single aspect of our

1 republic.

2 The maps that are drawn should be fair and made
3 certain that both parties have an equal opportunity to win
4 seats. My hope is that you'll make a single district in
5 Lehigh County that includes all of Allentown and puts western
6 Bethlehem back with Bethlehem. However, I believe politics
7 and incumbency will get in the way, and, therefore, I have
8 worked with Lehigh County's citizens to create a compromise
9 map we believe fixes many of our concerns. It isn't perfect,
10 and it doesn't bring all of Allentown together, but I think it
11 accomplishes what the Democratic and Republican Leadership are
12 trying to do.

13 And if I can just share my screen with you. Can
14 you see the map?

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: You're bringing it into focus
16 now. Yes.

17 MR. PINSLEY: Okay. So this is the current map as
18 it exists. So you can see, you know, Pat Browne has most of
19 Lehigh County, and Lisa Boscola was sort of gerrymandered in
20 here a bit, but that's how the map exists today. This is the
21 map that you'll recognize that you have drawn, which is sort
22 of like a tornado sucking Allentown up into Northampton
23 County, supposedly in the name of creating a minority
24 district. A couple of things to note is that the Republicans
25 are saying that we should create a single district that looks

1 sort of like this in the name of creating a minority district,
2 which is not necessary, and Bethlehem and Allentown do not
3 belong together. In fact, west Bethlehem deserves to be with
4 Bethlehem.

5 Now, this is a compromise map that we've drawn.
6 It reduces the number of precincts cut out of Allentown down
7 from 14 to 6. This means that more than 90 percent of
8 Allentown will be in the district. It adds back Lehigh County
9 municipalities that are similar to Allentown, so now 85
10 percent of the 14th District is within Lehigh County. That
11 also means that more than 50 percent of the population of
12 Lehigh County will be within the 14th District.

13 The new 14th District has a minority influence
14 that reaches above 40 percent, an increase of 1.2 percent over
15 the LRC's map. And that increase is achieved through small
16 increases in Hispanic, Black, and Asian categories. Both high
17 schools are drawn into the 14th District, minimizing the
18 impact to our children. It provides the current incumbent
19 with a small exit from Allentown so that he can have a
20 district that he could potentially win. This map continues to
21 insure that no incumbents are drawn into the 14th District,
22 which I know is a concern of yours and Senator Ward's, so this
23 is a new district. And it also minimizes the ripple effect by
24 only changing the 16th, the 14th, and the 18th. And you can
25 see the 16th is continued up here, and the 14th is considered

1 over there (indicating).

2 Sir, I am asking you to make sure that the maps
3 are as fair as possible. The Democrats have about a 500,000
4 voter registration advantage in Pennsylvania. Please make
5 certain that they feel their voices are being heard. Please
6 make sure that minorities have a voice large enough to have
7 influence, but always remember that the primary goal must be
8 keeping democracy intact. And what may look good at a 30,000-
9 foot level may clearly not be fair when looking at the
10 details.

11 I appreciate your time and will take any
12 questions.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you for your comments and
14 for your specific map suggestion.

15 Senator Costa.

16 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much for your
17 testimony. You're very detailed, and it was very informative
18 to us.

19 A quick question. I took a picture of your map,
20 proposed solution. How did you treat Bethlehem? I wasn't
21 able to tell from looking.

22 MR. PINSLEY: Yeah, so Bethlehem, I don't know if
23 you can see, but west Bethlehem has been carved out right here
24 and has been put back together with Bethlehem, which is what
25 should happen.

1 SENATOR COSTA: And did I hear you say your
2 proposed map increases the Latino performance?

3 MR. PINSLEY: It does.

4 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Senator Gordner.

7 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 I'm going to be cautious of my comments, I guess.
9 Up until this point, I've enjoyed this morning and the
10 speakers. I found some of this current speaker's comments
11 offensive, especially in regard to the ghetto comment. That
12 is just completely uncalled for, and hopefully you'll correct
13 that at some point. Maybe that was an ad lib on your part,
14 but that was offensive.

15 MR. PINSLEY: Certainly, we don't need one
16 district drawn in order to get rid of two blue districts.

17 SENATOR GORDNER: All right, but to call anything
18 a ghetto I find to be offensive.

19 MR. PINSLEY: Okay.

20 SENATOR GORDNER: Just in regard to the process,
21 whether it's you or whether it's the people that are paying
22 attention to this, the preliminary map has been drawn and
23 presented, as required by the Constitution. The Constitution
24 then allows, under Article II, Section 17, corrections. So,
25 you know, if it's deemed that there is a municipality, as I

1 think we just heard before that Abbottstown maybe could be
2 moved from one House district to the other, that could be
3 considered a correction based on commonality of communities.
4 But the Constitution does not allow there to be wholesale
5 changes to the preliminary map. That's not what's there. It
6 says corrections, that based on testimony, and we if feel that
7 one thing should maybe slightly be in another, we can make
8 those changes.

9 Again, the new 14th Senatorial District, there's a
10 lot of thought that went into that by a lot of folks up here
11 in regard to creating a strong Hispanic district with no
12 incumbent that could produce a minority Senator. And so,
13 again, I think in regard to that specific area, although I
14 wasn't personally involved, I know of the involvement. There
15 was a lot of time and effort put into that area, and, you
16 know, there may be a correction or two, I'm not sure if any
17 there, but I don't think that there can be any wholesale
18 changes, and I believe that there's a lot of intent put into--

19 MR. PINSLEY: These are not wholesale changes,
20 sir.

21 SENATOR GORDNER: --that 14th Senatorial District
22 to make sure that there is a strong Latinx community component
23 there.

24 MR. PINSLEY: Which is stronger in the map that I
25 have created.

1 SENATOR GORDNER: I should also say that, you
2 know, as compared to the current map, the Latino population is
3 stronger than it was in regard to the map from 10 years ago.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 MR. PINSLEY: And this map is even stronger, sir.
6 You know, the entire object--

7 SENATOR GORDNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 MR. PINSLEY: --of the 14th District was obviously
9 to give Pat Browne an exit from Allentown. As you stated in
10 the Constitution, in Section 16, it specifically says that
11 unless absolutely necessary, you will not break up a city or a
12 county, which you somehow have seen that it is absolutely
13 necessary, where it certainly does not, to achieve the goals
14 that you have set forth, which includes increasing the
15 minority district, it includes putting communities of interest
16 together, it includes keeping things within Lehigh County that
17 should have been included in Lehigh County. The map that you
18 have created, sir, really is smoke and mirrors in order to
19 build a district for an incumbent.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, in fairness, he did not
21 create the map--

22 MR. PINSLEY: I know. Kim Ward did, so.

23 CHAIR NORDENBERG: --even though he made the
24 comment.

25 And I do have a question or comment from Majority

1 Leader Benninghoff.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 Mr. Pinsley, just for full disclosure, have you
5 ever been a candidate in either one of these senatorial
6 districts that you speak of?

7 MR. PINSLEY: Yes, I have been a candidate against
8 Pat Browne. In fact, I beat him in every single Allentonian
9 precinct, which is why they wanted to draw him out of
10 Allentown.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you very much.
12 It helps to steer where the motivation is from.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, Leader Benninghoff.
14 Senator Costa.

15 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you
16 in the 16th District as it's comprised right now?

17 MR. PINSLEY: I am. Yep.

18 SENATOR COSTA: A quick question. Not a question,
19 a comment as it relates to my colleague's comments about the
20 scope of changes that are permissible through this preliminary
21 plan process to the final plan process. I don't necessarily
22 agree that the nature or the scope or the magnitude of changes
23 is something that should be slight. I want the record to
24 reflect that that's his interpretation of what may occur here
25 between the preliminary plan and a final plan, that it could

1 be to any degree of what needs to be done.

2 There have been a lot of testimony over the course
3 of the past two days about creating maybe a new district in
4 Philadelphia. That, to me, would be a significant change. I
5 think it's something we should consider. So to suggest that
6 it can only be minor tweaks to the preliminary plan would not
7 allow us to have that conversation about any other area of the
8 Commonwealth as well. So I want to be clear and let the
9 record reflect that that's not the position of the Commission
10 but rather the position of one person who is standing in for
11 the Majority Leader at this point in time.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. PINSLEY: Thank you, Senator.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you.

15 MR. PINSLEY: And I did want to also make note,
16 again, that this minimizes the ripple effect. It only changes
17 14, 16, and 18, and it minimizes that impact and does create a
18 stronger minority district than the one that has been
19 proposed.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you, again, for your
21 testimony.

22 MR. PINSLEY: Thank you.

23 CHAIR NORDENBERG: And we're going to close this
24 morning on a high note. Representative Robert Freeman is here
25 in person. He is from Easton, so he may have some things to

1 say about the same area. I prefer to think of him as our next
2 door neighbor on the 2nd floor of the Irvis Building.

3 Welcome.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you, Chairman. I
5 do have copies of my testimony, as well as some
6 correspondence. I sent a letter last week to the Chairman on
7 my concern, and a resolution that was passed by the borough of
8 Hellertown, which addresses the issue I'll be talking on. So
9 they will distribute those to you.

10 Good morning.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Good morning, and welcome,
12 again.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you. And I must
14 say, you've been a very good neighbor. I haven't heard much
15 noise coming out of that office, so that's good.

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: We're hiding out.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Chairman Nordenberg,
18 Caucus Leaders, Members of the Legislative Reapportionment
19 Commission, and staff. Again, I am State Representative
20 Robert Freeman of the 136th House District, and I want to
21 thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today to
22 offer my perspective on the preliminary plan for
23 reapportionment for the House and to request a change in the
24 plan before its final adoption that would restore the borough
25 of Hellertown to the 136th District. I am submitting copies

1 of my testimony as well as copies of a letter that I mailed to
2 Chairman Nordenberg last week regarding my request, and a copy
3 of a resolution that was passed, unanimously I should note, by
4 the borough of Hellertown's council that also requests that
5 Hellertown be restored to the 136th District.

6 First, I want to acknowledge that the
7 reapportionment process presents a very daunting and arduous
8 task for those charged with drawing district lines for the
9 legislature. I recognize that. I particularly also want to
10 acknowledge the service of Chairman Nordenberg, who has led
11 this process in a fair and evenhanded manner, in my opinion,
12 and I thank you for your service. Chairman Nordenberg and his
13 team have endeavored to provide a process that has been open,
14 fair, and transparent to the public. And in my many years of
15 service as a House Member, that has been the most professional
16 and open reapportionment process that I have witnessed. And
17 overall, the House maps have strived to achieve the goals of
18 compact districts that are contiguous.

19 However, even the best of plans can miss important
20 community of interest nuances as they pertain, in particular,
21 to small communities. Community of interest considerations
22 are as significant to a good reapportionment plan as are
23 compact and contiguous districts. As such, I am here today to
24 request a change to the reapportionment map that would restore
25 the borough of Hellertown to the 136th House District in the

1 final plan. In the preliminary plan, Hellertown was placed in
2 the 131st House District. Hellertown really does belong in
3 the 136th House District, where it has been a component part
4 of the district for 50 years. Hellertown, along with the
5 boroughs of Freemansburg, Wilson, West Easton, Glendon, and my
6 hometown, the city of Easton, as well as several other
7 municipalities, have been a part of the 136th District since
8 the changes established by the 1968 State Constitutional
9 Convention that created single-member House districts.

10 Hellertown, Freemansburg, Easton, and the other
11 mentioned municipalities share a community of interest as a
12 result of their long association as component parts of the
13 136th District for those 50 years. Placing Hellertown in the
14 131st District would place it in a district that is a Lehigh
15 County and Montgomery County based district that Hellertown
16 would have little association with, resulting in Hellertown's
17 interests being an afterthought in a district dominated by
18 communities with different needs. Hellertown would be the
19 eastern-most extremity of a district that stretches across
20 Montgomery and Lehigh Counties and barely penetrates into
21 Northampton County.

22 The borough of Hellertown recognizes this, and on
23 this past Monday night, Hellertown Borough Council, with the
24 support of Hellertown's mayor, unanimously adopted a
25 resolution which requests that Hellertown be restored to the

1 137th District in the final plan. In their resolution, they
2 note that, and I quote, "The 136th District includes other
3 Northampton County communities with similar resources and
4 compatible concerns...such as the city of Easton, Wilson, and
5 Freemansburg...", unquote. It further notes that Hellertown,
6 quote, "shares a regional history, culture, and present-day
7 circumstances and opportunities with the 136th District
8 communities," and "has minimal relationships and involvement
9 with other communities in the 131st District, which are
10 primarily based in Lehigh and Montgomery Counties." The
11 resolution goes on to affirm that, quote, "the current 136th
12 District communities have spent years embracing a common
13 identity and shared pride that has evolved under the guidance
14 of a shared legislative district and the resources and
15 knowledge that it provides."

16 As the State Representative for the 136th District
17 for over 35 years, I have established a long association with
18 the borough of Hellertown, coming to know and work with their
19 elected and community leaders, assisting them in securing
20 funding for important community projects, holding monthly
21 office hours in Hellertown Borough Hall to make myself even
22 more available to meet with constituents from the community.
23 And I have regularly participated in Hellertown's many
24 community events, from their Memorial Day ceremony to their
25 community days, Halloween parade, Christmas tree lighting,

1 and, of course, ribbon cutting events for new businesses that
2 open on Main Street.

3 Hellertown's resolution references these
4 connections that have produced in the resolution's words,
5 quote, "a long and productive relationship with this
6 community...that represents their community interest in the
7 Commonwealth because of [my] understanding of shared regional
8 community needs."

9 I, therefore, ask the Members of the Commission to
10 heed the request of the elected officials representing the
11 people of the borough of Hellertown. For all the reasons that
12 I have cited, and the clear desire expressed in Hellertown's
13 unanimously adopted resolution, I respectfully request that
14 Hellertown be restored to the 136th District in the final plan
15 so they can resume its long community of interest association
16 with the municipalities of Freemansburg, Easton, Wilson, and
17 the other municipalities that have been component parts of
18 this district for 50 years.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much for your
21 testimony, for your letter, and for the resolution that you
22 have presented to us.

23 Are there any questions for Representative
24 Freeman?

25 Senator Gordner.

1 SENATOR GORDNER: Just, this first one is a
2 private joke. Hopefully, you didn't drive your Yugo here this
3 morning, did you?

4 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: I am a frugal legislator,
5 but, no, I drove my Malibu.

6 SENATOR GORDNER: Okay, excellent.

7 I just wanted to say it was a pleasure to have you
8 testify this morning. When I first came to the House, I sat
9 right next to Bob Freeman on the floor, and much respect. And
10 I don't know if your ears have been ringing over the last six
11 months or so, but we passed legislation in the Senate to
12 change the Presidential primary election date, and I pulled
13 out the Journal from the House when we adopted the Freeman
14 amendment to change the date back in 2000 to move it to the
15 first Tuesday in April.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: I did see that. I'm very
17 grateful for that action. And also for your friendship over
18 the years.

19 SENATOR GORDNER: Thanks, Bob, for your testimony
20 today.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

22 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Representative Bradford.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Not by means of
24 question, just to say that whatever municipality winds up with
25 Representative Freeman is lucky to have him. So I share the

1 comments of the Senator.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you,
3 Representative. I appreciate that. I take my role very
4 seriously as a Representative. I think I've shown that in my
5 service to the communities of the district.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Your sincere interest in
7 local government issues and revitalization of those
8 communities, I represent one, and have always appreciated your
9 passion for it.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Yeah, and I'd like to
11 talk to you about some of them again, because I know you
12 talked about those. I have some ideas to share.

13 SENATOR GORDNER: That's the Bob Freeman I
14 remember.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: He's a sweet man, but
16 they're very expensive ideas.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Well, I've been accused
18 of driving a Yugo, so they can't be that expensive.

19 But I should note too that, again, I think this
20 gets to the point of my testimony, but those communities I
21 represent really do have a shared community of interest, much
22 of the same revitalization issues that I've worked on over the
23 years that affect Hellertown and Freemansburg and Wilson and
24 Easton, in particular, but the communities that really
25 comprise the 136th District in its current form.

1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Leader Benninghoff.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 A lot of good collegiality going on there, and I
5 echo the sentiments. Bob, I don't know if there's anyone here
6 that I probably more admire than you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: And though I don't
9 have the tenure you have here, you continue to aspire to be
10 probably the most nonpartisan person here in this Chamber.
11 You are good hearted and just a good human being. All the
12 more reason why--

13 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Could I have an
14 affidavit?

15 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Pardon me?

16 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Could I have an affidavit
17 to that?

18 SENATOR GORDNER: It's now public record, Bob, so.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Dear Mrs. Freeman, I
20 want you to know--

21 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Just give him
22 Hellertown, don't worry about that.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: With that in mind is
24 why I want to ask you this question, because you've used the
25 word multiple times, and it's been thrown around here a lot by

1 some of us and by other testifiers. I think you could
2 probably give the most objective, impartial, and probably
3 nonpartisan description when we talk about communities of
4 interest.

5 My second question really was just about what is
6 the population size of Hellertown, and does it really have
7 much of an impact numerically as we try to put districts
8 together and stay within that 64,053 margin, give or take?

9 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: I was trying to recall
10 the exact number from the Census. It has typically been about
11 6,000 or less, the upper 5,000s, so it's a relatively small
12 community. I do believe that the district, the 136th
13 District, in the preliminary plan was below the median of what
14 was required for population, so it was on the short side as
15 far as population, so there may be some wiggle room there in
16 terms of that.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Well, that's very
18 helpful because, obviously, we have a little bit of a
19 deviation, we can do a couple thousand. We are not the
20 congressional maps where they have to be to the person, so
21 with your loss of population and that, we may be able to get
22 to that point.

23 Lastly, I'll reiterate the first question, and
24 that is, you know, what is your explanation as far as
25 communities of interest? Because I think we kind of wrangle

1 with that, and it's probably in the eye of the beholder. If
2 you talk to a superintendent, he'll tell you it's keeping the
3 school districts together. If you talk to a township
4 supervisor, he says keep my township together. I think you're
5 talking a little bit more from a cultural experience as well.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: That's a very good point,
7 and I think that is something that's often neglected in any
8 reapportionment process, that there is a deep cultural aspect
9 to a community of interest. And that comes oftentimes from a
10 history of association, but also similar demographics. If you
11 look at the community of Hellertown, if you look at the
12 community of Freemansburg, even Easton and Wilson in many
13 regards, they share many demographics, a high blue-collar
14 working population. Many of those in Freemansburg and
15 Hellertown used to work at Bethlehem Steel. There's an older
16 component in terms of the age demographic in Easton and Wilson
17 and Hellertown and Freemansburg. So there are similar areas
18 of interest that need to be addressed based on those
19 demographics.

20 And many factors do come into communities of
21 interest. School districts, obviously, have been mentioned,
22 but there's also, I think, something as very real to people as
23 their identity. You know, we have people who think they live
24 in a community because their ZIP Code is the same and don't
25 realize because they may be new arrivals that they actually

1 live in a different municipality. But places like Easton,
2 Hellertown have a strong identity, and many of the neighboring
3 communities to them, like Freemansburg or like Wilson, share
4 that identity in terms of a regional identity.

5 And also there's the pattern that goes into their
6 everyday activities. Where do they shop? How do they
7 identify themselves? Do they feel that there is a community
8 of interest that expands beyond typical municipal services,
9 even into interregional cooperation? And I think the fact
10 that Hellertown, like all the other municipalities in my
11 district are all in a Northampton County district, and that
12 Easton is the county seat of Northampton County, strengthens
13 that regional identity to a great degree. And, again, I don't
14 mean to overemphasize this, but the communities I cited -
15 Hellertown, Easton, Freemansburg, Wilson, West Easton, Glendon
16 - they've been in the 136th District since we changed over to
17 single-member districts as a result of the '68 Convention.
18 That creates, in and of itself, a long heritage, a long
19 association, and a definite community of interest.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Well, we might be
21 different parties, but I do really honor and appreciate your
22 opinion--

23 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: --and taking the time
25 to give that kind of in-depth description of communities of

1 interest, because I think within our districts, a lot of our
2 constituents feel the same way, wherever we live. There's all
3 the politics of trying to draw these maps up, but I hold that
4 as a very important part of our assessment. So thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: I appreciate the kind
6 comments of the Members of the Commission.

7 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, when I said that we were
8 going to close on a high note, I didn't fully appreciate the
9 deep feelings of respect and affection that your colleagues on
10 the Commission hold for you, so.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I'm very grateful for their friendship and for collaborating
13 and working with them all these many years as well.

14 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, its great to have you
15 here. Thanks for your testimony.

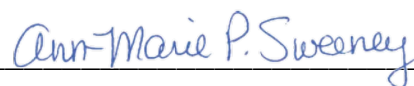
16 REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Thank you. Good luck
17 with your work.

18 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thanks.

19 That brings this hearing to a conclusion. We will
20 reconvene at 1 o'clock in the same place for our afternoon
21 hearing. Thank you all for being here.

22 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at
23 11:09 a.m.)
24
25

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.

5
6
7
8
9 

10 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
11 Official Reporter
12 Legislative Reapportionment
13 Commission
14

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18
19

20 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
21 Official Reporter
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23 P.O. Box 203079
24 Harrisburg, PA 17120
25

EXHIBITS

Agenda

Hearing #12

Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission

January 7, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

North Office Building, Hearing Room 1

Comments on Preliminary Plan

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



Testimony of Susan Gobreski, State Board Chair for Government Policy

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

January 7th, 2022

Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission

Chair Mark Nordenberg

Thank you. And thank you to the Chair and all the members of the committee. I know that what you do is not only thankless, but very difficult. So let me say thank you. I know others have done so, but it deserves to be said multiple times.

As folks, I think, are mostly aware, the League of Women Voters is a long-standing organization with a principle of protecting the vote and ensuring that everyone has the franchise – that voting is a fundamental right. We have made some comments and continue to work with partners who are working to help advocate for fair maps. I'm going to focus on a couple of positives first.

I'm not going to get into the details. I am not a map person and I'm not a mathematician, but I know how to listen to them. And I'm glad that you all do too.

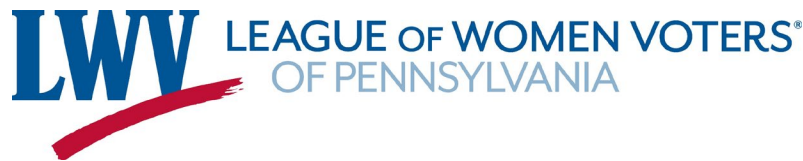
On the positive side for the House, one of the things we wanted to acknowledge is that it did really do a good job at following the population shift that has occurred over the past two decades.

And importantly, we really want to thank the Commission for doing work to undo the gerrymandering, that was, frankly, so entrenched that to *undo* it is for people to think it is unfair.

It is hard to undo gerrymandering. We know that there are many competing interests. There are trade-offs. But we think there was great progress made. But there is still more to make.

This map still does not quite get at some of the long-standing patterns that have existed in our gerrymandering, but progress is progress. So, we want to thank you for that and for keeping communities of interest together in the House map.

On the Senate side, again, progress was made. I think Senate district 15 in particular looks good.



But I really want to focus on the population issue. One of the key principles is: one person, one vote. And the map has such a great population difference. Although it may be within the constraints of the law, just because you *can* does not mean that you *should*.

We are very concerned about the population deviation. The ideal is 260,000. I know that people know this, but the range here now is 247,391 to 272,319, a difference of 24,928 which is a .096 difference – so about a 10% difference. That really means that votes count for more or less.

That range is .95 to 1.05. And what that means is that if we had \$200, and agreed to divide it evenly, I might get \$105, and you'd get \$95. And I would look at you and say, "it's *even* -- we got the *same*." But that's not actually the case. And if you extrapolate that over larger numbers, if we had \$200,000, I'd get \$105,000 and you'd get \$95,000. At the greater numbers – which is what we are talking about, when we're talking about population and one person, one vote – it really does start to add up.

Furthermore, **a key consideration here is that this bias is regional**. While we are doing a lot of work to move the maps to follow the population, this actually preserves the value of the votes in western Pennsylvania at the expense of the value of the votes in the East. That must be corrected – it is not insubstantial. That regional bias is a problem.

Those trends are extremely likely to grow over the decade, so by the end of the decade, we would expect them to be much, much greater. Addressing this should be a priority.

We would draw your attention and underscore some of the points that others have brought up.

We would see Lancaster, Allentown as problems. We also think that the pairing of Monroe with Carbon County doesn't make sense – that Monroe County is a population that is changing. That river area is where the population is growing, yet it pairs a growing and diverse population in a region that is experiencing change with a region that isn't. Therefore, we think some tweaking in that whole Lehigh Valley and Northeast/border area is going to be important.

The other thing I would just really want to focus on is that I appreciate the fact that you are taking these comments from people, because ultimately representation is about community; it's about people being able to be heard. I think the work that people need to do together – the feedback that you're taking from people about whether or not their community is being recognized and appropriately paired – is really important.

I think you are most of the way there. Taking this feedback about tweaking is going to be important, agreeing to represent people in how these maps are finalized.



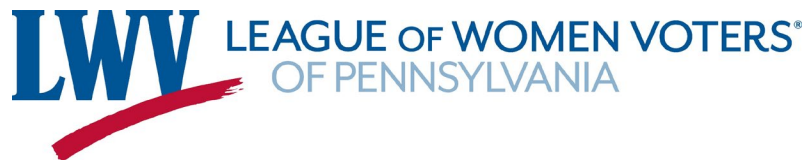
One of the things that has to really be looked at is moving a Senate district farther to the east, potentially putting another Senate district in Southeast Pennsylvania, or South-Central area, in order to get at what's happening in the population, especially over the decade.

And once again, I just want to acknowledge that what you guys are doing is thankless. I frankly have been a little shocked at the vitriol, but I think the process has largely worked.

The final point I want to make is that, given how important community is to people, given how important representation is, I would like to encourage the Commission to make a set of recommendations coming out of this process, to think about what can be done between now and the next time around to try and get more data, more input, more feedback from people about where they feel like they belong, what they feel like the changes to their community should be ahead of the next process

Thank you. And thank you Chair Nordenberg, I think you've absorbed a lot of energy around this room, negatively and positively. It is a very, very difficult job. And to all of the members of the committee, you have to both represent small-p political interests, and you have to ignore them. And that's a very hard balancing act.

I thank you. We will still continue to hold you to a high standard, but not without appreciation.



Follow up comment:

Senator John Gordner, deputy for Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward 10:10

Mr. Chair, if I could just make a brief comment. Thank you. Just in regard to the population deviation – and I'll mention my own 27th Senatorial district and the district of [Senator] Gene Yaw, up above, there is the importance of keeping counties together, if you can. I know this map that the Commissioners put together has less county splits than was done 10 years ago. But I can tell you as someone who represents four full counties, and part of another one, that it's very important that I have those four full counties. In the map from 20 years ago – and I was here in the Senate 20 years ago – I also had an additional part of the upper part of Dauphin. And it was a small part, but it was done as part of the process of splitting counties. So, while I appreciate the comments with regard to the population deviation, sometimes there are benefits to doing that in order to keep counties whole. And I know again, with this map that was adopted by the Commission that there are fewer county splits than there were 10 years ago. And I think that's important. Thank you.

Chairman Nordenberg 11:15

Thank you very much for those contextual comments.

Susan Gobreski

May I make one quick response?

Chairman Nordenberg 11:24

Yes, please.

Susan Gobreski 11:26

Thank you. I think that's right, I think this is all about tradeoffs. I live in Philadelphia, which inherently has to be split. I think that balancing when to split and when not to split is really important. And that gets to what the communities that people are in and actually experience, right? Some municipal areas are at county borders, though, and their region might look different, and cross the county line.

So, Senator Gordner, I appreciate the comment, you know, and I do understand that these are tradeoffs. But I also understand that when you have a big regional bias, like the one that we are seeing in this map, then it requires a broader solution, with consideration of those interests. There are things that we have to look at in the details that matter. It's not easy to just do these things on paper.

District	Population	Deviation	Vote Worth	Region	Party	Counties	Incumbent		RANGE
29	247,391	-12,663	105.39%	LV	Rep	Berks, Schuylkill	David Argall, Ph.D.	Max	272319
32	247,659	-12,395	105.27%	SW	Rep	Fayette, Somerset, Westmoreland	Patrick J. Stefano	MIN	247,391
26	247,986	-12,068	105.12%	SE	Dem	Chester, Delaware	Tim Kearney	Difference	24,928
37	248,652	-11,402	104.81%	SW	Dem	Allegheny, Washington	Devlin Robinson	% difference	9.58%
27	248,910	-11,144	104.69%	NE	Rep	Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Northampton	John Gordner	This is a regional pattern, not random	
21	248,910	-11,144	104.69%	NW	Rep	Butler, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Warren	Scott Hutchinson		
3	248,915	-11,139	104.68%	SE/Phl	Dem	Philadelphia	Sharif Street	Submitted by	
45	249,661	-10,393	104.34%	SW	Dem	Allegheny, Westmoreland	Jim Brewster	Susan Gobreski	
30	249,843	-10,211	104.26%	C	Rep	Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Harrisburg	Judy Ward	League of Women Voters Pennsylvania	
46	250,466	-9,588	103.98%	SW	Rep	Beaver, Greene, Washington	Camera Bartolotta	to LRC	
42	250,742	-9,312	103.86%	SW	Dem	Allegheny	Wayne Fontana	January 7th, 2022	
38	251,647	-8,407	103.46%	SW	Dem	Allegheny	Lindsey Williams		
14	251,850	-8,204	103.37%	NE	Independent	Carbon, Luzerne	John Yudichak	Regional color codes	
43	251,870	-8,184	103.36%	SW	Dem	Allegheny	Jay Costa		
9	252,137	-7,917	103.24%	SE	Dem	Chester, Delaware	John Kane	SW Southwest	
18	252,496	-7,558	103.09%	LV	Dem	Lehigh, Northampton	Lisa Boscola	SE Southeast	
5	253,985	-6,069	102.45%	SE/Phl	Dem	Philadelphia		NE Northeast	
41	254,701	-5,353	102.15%	SW	Rep	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana, Westmoreland	Joe Pittman	NW Northwest	
47	256,105	-3,949	101.57%	SW	Rep	Beaver, Butler, Lawrence	Elder Vogel	SC South Central	
36	256,280	-3,774	101.49%	SC	Rep	Lancaster	Ryan Aument	C Central	
31	259,208	-846	100.33%	SC	Rep	Cumberland, York	Mike Regan	NC North Central	
13	259,341	-713	100.28%	SC	Rep	Lancaster	Scott Martin	SE/Phl Southeast, Philadelphia	
35	260,141	87	99.97%	C	Rep	Bedford, Cambria, Clearfield	Wayne Langerholc		
15	260,164	110	99.96%	SC	Rep	Dauphin, Perry	John DiSanto		
33	260,301	247	99.91%	SC	Rep	Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, York	Doug Mastriano		
28	262,475	2,421	99.09%	SC	Rep	York	Kristin Phillips-Hill		
23	263,353	3,299	98.76%	NC	Rep	Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna	Gene Yaw		
50	263,540	3,486	98.69%	NW	Rep	Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Warren	Michele Brooks		
7	263,697	3,643	98.64%	SE/Phl	Dem	Montgomery, Philadelphia	Vincent Hughes		
8	263,972	3,918	98.54%	SE/Phl	Dem	Delaware, Philadelphia	Anthony Williams		
48	264,980	4,926	98.17%	SC	Rep	Dauphin, Lebanon, York	Chris Gebhard		
20	265,088	5,034	98.14%	NE	Rep	Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne	Lisa Baker		
16	265,215	5,161	98.09%	LV	Rep	Lehigh	Pat Browne		
25	265,569	5,515	97.97%	NC	Rep	Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson	Chris Dush		
12	265,660	5,606	97.93%	SE	Dem	Bucks, Montgomery	Maria Collett		
11	265,972	5,918	97.82%	SC	Dem	Berks	Judy Schwank		
39	266,144	6,090	97.76%	SW	Rep	Westmoreland	Kim Ward		
34	266,501	6,447	97.64%	NC	Rep	Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin	Jake Corman		
1	267,877	7,823	97.16%	SE/Phl	Dem	Philadelphia	Nikil Saval		
4	268,248	8,194	97.04%	SE/Phl	Dem	Montgomery, Philadelphia	Arthur L. Haywood III		
17	268,477	8,423	96.96%	SE	Dem	Delaware, Montgomery	Amanda Cappelletti		
22	269,105	9,051	96.75%	NE	Dem	Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe	Marty Flynn		
6	269,699	9,645	96.55%	SE	Rep	Bucks	Tommy Tomlinson		
10	269,925	9,871	96.47%	SE	Dem	Bucks	Steven Santarsiero		
24	270,204	10,150	96.38%	SE	Rep	Berks, Bucks, Montgomery	Bob Mensch		
49	270,357	10,303	96.33%	NW	Rep	Erie	Dan Laughlin		
2	270,941	10,887	96.14%	SE/Phl	Dem	Philadelphia	Christine Tartaglione		
44	271,865	11,811	95.84%	SE	Dem	Berks, Chester, Montgomery	Katie Muth		
19	272,156	12,102	95.74%	SE	Dem	Chester	Carolyn Committa		
40	272,319	12,265	95.69%	NE	Rep	Monroe, Northampton	Mario Scavello		

My name is Suzanne Broughton. This is the testimony I presented 1-7-22 to which I have added data backing up my remarks.

In September, I presented testimony in which I described the splits in Butler County and in the Fox Chapel School District in the 2011 redistricting. Today, I will speak on the proposed map of the House districts only. I have one specific comment and two more general comments.

First, specifically, the Town of McCandless, where I live, has been split by moving wards 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 to District 30 while leaving wards 3 and 4 in District 28 also splitting the North Allegheny School District. The 2011 split in the Pine-Richland school district remains. Several municipalities have been added to District 28 splitting both the Avonworth and Quaker Valley school districts. Provision of services through cooperation of several municipalities along the Rt. 8 corridor are also disrupted as Leader Benninghoff heard Tuesday in McCandless. The commission should take another look at the north hills area to determine whether the split of McCandless is “absolutely necessary” and whether splits in that many school districts and disruption of cooperative municipal arrangements are needed.

Second, I watched the meeting in which the maps were adopted and would like to respond to Leader Benninghoff’s comments there. That some incumbents must run against each other can be attributed to two factors. One is that population shifts in the decade since 2011 have been away from rural districts. For example, population in one region in northwest PA was 816,792, represented by 16 Republican legislators. The 2020 census data shows that the region’s population is now 765,040 – down 51,752. The target population for one of the House districts is about 64,000, so that region will likely lose at least one House seat to a more populous area. These primaries are the result of simple math due to population shift.

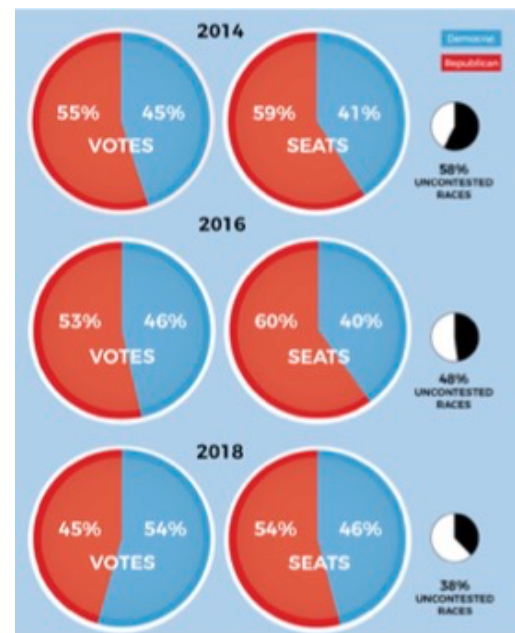
County	2010	Population St. Reps	2020
Armstrong	68,941	Silvis, Major, Oberlander 3 R	63501
Cameron	5,085	Causar 1 R	4,339
Clarion	39,988	Oberlander 1 R	37,970
Crawford	88,765	Rapp, Wentling, Roae 3 R	83667
Elk	31,946	Armanini 1 R	29,510
		Wentling, Sonney, Roae,	
Erie	280,566	Bizzaro, Harkins, Merski 6 R	266,096
Forest	7,716	Rapp, Oberlander 2 R	7,173
Indiana	88,880	Struzi, Smith, Major 3 R	83337
Jefferson	45,189	Smith 1 R	43,047
McKean	43,450	Causar 1 R	39,975
Potter	17,457	Causar, Owlett 2 R	16,332
Venango	54,984	James 1 R	49602
Warren	41,815	Rapp 1 R	<u>38,471</u>
	816,792		765040
		Loss	51,752

2020 PA County Census Data <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/states/pa>
2010 PA County Census Data <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/pennsylvania/population-2010#table>

Unique Representatives: 16 R

Silvis, Major, Oberlander, Causar, Rapp, Wentling, Roae, Armanini, Sonney, Bizzaro, Harkins, Merski, Struzi, Smith, Owlett, James

The other factor is the Gerrymandering done by the 2011 LRC that mangled district borders to produce an overabundance of safe Republican seats. That gerrymandering has been effective. In each election since 2012, the percentage of Republican seats in the PA House has exceeded the percentage of Republican votes. In 2018, that discrepancy became particularly egregious. Republicans won only 45% of the vote but retained 54% of the seats. The proposed map undoes some of those gerrymanders. The partisan actions of the 2011 LRC have been visited upon the legislators who took those seats, in primary contests 10 years later.



Third and finally, I want to mention the allegations of bias that I have seen directed at Commission Chair Nordenberg. I have lived in the Pittsburgh area for 57 of my adult years and know it well. To my knowledge, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Emeritus Nordenberg's reputation for thoughtfulness and fairness is indisputable. I understand that this criticism is not coming directly from any member of this commission, but I know of no effort on the commissioners' part to quiet or refute it.

Thank you for your attention.

**Testimony of Jean Handley
Dauphin County Resident
Before the Legislative Reapportionment Commission
Hearing on Preliminary House and Senate Maps
January 7, 2022**

Good Morning Chairman Nordenberg, Leaders McClinton, Ward, Benninghoff, and Costa. I am a long-time resident of Dauphin County and, full disclosure - the Dauphin County Coordinator for Fair Districts PA. However, I appear today as a resident. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning about the preliminary state House and Senate maps.

I applaud your efforts to solicit public input through the many hearings and website and hope this will set a standard for redistricting in the decades to come. However, it would have been helpful for the public to know the criteria the LRC planned to use and priorities assigned to each when starting this process in order to provide more focused input. There has been prior testimony regarding metric performance. Generally speaking, the LRC preliminary House and Senate maps are better than the current maps created during redistricting in 2011. That being said, adjustments can always be made to produce an end product that is more beneficial to all citizens of the Commonwealth.

As a resident of Dauphin County, I limit my further comments to the districts drawn in that area.

SENATE MAP

Since the 2020 Census population exceeds the size of a new senate district, unfortunately, the county must be divided.

The Senate map creates a more competitive district 15 which is more reflective of the suburban, urban and industrial areas of the county and considers the unique commercial, environmental and infrastructure issues of the lower half of Dauphin County. No school districts are divided in District 15.

The northern part of Dauphin County above the ridges, is much more rural, agrarian and conservative and is similar to other areas in District 34. However, the Susquehanna River divides Perry and Cumberland Counties from northern Dauphin. The only direct link to travel between the east and west portions of District 34 is the Clarks Ferry Bridge near Duncannon that carries Route 322/22. Otherwise, one must travel through District 15 to access bridges in the Harrisburg area. An alternative would be to include northern Dauphin with parts of Schuylkill, Lebanon or Northumberland Counties thus eliminating the Susquehanna River split. The only Dauphin County divided school district in District 34 is Williams Valley which extends into Schuylkill County (District 29).

HOUSE MAP

The House map creates districts that are more compact with only one (103) extending beyond the county borders. They are more

representative of the various 'Communities of Interest'. Districts are also more competitive which reflects the registered voter population of Dauphin County. Registered voters of both major parties were almost equal in the Cumberland County area included in District 103.

Central Dauphin School District is only divided among 3 districts and Lower Dauphin School Districts divided among 2 instead of the current 4 for each district. However, by dividing the city of Harrisburg between Districts 103 and 104, the Harrisburg School District with its significant challenges would be divided instead of whole as in the current House map.

Areas of concern:

District 103

Debate continues about whether to include parts of eastern Cumberland County and Dauphin County in one district. There are two schools of thought:

1. Do not divide Harrisburg City and do not include communities from the west shore. Harrisburg has its own unique challenges, significant black and other minority populations, is a 'community of interest' and should remain whole.

or

2. Include parts of Cumberland. Proposed District 103 has some common challenges and concerns. This is also a shared area for

recreation, shopping, restaurants and medical care for residents from both sides of the river. To include communities that help increase diversity and equity may be beneficial to legislative achievements for this area. However, there are also significant differences between the East and West Shores that may present challenges for a legislator.

Hummelstown Borough

Hummelstown has strong ties with East and South Hanover, Derry, Conewago and Londonderry Townships and is part of the Lower Dauphin School District. It should be included with these municipalities in one district. By doing so, it would eliminate splitting the school district and help represent the common interests of this area.

Lower Paxton District 22

There is an interesting “tail” protruding from District 125 separating Districts 105 and 106. This is Lower Paxton District 22 and its residents have much more in common with either those of District 105 or Derry and South Hanover Townships in District 106.

River Communities

There has been previous testimony regarding keeping the River Communities together as a Community of Interest starting with Harrisburg City and ending with Londonderry Township. The LRC

map has divided this area between Districts 104 and 106. If possible, the communities would benefit by remaining in one district.

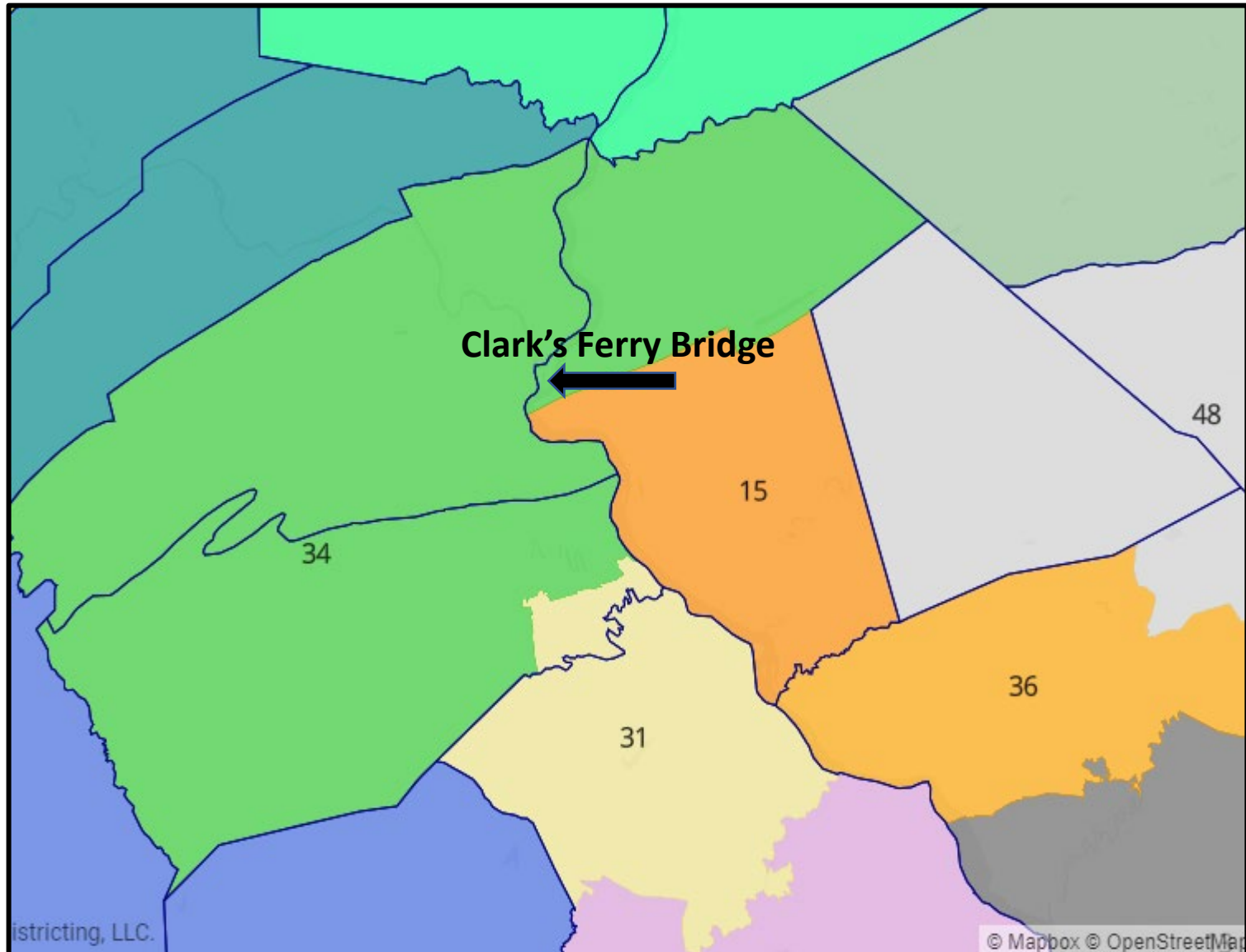
IN CONCLUSION

I am not a skilled mapper and thus, do not know the impact of these potential changes on either Dauphin County or the LRC map as a whole. The FDPA People's House and Senate maps may offer alternatives and solutions to adjust and improve these districts. If there is a possibility of making any adjustments that are not too disruptive, I ask that you please consider doing so.

Thank you for your continued efforts to produce House and Senate maps that are representative of all the citizens of the Commonwealth. I wish you all the best while working toward finalization of both the House and Senate district maps.

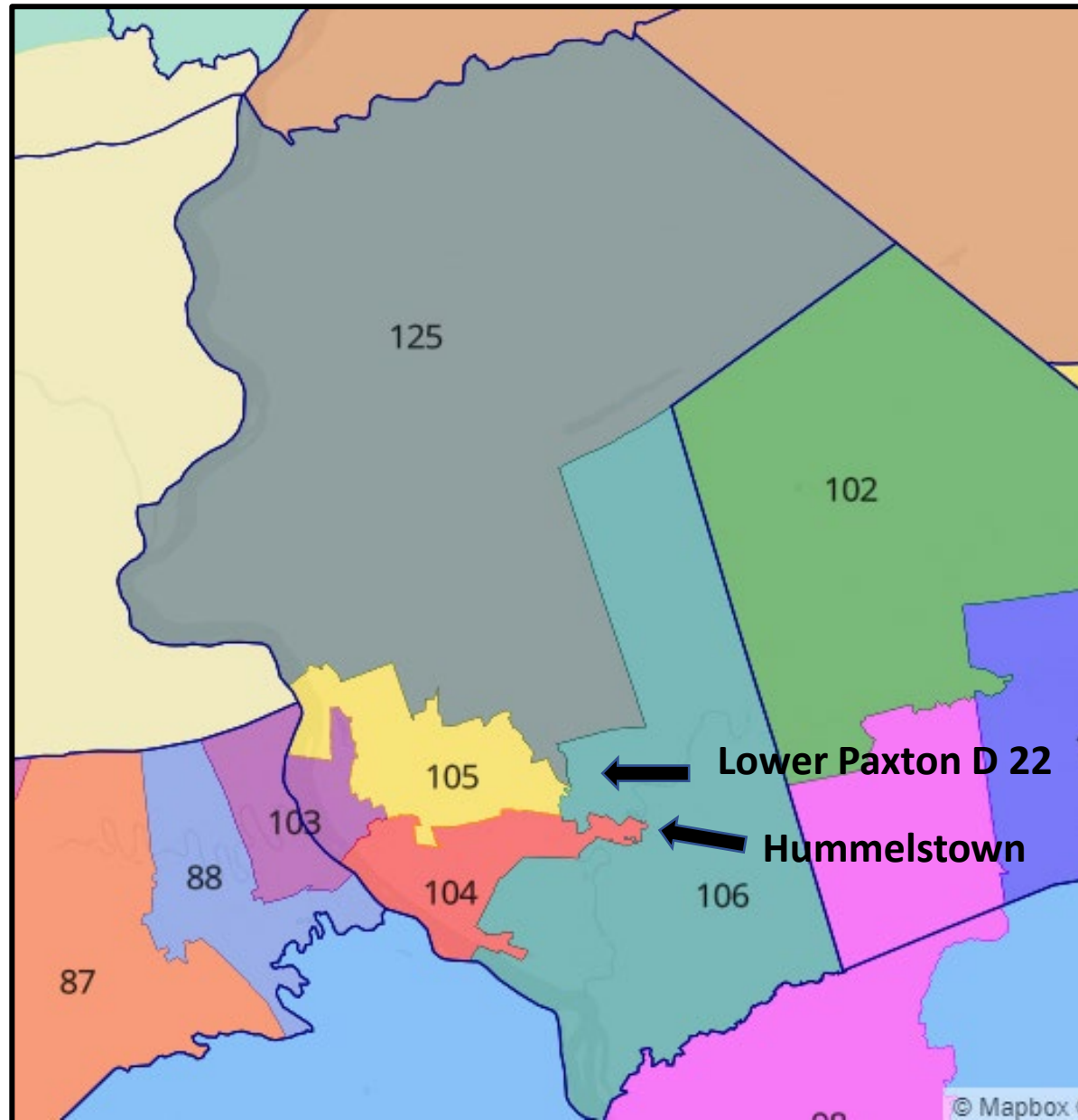
LRC PRELIMINARY SENATE MAP

DAUPHIN COUNTY DISTRICTS

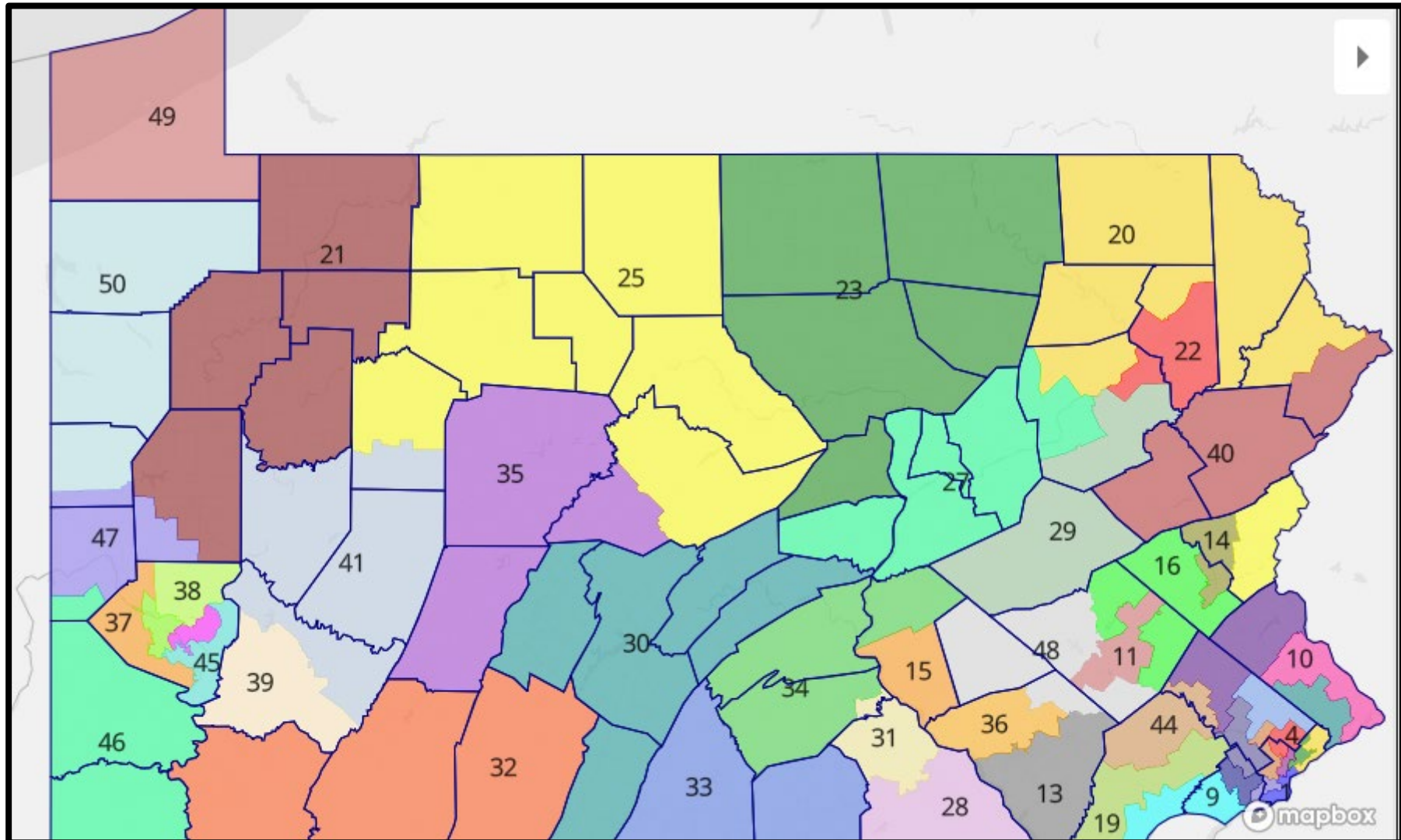


LRC PRELIMINARY HOUSE MAP

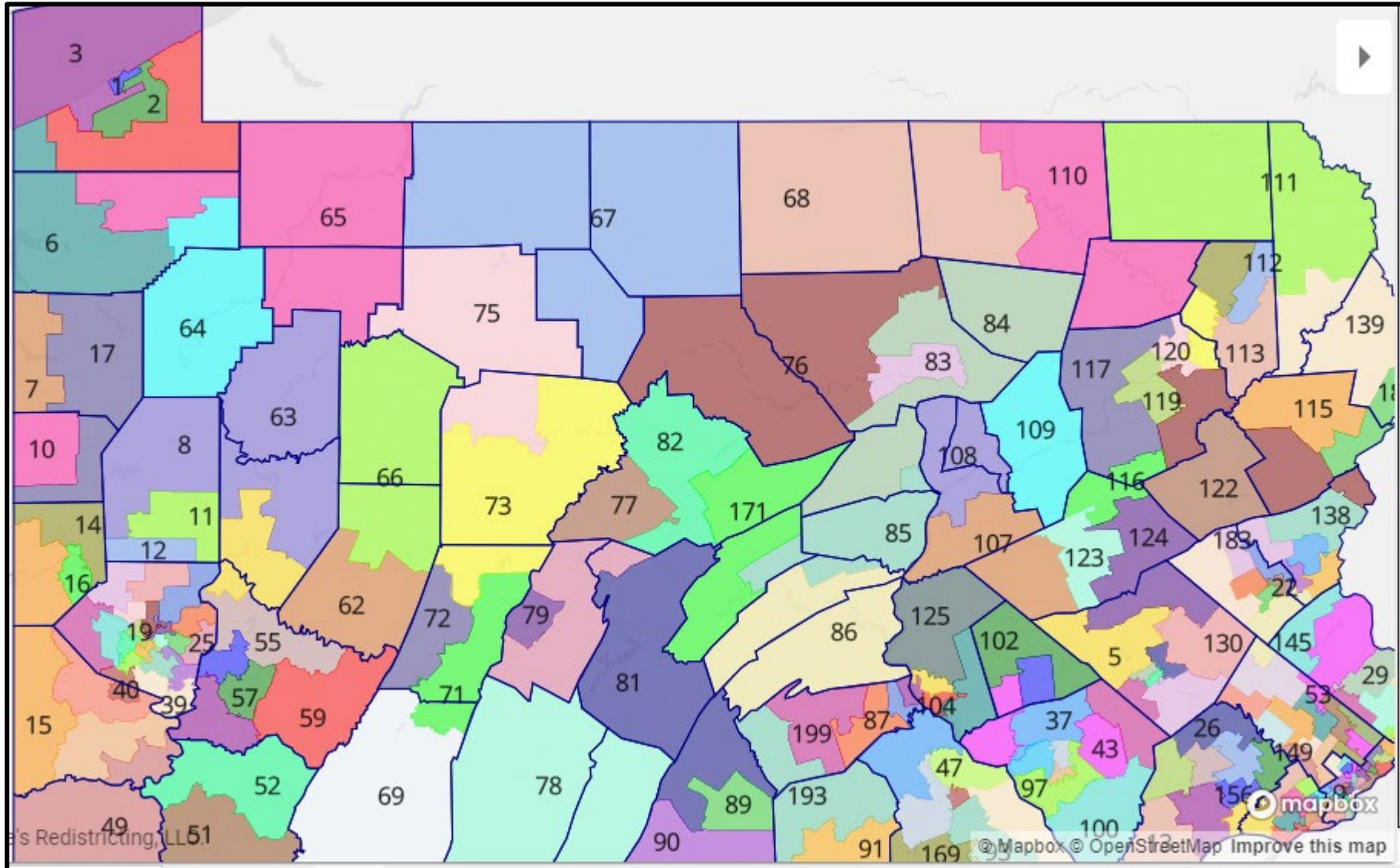
DAUPHIN COUNTY DISTRICTS



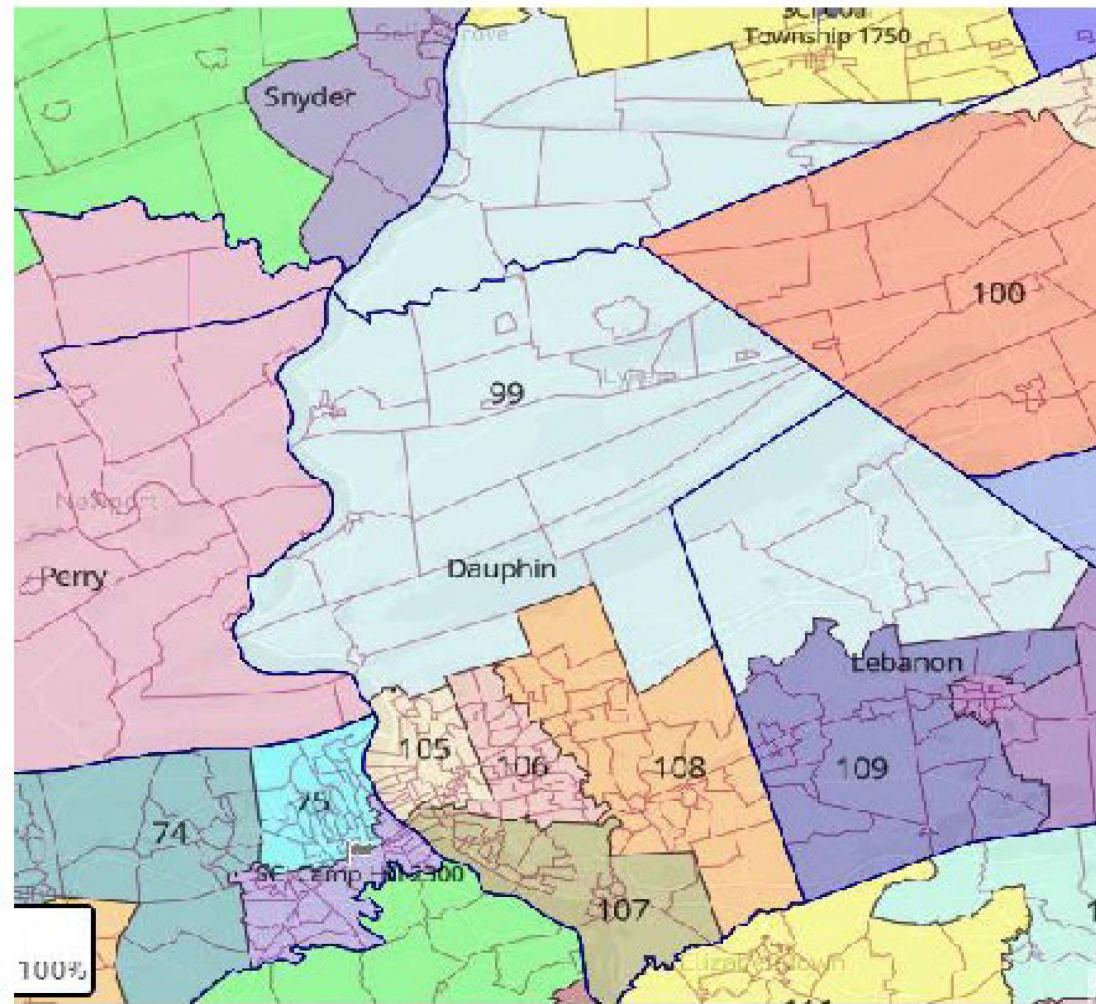
LRC PRELIMINARY SENATE MAP



LRC PRELIMINARY HOUSE MAP



FDPA PEOPLE'S HOUSE MAP



**RON RUMAN, WEST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR: PENNSYLVANIA
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TESTIMONY OPPOSING WEST MANCHESTER
TOWNSHIP, YORK COUNTY, MOVING FROM 28TH TO 31ST SENATE DISTRICT**

Good morning. Chairman Nordenberg, Leaders Ward, Costa, Benninghoff, and McClinton, thank you for holding this hearing and listening to our concerns.

Having worked as a Senate staff member in the 1990s and closely observed that redistricting process, I recognize the tough job you have. When you make changes to one district, you must then make changes to many districts.

I am a supervisor in West Manchester Township, York County. The board at our reorganization meeting this Monday authorized me to present you with our concerns about the preliminary Senate map, which moves our township from the 28th Senate district to the 31st Senate district. York City and West York Borough are also included in this move. I also note Manchester Township continues in the 31st district under this preliminary map.

We oppose moving West Manchester Township to the 31st from the 28th district, as we believe this would violate the criterion of keeping communities of interest together in legislative districts. The central municipalities in York County form a community of interest. These municipalities include the city of York, the county's hub, along with those municipalities which are adjacent or nearly adjacent to the city: West Manchester, Spring Garden, Manchester, Springettsbury and York townships, and West and North York boroughs.

People living in these municipalities largely, though of course not exclusively, work in these communities as well. So there is strong economic connection in that regard. Even stronger economic ties exist among these communities as residents of these areas typically spend their money there. Residents of what I see as Metro York shop at the West Manchester Towne Center, and the York Galleria. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, we go to York's Central Market, and on these days, as well as First Fridays, we patronize many of the restaurants and growing specialty shops in downtown York.

We follow minor league baseball watching the York Revolution at People's Bank Park, and take in cultural events at downtown York's Appell Center or Penn State York's Pullo Center. We watch movies at the York Towne Center's Regal Cinemas.

Conversely, people in the 31st Senate District are part of the Harrisburg Metro. This district is based on Cumberland County's West Shore, and extends, as it has for the past few decades, into northern York County. This area includes Dillsburg Borough, Fairview, Newberry, and Monaghan townships, along with some other more rural municipalities a bit farther south in York County, which have stronger ties to the West Shore/Harrisburg metro Community of Interest, than Metro York.

Many people who live in these northern York County municipalities work on the West Shore or in Harrisburg. They shop and go to the movies at Camp Hill's Capital City Mall or the East Shore's Harrisburg Mall. Current 31st district residents, including those living in northern York County, frequent Second Street's Restaurant Row in downtown Harrisburg, and enjoy Saturday Nights in the City there. These folks take in cultural events at downtown Harrisburg's Whittaker Center or Penn State-Harrisburg's Kulkarni Theater, and enjoy minor league baseball watching the Harrisburg Senators at FNB Field on City Island.

At the heart of many communities in central Pennsylvania is high school sports. Here, too, West Manchester Township and the rest of Metro York resides in a clearly different Community of Interest from the West Shore and northern York County. The West York Bulldogs, as well as York City, play in the York-Adams League. Many of the York County schools now part of the 31st district, including Northern York and Cedar Cliff, part of the West Shore School District, which itself spans two counties, play in the Mid-Penn Conference. They compete with Camp Hill, East Pennsboro, Cumberland Valley, Harrisburg, and Central and Lower Dauphin. Very different Communities of Interest.

So, I ask you to consider strongly keeping West Manchester Township, as well as our neighboring municipalities, all together in the 28th Senate District. This is where our Community of Interest lies. We largely live, work, spend our money, and enjoy our leisure time together. Putting us in a district based in Cumberland County's West Shore, and including that part of York County which identifies with the West Shore and Metro Harrisburg, does us a disservice.

We would become a minority in a district which often has different needs and interests. This would make it very difficult for any one legislator to represent all constituents well.

I respect the work you are doing, and again acknowledge the difficult task you have. Thank you for listening to my comments on behalf of the 19,206 residents I represent, and I would be happy to try and answer any questions you have.

Testimony of State Representative Robert Freeman (136th House District)
Legislative Reapportionment Commission Hearing, Friday, January 7, 2022

Good morning. Chairman Nordenberg, Caucus Leaders and members of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission and staff. I am State Representative Robert Freeman of the 136th House District. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today to offer my perspective on the preliminary plan for reapportionment and to request a change in the plan before its final adoption that would restore the Borough of Hellertown to the 136th District. I am submitting copies of my testimony as well as copies of the letter that I mailed to Chairman Nordenberg last week regarding my request, and a copy of a Resolution passed by Hellertown

Borough Council that also requests that Hellertown be restored to the 136th District.

First, I want to acknowledge that the reapportionment process presents a very daunting and arduous task for those charged with drawing district lines for the legislature. I particularly want to acknowledge the service of Chairman Nordenberg who has led this process in a fair and even-handed manner. Chairman Nordenberg and his team have endeavored to provide a process that has been open, fair, and transparent to the public. In my many years of service as a House member this has been the most professional and open reapportionment process that I have witnessed. And, overall, the House maps have strived to achieve the goals of compact districts that are contiguous.

However, even the best of plans can miss important “Community of Interest” nuances as they pertain to small communities. “Community of Interest” considerations are as significant to a good reapportionment plan as are compact and contiguous districts. As such, I am here today to request a change to the reapportionment map that would restore the Borough of Hellertown to the 136th House District in the final plan. In the preliminary plan Hellertown was placed in the 131st House District. Hellertown belongs in the 136th House District where it has been a component part of the district for fifty years. Hellertown, along with the Boroughs of Freemansburg, Wilson, West Easton, Glendon, and the city of Easton, as well as several other municipalities, have been a part of the 136th District since the changes established by the 1968 state Constitutional Convention that created single member House

districts. Hellertown, Freemansburg, Easton and the other mentioned municipalities share a “Community of Interest” as a result of their long association as component parts of the 136th District for fifty years. Placing Hellertown in the 131st District would place it in a district that is a Lehigh County and Montgomery County based district that Hellertown would have little association with, resulting in Hellertown’s interests being an afterthought in a district dominated by communities with different needs. Hellertown would be the eastern most extremity of a district that stretches across Montgomery and Lehigh Counties and barely penetrates into Northampton County.

The Borough of Hellertown recognizes this and on Monday night Hellertown Borough Council, with the support of Hellertown’s Mayor, unanimously adopted a resolution which

requests that Hellertown be restored to the 136th District in the final plan. In their resolution they note that “the 136th District includes other Northampton County communities with similar resources and compatible concerns,” such as the City of Easton, Wilson, and Freemansburg. It further notes that Hellertown “shares a regional history, culture, and present-day circumstances and opportunities with the 136th District communities” and “has minimal relationships and involvement with other communities in the 131st District, which are primarily based in Lehigh and Montgomery counties.” It affirms that “the current 136th District communities have spent years embracing a common identity and shared pride that has evolved under the guidance of a shared legislative district and the resources and knowledge it provides.”

As the State Representative for the 136th District for over thirty-five years I have established a long association with Hellertown, coming to know and work with their elected and community leaders, assisting them in securing funding for important community projects, holding monthly office hours in Hellertown Borough Hall to make myself even more available to meet with constituents from the community, and I have regularly participated in Hellertown's community events from their Memorial Day ceremony, to their Community Days, Halloween parade, Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and ribbon cutting events for new businesses on Main Street. Hellertown's resolution references these connections that have produced, in the resolution's words, "a long and productive relationship with the community" that represents "their

community interest in the Commonwealth” because of my
“understanding of shared regional community needs.”

I ask the members of the Commission to heed the request
of the elected officials representing the people of Hellertown.
For all of the reasons that I have cited, and the clear desire
expressed in Hellertown’s unanimously adopted resolution, I
respectfully request that Hellertown be restored to the 136th
District in the final plan to resume its long Community of
Interest association with the municipalities of Freemansburg,
Easton, Wilson, and the other municipalities that have been
component parts of the district for fifty years.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION 22-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HELLERTOWN, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING HELLERTOWN BOROUGH IN THE 136TH DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, Hellertown Borough has been a small community that is part of the 136th District for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary plans for state redistricting has put Hellertown Borough in the 131st District; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council, staff and citizens of the Borough of Hellertown do not support the proposed redistricting ; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Borough of Hellertown resolutely supports keeping Hellertown Borough in the 136th District for the following purposes:

1. The 136th District includes other Northampton County communities with similar resources and concerns compatible with those of Hellertown – municipalities such as the City of Easton, Wilson, Freemansburg; the Borough shares a regional history, culture, and present-day circumstances and opportunities with the 136th District communities – and not those of the 131st District – which defines a fairer foundation for legislative service with a common constituency base
2. Hellertown Borough has minimal relationships and involvement with other communities in the 131st District, which are primarily based in Lehigh and Montgomery counties; the current 136th District communities have spent years embracing a common identity and shared pride that has evolved under the guidance of a shared legislative district and the resources and knowledge it provides
3. Representative Robert Freeman has a long and productive relationship with this community – working with community leaders, supporting community initiatives, attending community events, securing grant funding for worthy projects and holding monthly office hours in the Borough where citizens know they can visit to discuss state issues; these personal connections with the residential, business, and government community are representative of a majority constituency that has decided to retain Rep. Freeman for decades to represent their community interest within the Commonwealth because of his understanding of shared regional community needs

We believe on a local level that this redistricting takes the choice away from us, the voters, in choosing our representative interests and we request that our voice as an affected community be recognized to ensure our civil right to fair representation by resorting Hellertown to the 136th District in the final plan.

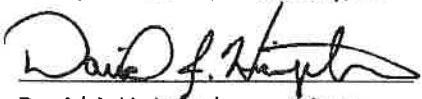
RESOLVED and ENACTED this 3rd day of January 2022.

BOROUGH OF HELLERTOWN
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

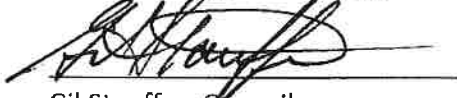
ATTEST



Cathy Hartmanft, Secretary/Manager



David J. Heinzelman, Mayor



Gil Stauffer, Council



Andrew Hughes, Council



Terri Fadern, Council



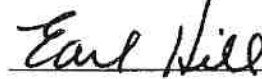
Thomas J. Rieger, Council President



Matt Marcincin, Council



Mike McKenna, Council



Earl Hill, Council

SEAL

ROBERT L. FREEMAN
136TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DEMOCRATIC POLICY

December 29, 2021

Chairman Mark Nordenberg
Legislative Reapportionment Commission
209 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Borough of Hellertown

Dear Chairman Nordenberg,

First, I would like to commend you on your service as Chairman of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission and the work that you have done. The reapportionment process is a daunting and arduous task to take on and you have conducted yourself admirably. You and your team have endeavored to provide a process that has been open, fair, and transparent to the public. Indeed, in my many years of service as a House member this has been the most professional and open reapportionment process that I have witnessed.

However, even the best of plans can miss important "Community of Interest" nuances as they pertain to small communities. As such, today I write to respectfully request a change to the reapportionment map that would restore the Borough of Hellertown to the 136th House District. In the preliminary plan Hellertown was allocated to the 131st House District. Hellertown belongs in the 136th House District. It has been a component part of the 136th District for fifty years. Hellertown, along with the Boroughs of Freemansburg, Wilson, West Easton, Glendon, and the City of Easton, as well as several other municipalities, have been a part of the 136th District since the changes established by the 1968 Constitutional Convention created single member districts. Hellertown, Freemansburg, Easton and the other mentioned municipalities share a "Community of Interest" as a result of their long association as component parts of the 136th District for fifty years. Placing Hellertown in the 131st District would place it in a district which is a Lehigh County and Montgomery County based district which Hellertown would have little association with and make it the eastern most extremity of a district that stretches across Montgomery and Lehigh Counties, barely penetrating into Northampton County.

As the State Representative for the 136th District for over thirty-five years I have established a long association with Hellertown, coming to know and work with their elected and community leaders, assisting them in securing funding for important community projects, holding monthly office hours in Hellertown Borough Hall to make myself even more available to meet with constituents, and regularly participating in Hellertown's community events. From Hellertown's Memorial Day ceremony, to participating in their Community Days, Halloween parade, the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony,

and numerous ribbon cutting events for new businesses on Main Street I have been an active and connected Representative in the community life of Hellertown.

For all of the above reasons I respectfully request that the Borough of Hellertown be restored to the 136th District for the map of the final plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert L. Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th District

cc: House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton