

# Pennsylvania Legislative Redistricting Commission

Todd Stephens

January 14, 2022

# CORE PRINCIPLE

These districts should be drawn for the benefit of the people who live within them and not for the benefit of, or detriment of, any one person. State Representatives are elected to serve for only two years, but these maps and their impact will be felt for a decade or longer.

## Pennsylvania Requirements

### Pa. Const. Art. II § 16 – Traditional redistricting criteria

- Compact
  - Contiguous
  - As nearly equal in population as practicable
- &
- “Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided. . .”

## Political Subdivision and Ward Boundaries

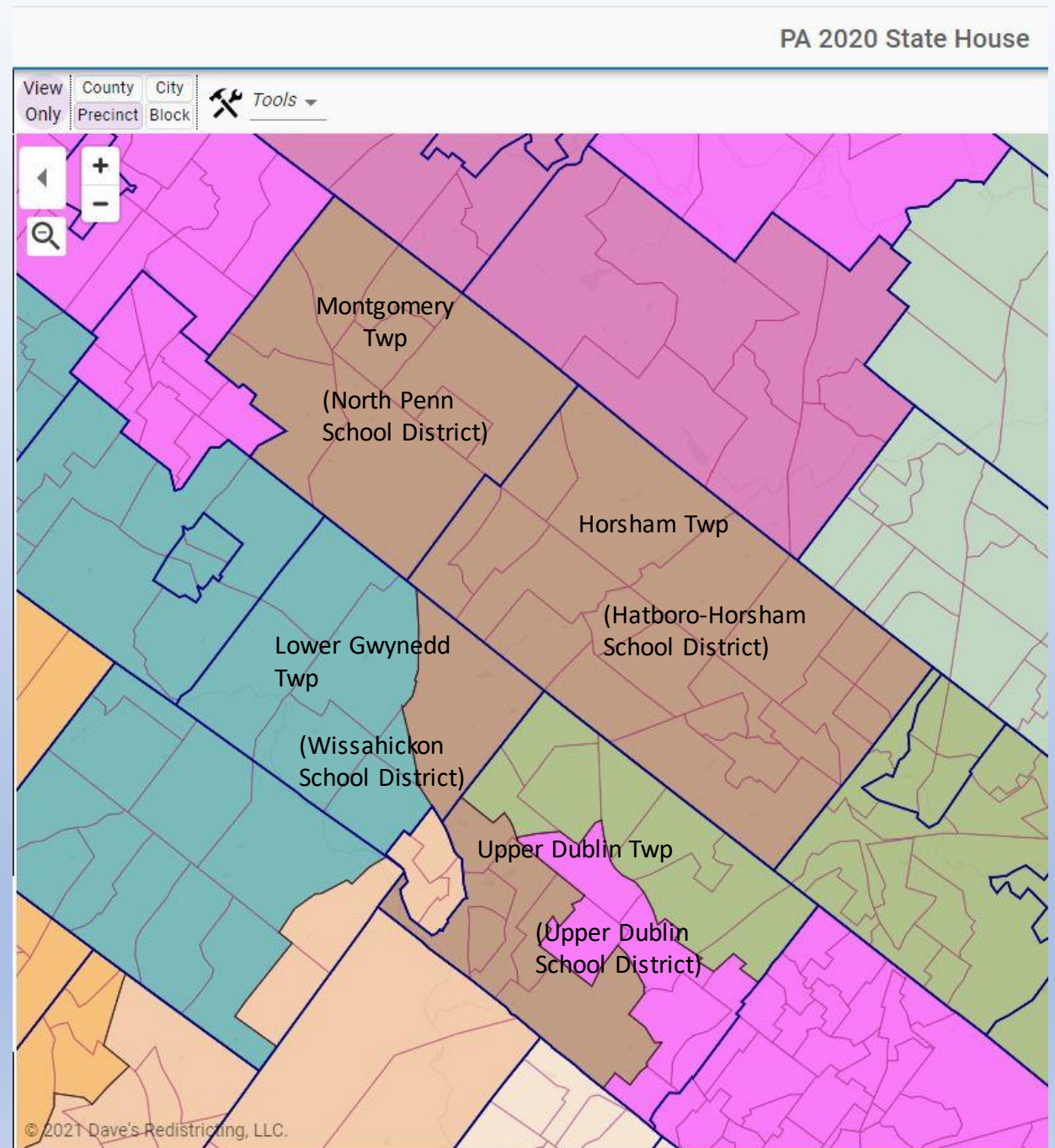
- Would appear to be the most significant criterion under Article II, § 16 – “Absolutely necessary”
- Pa Supreme Court has discussed necessity for purpose of achieving population equality
- Pa Supreme Court also has recognized that population deviations could be increased in order to avoid dividing political subdivisions

## *League of Women Voters v. Commonwealth*

- Recognizes that other factors have historically played a role in redistricting, including: preservation of prior district lines; protection of incumbents; or maintenance of the political balance that existed after the prior reapportionment
- “However, we view these factors to be wholly subordinate to the neutral criteria of compactness, contiguity, minimization of the division of political subdivisions, and maintenance of population equality. . . . These neutral criteria provide a ‘floor’ of protection for an individual against the dilution of his or her vote in the creation of such districts.”

# Current 151<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

- Horsham & Montgomery Townships
- Two Municipal Splits
  - Part of Upper Dublin Township
  - Part of Lower Gwynedd Township
- Parts of Four School Districts
  - Hatboro-Horsham
  - North Penn
  - Upper Dublin
  - Wissahickon
- Asian 13.9%/13.4%  
(Predominantly Korean and Indian)



# Horsham Township State Issues

Horsham is dealing with many, very serious state issues stemming from the former military base

2011 - 800+ acre (10% of Horsham Township former military base closed

EPA found PFAS has contaminated the public water system

Base remains vacant today while the cleanup continues

- PA has funded \$10's of millions in water filters/cleanup
- PA DEP working to clean water in Horsham since 2014
- PA DOH did a cancer cluster study, is now conducting a PFAS health study
- PA DOT has issued millions in grants and a recent study says they'll need to do \$100's of millions more in road improvements to support the redevelopment of the base
- PADCED will be involved to help promote the redevelopment efforts
- One of the largest redevelopment projects in Southeastern Pennsylvania



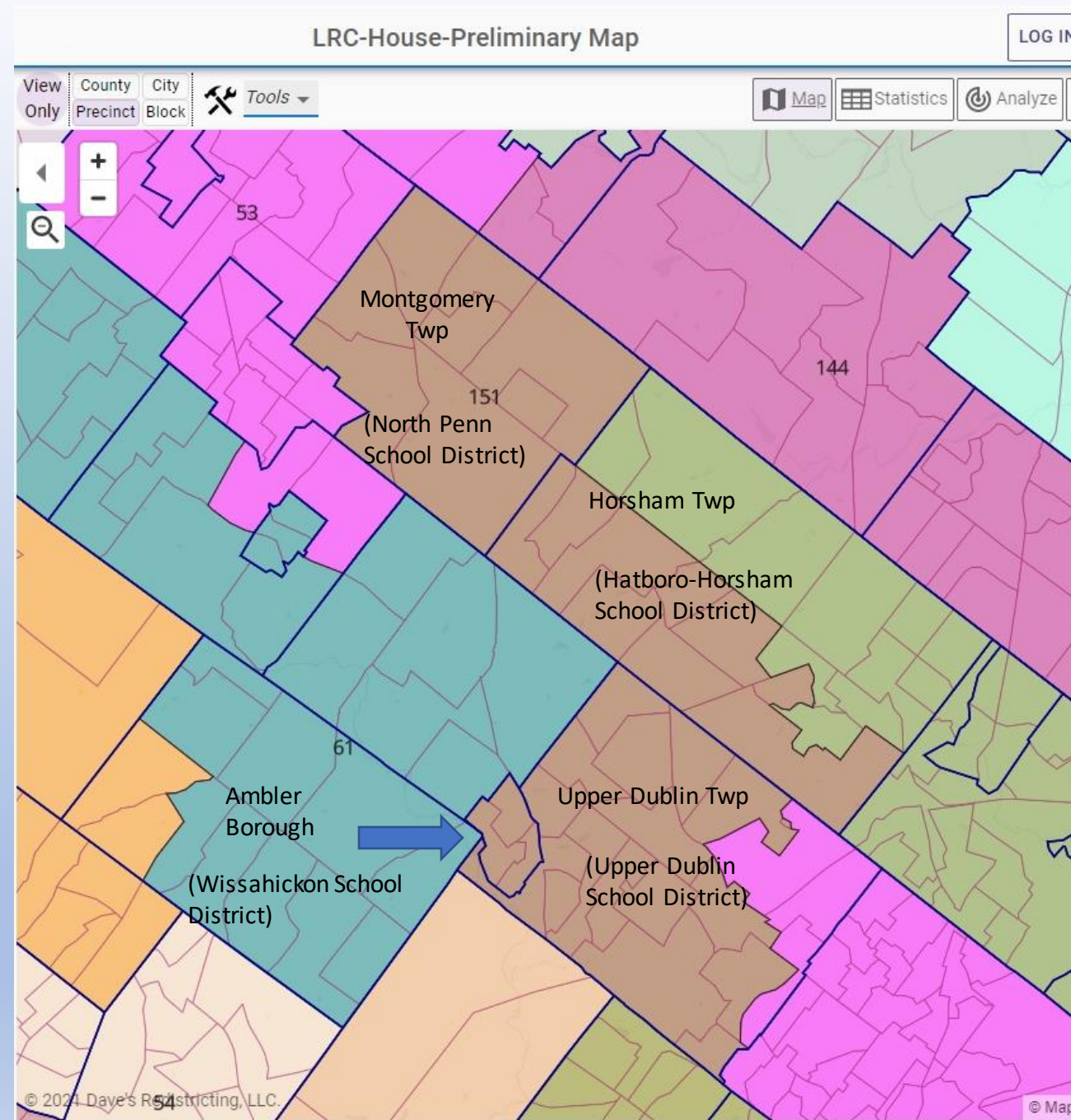
# Problems With Splitting Horsham

- Townshipwide Services – Would need to advocate with two different State Representatives
  - Horsham Council
  - Horsham Water and Sewer Authority
  - Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority
  - Horsham Police
  - Horsham Fire & Ambulance (Firehouses split)
  - Horsham Library
  - Horsham Soccer, Little League, Hawks, Hhoops, Lacrosse, Wrestling
- Two State Representatives with other priorities
  - If Horsham is only 20% of their district, where will they focus their attention?
- Two State Representatives with conflicting priorities
  - Should we clean up stormwater runoff or groundwater?
  - Should we focus on Horsham Road and Limekiln Pike or Route 611 and County Line Road?



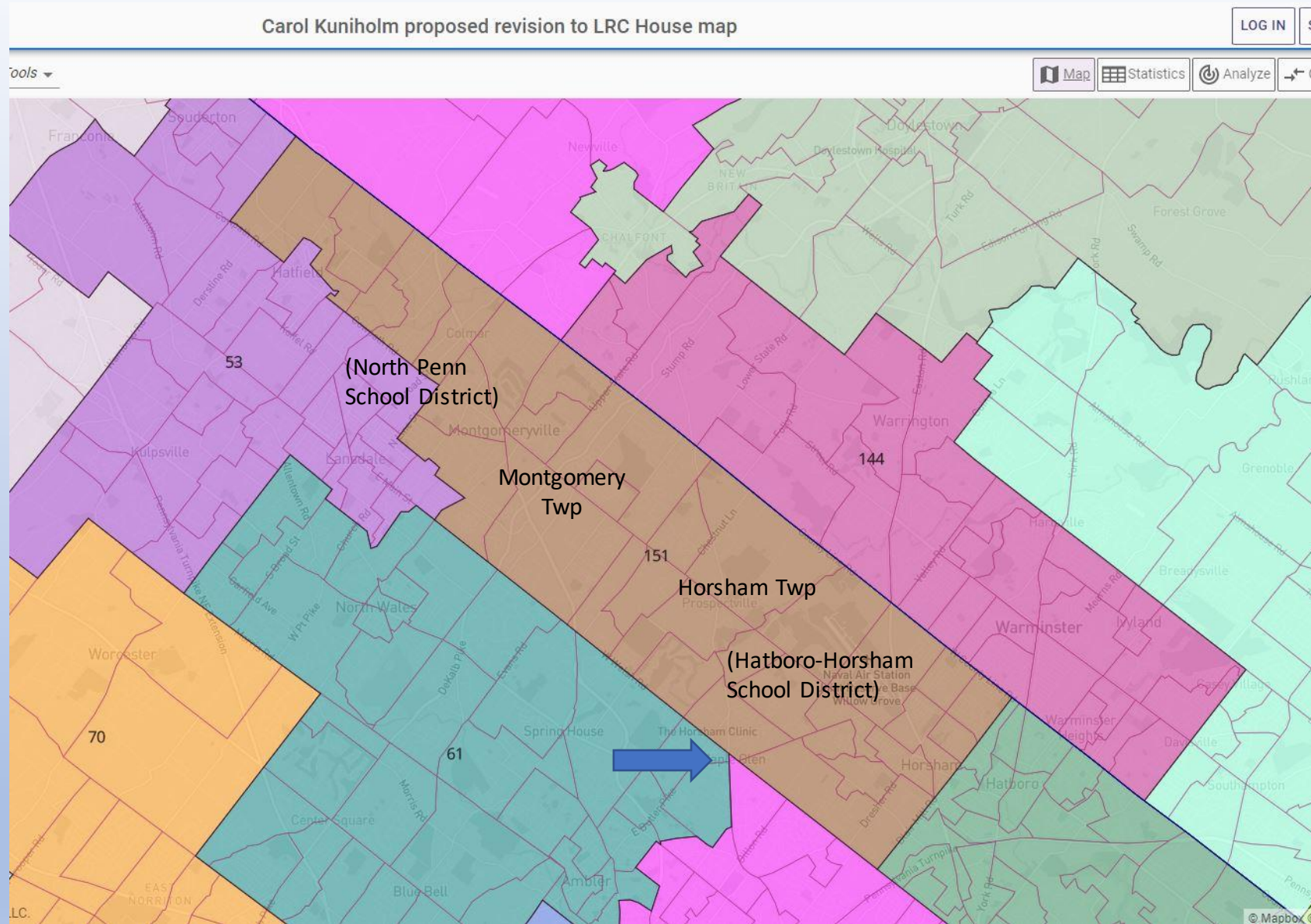
# Preliminary LRC 151<sup>st</sup> Leg. District

- 151 = Two Municipal Splits
  - Montgomery Township & Ambler Borough
  - Part of Upper Dublin Township
  - Part of Horsham Township
- Parts of Four School Districts
  - Hatboro-Horsham
  - North Penn
  - Upper Dublin
  - Wissahickon
- Countywide = 6 Municipal Splits
- Countywide Reock = .36
- Countywide Polsby-Popper=.34
- Asian 14.5%/14.0%  
(Predominantly Korean & Indian)



# Dr. Kuniholm's 151<sup>st</sup> Leg. District

- 151 = One Municipal Split
  - Montgomery & Horsham Townships
  - Part of Hatfield Township
- Parts of Two School Districts
  - Hatboro-Horsham
  - North Penn
- Countywide = 5 Municipal Splits
- Countywide Reock = .42
- Countywide Polsby-Popper = .38
- Asian 15.8%/15.3%  
(Predominantly Korean & Indian)

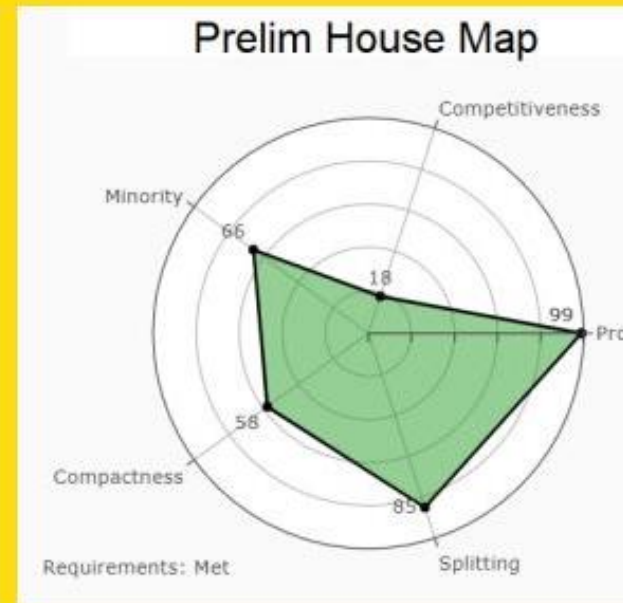
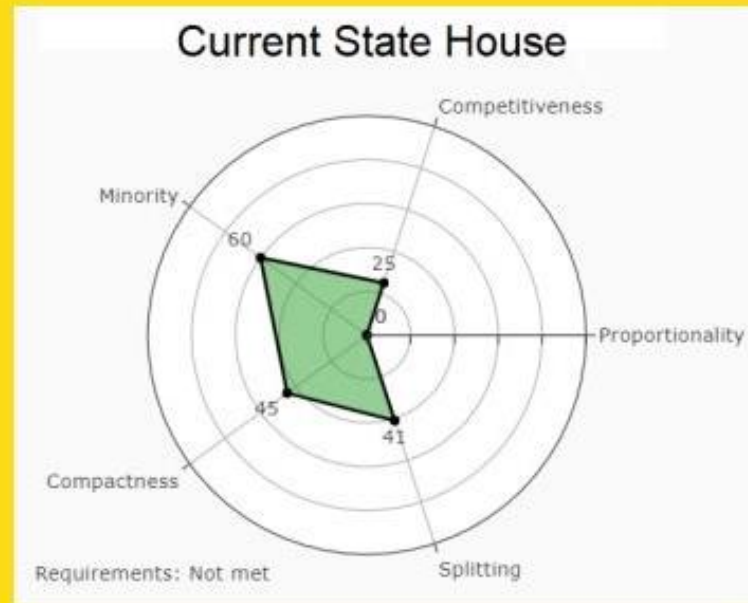


# Competitiveness

- David Thornburgh Testimony  
January 6, 2022

“If you were able to, in fact, squeeze a few more competitive districts into the process so this is at least as good as the current map that would be one suggestion.”

## Is the preliminary House map better?



# Current 151 is “Safe Dem”

Current 151 is one of the most competitive districts in the state.

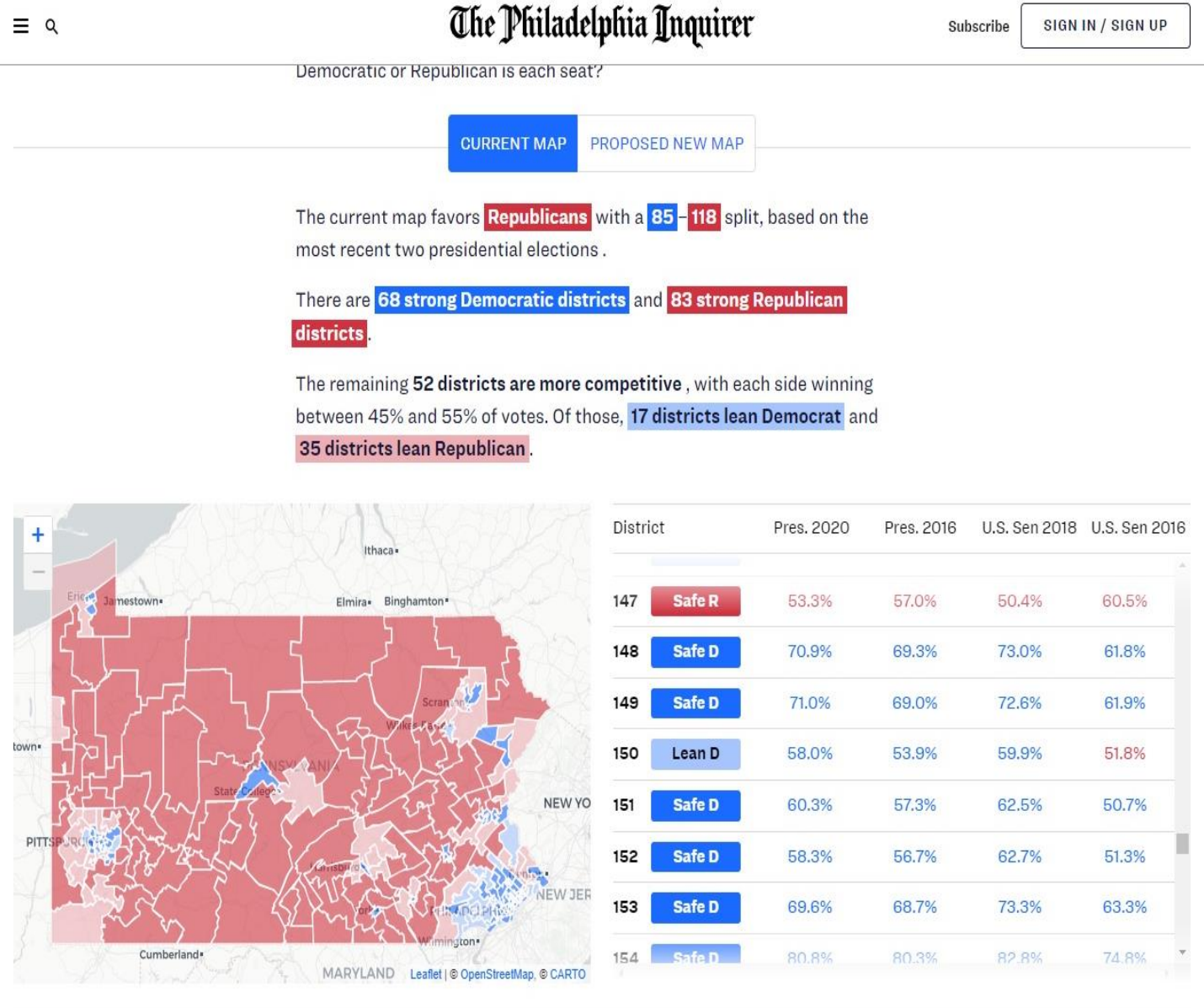
Nobody can claim the district is drawn to favor a Republican

Since 2016, the following people have won the 151<sup>st</sup> Legislative District:

- President Biden
- Governor Wolf (Twice)
- Secretary Clinton
- Senator Casey
- Katie McGinty
- Congresswoman Dean
- State Senator Collett
- Every Democratic candidate running districtwide

The LRC Preliminary House Map reduces the competitiveness

According to Dave’s Redistricting Dr. Kuniholm’s map is as competitive as the current 151



# Dr. Kuniholm's Map Improves All The Constitutional Criteria

## LRC Preliminary 151st Leg. District

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# The Elephant In The Room

I understand politics may enter these discussions, especially with a Commission where 4 of the 5 members are the party leaders from the four legislative caucuses.

Friendly Competitors

“Triple Lindy”

“The road to the majority runs through the 151<sup>st</sup>, my friend.”

I assumed the risk that the redistricting process may eliminate me through Constitutional provisions or otherwise.

The people of Horsham did not.

They should not be collateral damage in a political effort to eliminate me.

Let’s Play Basketball



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