

Speak Up for Fair Legislative District Maps

Legislative maps have the greatest impact on our representation. Gerrymandered maps that favor Republicans keep them in charge. New maps, which will be in effect for the next 10 years, are being drawn now. If we want to put an end to gerrymandering, then we must speak up and tell the Redistricting Commission to draw maps that are fair.

We only have until January 14, to tell the Redistricting Commission Chairperson Mark Nordenberg that we want the maps to be fair. You can write to him or attend public hearings next week. (Hearing dates:

<https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/commission/article/1087>.)

Whether writing or speaking at a public hearing, please consider including one of two of these important points in your communication:

- Maintain each district's population;
- Not impact any other Senate district;
- Create the most competitive Senate district in the state;
- Maintain compactness of the districts;
- Create a district that best attempts to form a "community of interest" of suburban and urban communities within an otherwise largely rural county;
- Enhance the influence of minority voters.

Put your input into your own words and focus on only one or two of the points above. Mention other personal considerations that you may have. The goal is to have the commission reconsider the proposed senate map in Lancaster County and create a district that is at least competitive. It makes sense that Lancaster City, Lancaster Township, Manheim Township, and Hempfield be in single district, along with other highly-populated suburban areas surrounding the city.

Suggested comments could include personal considerations illustrating the absurdity in the current senate districts that ignore the disparity in cultures within the county, such as: *"I've lived in Manheim (or Hempfield or Mountville) Twp for xx years, and I've never even set foot in (or ever heard of, or know where) Penn Twp or West Earl is,"* or *"I live in Millersville (or the city or Lancaster Twp), shop in Manheim Twp, my doctor is in East Hempfield, and I never heard of Colerain,"* or *"I live in Millersville (or the city or Lancaster Twp), and I have a friend in Salisbury. It's like a whole different world – no stores or industry, just farms as far as the eye can see. Their community is nothing like mine."*

Written testimony can be submitted in the Comments section at www.redistricting.state.pa.us. **This needs to be completed by January 14th, 2022.** If you need any assistance, please email Bruce Beardsley at brucebeardsley@hotmail.com or call (717-808-2116).