

LANCASTER COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



Magisterial District
Reestablishment Proposal
For The
Second Judicial District

Public Announcement of Proposal Reestablishing Magisterial Districts
In Lancaster County (2nd Judicial District)

The Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas has publicly posted its proposal for the reestablishment of the magisterial districts within Lancaster County in accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is required to review the number and boundaries of the magisterial districts within each judicial district in each year following the official reporting of the federal decennial census.

The president judge of each judicial district has the obligation to submit a proposal to the Supreme Court for the reestablishment of the magisterial districts within his/her judicial district. The overall goal of reestablishment is to equalize caseload and judicial workload among the magisterial districts to the extent that it's feasible, and to otherwise ensure the effective administration of justice throughout the judicial district while concurrently maintaining local community access to magisterial district courts throughout the County of Lancaster.

The proposal will remain posted on the website of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas (www.co.lancaster.pa.us/courts/) through February 16, 2022.

Public Notice of Proposal Reestablishing Magisterial Districts
In Lancaster County (2nd Judicial District)

Notice is given that a proposal reestablishing the magisterial districts within Lancaster County will be submitted by President Judge David L. Ashworth of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as required by law. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is required to review the number and boundaries of the magisterial districts within each judicial district in each year following the official reporting of the federal decennial census. The president judge of each judicial district has the obligation to submit a proposal to the Supreme Court for the reestablishment of the magisterial districts within his/her judicial district. The overall goal of reestablishment is to equalize caseload and judicial workload among the magisterial districts to the extent that it is feasible, and to otherwise ensure the effective administration of justice throughout the judicial district while concurrently maintaining local community access to magisterial district courts throughout the County of Lancaster.

Accordingly, the redistricting proposal for Lancaster County includes changes to the boundaries Magisterial District Courts 02-1-01 and 02-2-02 effective January 1, 2024. All other magisterial districts within the judicial district would remain unchanged. The primary reason for making these changes is to cooperate with the Supreme Court's goal to more equitably distribute the caseload and judicial workload among the remaining districts.

The proposal submitted to the Supreme Court reestablishes the magisterial districts within Lancaster County (2nd Judicial District) as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Magisterial District 02-1-01: | City of Lancaster, Ward 4 to be transferred to
Magisterial District 02-2-02
No Changes to Ward 8 |
| Magisterial District 02-1-02: | Township of Manheim
No Changes |
| Magisterial District 02-1-03: | Boroughs of Columbia and Mountville
Township of West Hempfield
No Changes |
| Magisterial District 02-2-01: | City of Lancaster, Wards 3 and 7
No Changes |
| Magisterial District 02-2-02: | City of Lancaster, Ward 4 to be incorporated from 02-
1-01.
No changes to Wards 1, 5 and 9 (Pcts. 1, 2, and 3) |
| Magisterial District 02-2-03: | Township of Lancaster
City of Lancaster, Ward 9 (Pcts. 4 and 5)
No Changes |

Magisterial District 02-2-04:	City of Lancaster, Wards 2 and 6 No Changes
Magisterial District 02-2-05:	Borough of East Petersburg Township of East Hempfield No Changes
Magisterial District 02-2-06:	Borough of Millersville Townships of Conestoga and Manor No Changes
Magisterial District 02-2-07:	Boroughs of Akron and Ephrata Townships of Clay and Ephrata No Changes
Magisterial District 02-2-08:	Borough of Lititz Townships of Elizabeth, Warwick and Penn No Changes
Magisterial District 02-3-01:	Boroughs of Marietta and Mount Joy Townships of East Donegal and Rapho No changes
Magisterial District 02-3-02:	Townships of East Lampeter and Upper Leacock No Changes
Magisterial District 02-3-03:	Borough of Strasburg Townships of Pequea, Strasburg, and West Lampeter No Changes
Magisterial District 02-3-04:	Borough of Quarryville Townships of Colerain, Drumore, East Drumore, Eden, Fulton, Little Britain, Martic, and Providence No Changes
Magisterial District 02-3-05:	Borough of Christiana Townships of Bart, Caernarvon, Leacock, Paradise, Sadsbury, and Salisbury No Changes
Magisterial District 02-3-06:	Boroughs of New Holland and Terre Hill Townships of Brecknock, Earl, East and West Earl No Changes

Magisterial District 02-3-07: Boroughs of Adamstown and Denver
 Townships of East Cocalico and West Cocalico
 No Changes

Magisterial District 02-3-09: Borough of Elizabethtown
 Townships of Mount Joy, West Donegal and Conoy
 No Changes

Public comment on the reestablishment proposal is invited, and must be submitted in writing no later than February 16, 2022, to:

Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke Street
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

or can be sent as an email attachment to:
courtadmin@co.lancaster.pa.us

Comments communicated orally cannot be accepted.

Central Courts

In the continuing effort preserve the resources of the magisterial district courts and streamline the processing of DUI cases, the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County established the Lancaster County DUI Central Court. On average, there are 1,700 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases filed in Lancaster County each year. These cases account for roughly 23% of the criminal case load of the magisterial district courts. All cases involving Driving Under the Influence (DUI) are being transferred to DUI Central Court and hearings are conducted every other Thursday in the Lancaster County Courthouse, 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster PA.

Additionally, in the ongoing interest of efficient and fair administration of justice, in 2017 the Lancaster County Domestic Violence Central Court was established to accomplish the following goals:

- To provide for the efficient and consistent prosecution of domestic violence offenses to protect the safety of domestic violence victims, their families, co-workers, and the community at large;
- To hold domestic violence offenders accountable for their crimes, while offering an opportunity to address underlying behavioral issues, recognizing that early therapeutic intervention can help reduce recidivist violent behavior; and
- To streamline the civil and criminal justice process for related criminal and Protection From Abuse actions, while providing due process to all parties.

Cases identified as ‘Domestic Violence Cases’ by the affiant at the time of filing are scheduled for a Preliminary Hearing in Domestic Violence Central Court and conducted every other Thursday in the Lancaster County Courthouse, 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster PA. Approximately 600 cases are assigned to Domestic Violence Central Court each year.

Judicial District Summary Worksheet – Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheet in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Judicial District Number:	2	County:	Lancaster	Class of County:	2A
<p>1. List the existing magisterial districts in your judicial district (##-#-##):</p> <p>2-1-01, 2-1-02, 2-1-03, 2-2-01, 2-2-02, 2-2-03, 2-2-04, 2-2-05, 2-2-06, 2-2-07, 2-2-08, 2-3-01, 2-3-02, 2-3-03, 2-3-04, 2-3-05, 2-3-06, 2-3-07, 2-3-09</p>					
Caseload Analysis					
2. Average total caseloads:		<i>Judicial District</i>		<i>Class of County</i>	
		5,281		5,525	
3. Compare the difference between the caseload average of your judicial district to the class of county.		<i># of Cases</i>		<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>	
		-244		4th out of 5	
4. Is your judicial district caseload average at the lower end of the caseload range when compared to the other judicial districts in your class of county?				No	
Proposed Actions					
5. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?					Yes
<p style="margin-left: 20px;">If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment (no changes).</p> <p>02-1-02, 02-1-03, 02-2-01, 02-2-03, 02-2-04, 02-2-05, 02-2-06, 02-2-07, 02-2-08, 02-3-01, 02-3-02, 02-3-03, 02-3-04, 02-3-05, 02-3-06, 02-3-07, 02-3-09</p>					
6. Are any magisterial district proposed for realignment?					Yes
<p style="margin-left: 20px;">If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for realignment (changes).</p> <p>02-1-01, 02-2-02</p>					
7. Are any magisterial districts proposed for elimination?					No
<p style="margin-left: 20px;">If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for elimination.</p>					

Additional Workload Factors

8. Do you have a night court operating within the judicial district?	Yes
9. Do you have a central court within your judicial district?	Yes
10. Do you have any special programs that will entail effort by the MDJs such as truancy programs or drug, DUI, veteran, or mental health diversion programs? If YES , briefly explain the types of programs. Please see next page.	Yes

Final Checklist

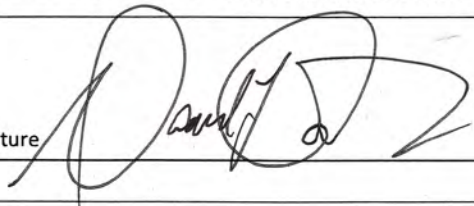
11. Was a request for public comment posted?	Yes
12. Method of posting - electronic, physical copy, or both?	Electronic
13. Were media outlets notified?	Yes
14. Were public comments received?	Yes
15. Did you include a copy of the posting and public comments in your submission?	Yes
16. Did you complete summary worksheets for all magisterial districts?	Yes
17. Did you include your petition and all supporting documentation, if applicable?	Yes
18. Did you confer with the MDJs in your county?	Yes

19. Additional Remarks

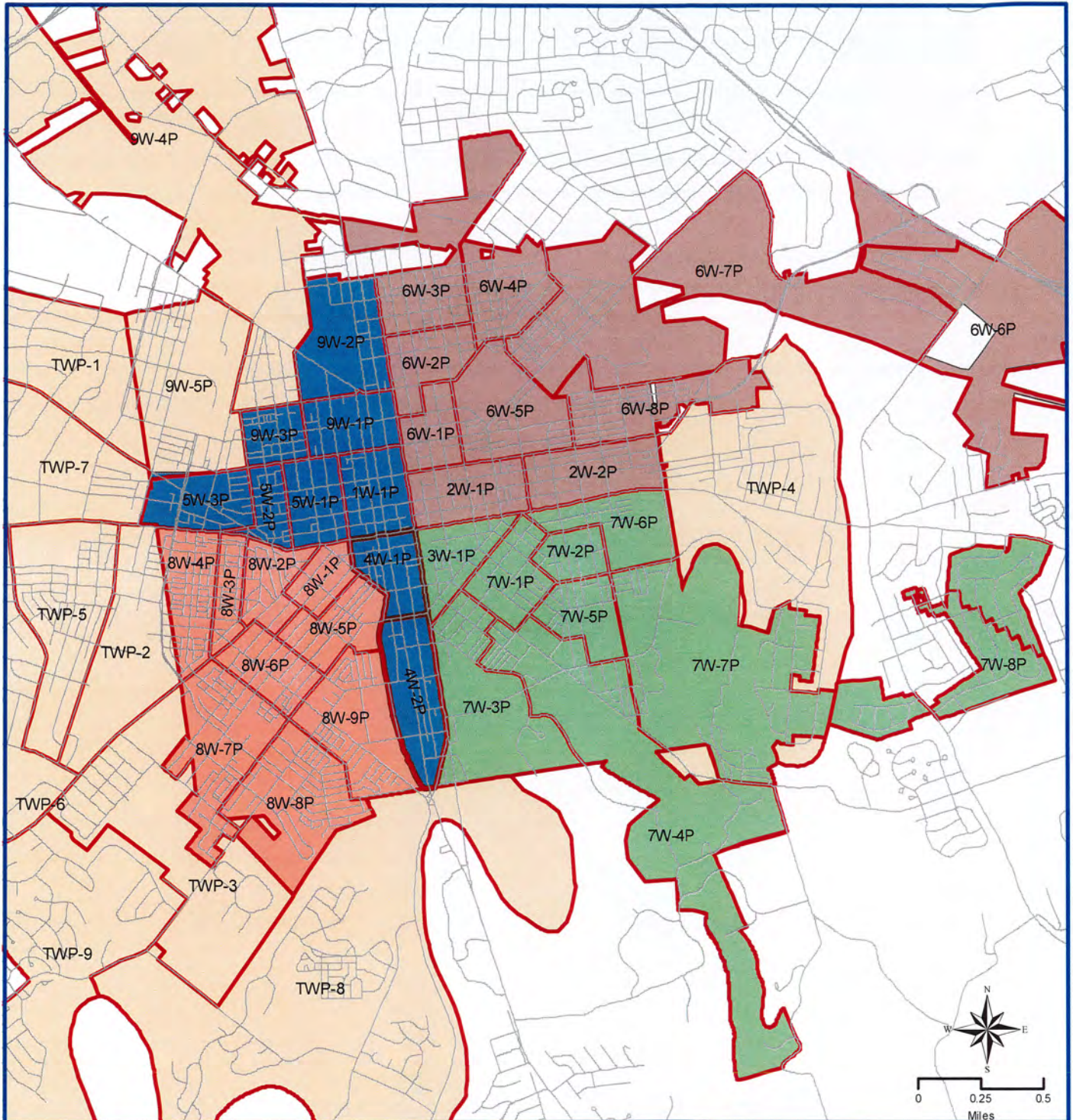
Verification of Submission

20. Date submitted to AOPC: 2/28/2022

21. President Judge Name: Honorable David L. Ashworth, President Judge

Signature 

"PROPOSED" City of Lancaster Magisterial and Voting Districts



Source: Lancaster County IT/GIS, Copyright (c) 2021. This map to be used for reference or illustrative purposes only. This map is not a legally recorded plan, survey, or engineering schematic and it is not intended to be used as such.

For complete disclaimer see <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/gisdisclaimer>

SLG 1/22



Legend

Roads	Magistrate Districts	2-02
Voting Districts	1-01	2-03
401	2-01	2-04
402		

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-1-01	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Realign		2. Effective date: 1/1/2024		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	9,300	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		4019	1st	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		3775	68 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district is at the higher end of the caseload range.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		67,109	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		26,542	65 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This district has a workload above the desired range and we are proposing realignment. Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Adam J. Witkonis

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

1/2/28

Term Expiration Date

12/31/48

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

641 Union Street, Lancaster PA 17603

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Lancaster City PD

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

US Route 222, Route 999, Route 462

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Lancaster City (Wards 4 & 8)

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

No

Lancaster City (Ward 8)

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-1-01

This district is one of the four core magisterial districts that comprise the City of Lancaster and consists of the 4th and 8th Wards. District 02-1-01 has the highest workload in the county at 67,109 which is 65% above the average district court workload in the county. Although the workload of this district court has diminished by 12% since the last redistricting in 2012, this district has the highest criminal workload, the highest non-traffic workload, the highest landlord-tenant workload, and the highest traffic workload. Based on the aforesaid, realignment of this district is being proposed to create improved case equity amongst the magisterial district courts.

Currently, the district boundary lines as currently drawn within City of Lancaster are very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration within the City of Lancaster so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police to determine which district has jurisdiction over a particular address without the assistance of a detailed street map. It is also noted that the current magisterial district judge has exhibited a high degree of competency in effectively processing the existing workload of the district and will continue to do so moving forward.

Contiguous to District 02-1-01, directly to the north, is District 02-2-02 with a workload that is 11% below the average district workload in the county. While workload data is not available at the voting district level, using the population data from the decennial census indicates that 18% of the population of this district reside in the Wards 4-1 and 4-2, while the remaining 82% reside in the Wards 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 and 8-9. It is therefore estimated that approximately 18% of the workload, or 12,269, originates in Wards 4-1 and 4-2. By realigning Wards 4-1 and 4-2 to Magisterial District 02-2-02, the workload of this magisterial district drops by 18% to 54,840. Neither the current magisterial district judge nor the magisterial district court are located within Wards 4-1 or 4-2 and this realignment recommendation minimizes the jurisdictional quandary that could ensue from more drastic realignment proposal.

Finally, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options for providing judicial workload relief for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place within 6 months of the redistricting process being completed. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud. Contained within District 02-1-01 is the Lancaster County Assistance Office and all criminal cases under Title 62, regardless of where the defendant resides, are filed by the Pennsylvania State Treasury Office in Magisterial District Court 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another Magisterial District Court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another

centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse, located within 2 miles of Magisterial District Court 02-1-01, using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

It is therefore proposed that District 02-1-01 be realigned by having Wards 4-1 and 4-2 incorporated into District 02-2-02 effective the beginning of the next election cycle for District 02-2-02 on January 1, 2024.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-1-02	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	6,894	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		1613	4th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		1369	25 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This magisterial district is at the higher end of the caseload range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		51,190	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		10,623	26 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

David P. Miller

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/37

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

2205 Oregon Pike, Lancaster PA 17601

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Manheim Township Police Department

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 272, US Route 30, Route 283, Route 722, Route 23, Route 501, Route 72

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Manheim Township

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-1-02

According to statistics provided by AOPC, this district court has a workload of 51,190, which is roughly 26% higher than the average workload of the Lancaster County District Courts. Since this district consists mainly of one township served by one municipality, many efficiencies are realized by the municipality, the magisterial district court and the community they serve. The district boundary lines as currently drawn are very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police. The current magisterial district judge has exhibited a high degree of competency in effectively processing the existing workload of the district and is opposed to any realignment of this district.

Realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-1-03	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	6,142	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		861	6th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		617	11 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within the desired range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		44,586	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		4,019	10 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district court is within the desired range.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Miles K. Bixler

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

1/2/28

Term Expiration Date

12/31/33

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

341 Chestnut Street, Columbia PA 17512

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

West Hempfield Township, Mountville Borough, Columbia Borough

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

US Route 30, Route 441, Route 462

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Columbia Boro
Mountville Boro
West Hempfield Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-01	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	7,092	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		1811	3rd out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		1567	28 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district is at the higher end of the caseload range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		48,421	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		7,854	19 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Jodie E. Richardson

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/46

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

123 Locust Street, Lancaster PA 17601

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Lancaster City PD

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

US Route 222, Route 462, Route 272

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Lancaster City (Wards 3 & 7)

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-01

This district is one of the four core magisterial districts that comprise the City of Lancaster and has a workload of 48,421 which is the 4th highest in the county, 19% above the county average but 4% lower than the previous redistricting analysis that was completed in 2012. Because of these high numbers, the shifting of some of the workload of this district to another district would be preferable if feasible to do so. However, District 02-2-04 which lies to the north, and District 02-1-01 which lies to the west, both already have significant workloads, and so the transference of a portion of District 02-2-01 to either of these magisterial districts would not achieve any significant improvement to overall workload equity within the county.

Additionally, the district boundary lines as currently drawn within City of Lancaster are very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration within the City of Lancaster so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police to determine which district has jurisdiction over a particular address without the assistance of a detailed street map. The current magisterial district judge of this district is in her first term and has exhibited a high degree of competency in effectively processing the existing workload of the district and the recommendation to reestablish this district minimizes the jurisdictional quandary that could ensue from a more drastic realignment proposal.

Finally, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options for providing judicial workload relief for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023.

For these reasons, and the downward trend in the workload of the magisterial district courts within the City of Lancaster, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-02	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Realign		2. Effective date: 1/1/2024		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	6,249	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		968	5th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		724	13 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within an acceptable range.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		36,060	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-4,507	-11 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This district is within the desired range however realignment is proposed. Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Bruce A. Roth

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/36

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

150 North Queen Street, Lancaster PA 17603

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Lancaster City PD

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

US Route 222, Route 23, Route 272, Route 462

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Lancaster City (Wards 1, 5, 9-1, 9-2, and 9-3)

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

No

Lancaster City (Wards 1, 4, 5, 9-1, 9-2, and 9-3)

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-02

This district is one of the four core magisterial districts that comprise the City of Lancaster and has a workload of 36,060, 11% below the average workload of the Lancaster County Magisterial District Courts. Magisterial District 02-2-02 is comprised of Wards 1-1, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 9-1, 9-2 and 9-3 within the City of Lancaster and has experienced a 13% reduction in their workload average since the previous redistricting analysis was completed in 2012. Because of the downward trend in the workload associated with this court and that is contiguous to other districts within the City of Lancaster that have a much higher workload, realignment of this district is being proposed to create improved workload equity amongst the magisterial district courts.

Contiguous to the south of District 02-2-02 is District 02-1-01 with highest workload average of all the magisterial district courts in Lancaster. Using the population data from the decennial census indicates that 18% of the population of District 02-1-01 reside in the Wards 4-1 and 4-2, while the remaining 82% reside in the Wards 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8 and 8-9. It is therefore estimated that approximately 18% of the workload for District 02-1-01, or 12,269, originates in Wards 4-1 and 4-2. By realigning Wards 4-1 and 4-2 to Magisterial District 02-2-02, the workload of Magisterial District 02-2-02 would be elevated to levels similar to the other core districts comprising the City of Lancaster. Specifically, the new estimated workload for Magisterial District 02-2-02 would be 48,329.

It is therefore proposed that District 02-2-02 be realigned by having Wards 4-1 and 4-2 incorporated into District 02-2-02 effective the beginning of the next election cycle for District 02-2-02 on January 1, 2024.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-03	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	5,121	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-160	9th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-404	-7 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within an acceptable range.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		45,791	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		5,224	13 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district is within the desired range.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Mary Mongiovi Sponaugle

[REDACTED]

12/31/23

12/31/43

Magisterial District Judge Name

Birthdate

Term Expiration Date

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

1351 Elm Avenue, Lancaster PA 17603

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Coverage by Manheim Township P.D. by Municipal Agreement, Lancaster City Police Dept

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 462, Route 23, Route 999

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Lancaster City (Wards 9-4 & 9-5)

Lancaster Township

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?

If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-04	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	8,086	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		2805	2nd out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		2561	46 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This magisterial district is at the higher end of the caseload range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		51,188	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		10,621	26 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Andrew T. Lefever

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

1/4/26

Term Expiration Date

12/31/62

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

796A New Holland Ave, Lancaster PA 17602

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Lancaster City PD

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 23, Route 272, Route 462, US Route 222

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Lancaster City (Wards 2 & 6)

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-04

This district is one of the four core magisterial districts that comprise the City of Lancaster and has a workload of 51,188 which is the 3rd highest in the county, 26% above the county average but 25% lower than the previous redistricting analysis that was completed in 2012. Because of these high numbers, the shifting of some of the workload of this district to another district would be preferable if feasible to do so. However, District 02-2-01 which lies to the south, and District 02-2-02 which is being recommended for realignment with 02-1-01 and lies to the west, both already have, or are expected to have, significant workloads so the transference of a portion of District 02-2-04 to either of these magisterial districts would not achieve any significant improvement to overall workload equity within the county.

Additionally, the district boundary lines as currently drawn within the City of Lancaster are very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration within the City of Lancaster so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police to determine which district has jurisdiction over a particular address without the assistance of a detailed street map. The current magisterial district judge of this district is in his first term and has exhibited a high degree of competency in effectively processing the existing workload of the district and the recommendation to reestablish this district minimizes the jurisdictional quandary that could ensue from a more drastic realignment proposal.

Finally, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by local court order. This was done shortly after the realignment in 2012 by sending traffic case filed by the Lancaster Parking Authority to District 02-3-03 and is responsible for a portion, but not all, of the significant workload reduction associated with District 02-2-04. As with the other 3 districts that comprise the four core districts in the City of Lancaster, the available options for providing judicial workload relief for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023.

For these reasons, and the apparent downward trend in the workload of the magisterial district courts within the City of Lancaster, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-05	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	4,350	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-931	13th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-1175	-21 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		35,557	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-5,010	-12 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district is within the desired range. Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Brian E. Chudzik

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/37

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

2168 Embassy Drive, Lancaster PA 17603

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

East Hempfield Township, Northern Regional

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

US Route 30, Route 462, Route 722, Route 283, Route 23, Route 230, Route 72

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

East Petersburg Borough, East Hempfield Township

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-05

This district has a caseload of 4350 and ranks 13th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume. While the caseload is below the county average, it's not sufficiently disparate to assign a high priority by adding to the existing workload and caseload of this district through realignment. The workload for this district is within desired range.

Additionally, this district consists mainly of one township served by one municipality therefore many efficiencies are realized by the municipality, the magisterial district court and the community they serve. The district boundary lines as currently drawn are very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

District 02-1-02 borders District 02-2-05 to the east but is a single municipality so realignment with that district is not recommended. Similarly, District 02-1-03 lies to the west of District 02-2-05 but realignment with District 02-1-03 must be rejected to avoid a greater workload disparity than what currently exists. District 02-2-05 also cannot absorb Manor Township from District 02-2-06 to the south because Manor Township contains the residence of the magisterial district judge for that district.

Accordingly, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-06	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	4,481	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		-800	12th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-1044	-19 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		35,373	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-5,194	-13 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district is within the desired range.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Joshua R. Keller

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/53

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

841 Stehman Road, Millersville, PA 17551

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Millersville Borough, Manor Township, PSP, Millersville University

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 999, Route 741, Route 324, Route 462, Route 441

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Conestoga Twp
Manor Twp
Millersville Boro

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-06

This district has a caseload of 4481 and ranks 12th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume. While the caseload is below the county average, it's not sufficiently disparate to assign a high priority by adding to the existing workload and caseload of this district through realignment. The workload for this district is within desired range.

The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Accordingly, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-07	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	4,156	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-1125	14th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-1369	-25 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		32,628	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-7,939	-20 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Tony S. Russell

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/27

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

609 East Main Street, Ephrata PA 17522

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Ephrata Boro, Akron Boro, Ephrata Township, Northern Lancaster Regional

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Interstate 76, Route 322, Route 272

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Akron Boro
Clay Twp
Ephrata Boro
Ephrata Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-2-07

This district has a caseload of 4156 and ranks 14th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 20% below the average district court workload in the county.

The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

To the west of District 02-2-07 is District 02-2-08, which was realigned in 2012, to the east is District 02-2-07 and to the south is District 02-3-06. These contiguous districts are too large to be incorporated into District 02-2-07 in their entirety and to realign a portion of those districts into District 02-2-07 would be to their detriment given most are districts that have similarly low caseload and workload volumes.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Accordingly, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-2-08	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	4,972	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		-309	10th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-553	-10 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within an acceptable range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		36,705	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-3,862	-10 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district is within the desired range.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Edward A. Tobin

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/31

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

690 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz PA 17543

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Lititz Boro, West Earl Township, Northern Lancaster Regional

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Interstate 76, Route 501, Route 772

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Elizabeth Twp
Lititz Boro
Penn Township
Warwick Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-01	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	3,690	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		-1591	16th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-1835	-33 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		37,308	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-3,259	-8 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			

Magisterial District Information					
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p>VACANT</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Birthdate</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Term Expiration Date</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p></p> <p><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>VACANT</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i></p>	<p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Birthdate</i></p>	<p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Term Expiration Date</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>
<p>VACANT</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i></p>	<p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Birthdate</i></p>	<p>12/31/23</p> <p><i>Term Expiration Date</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>		
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">424 South Angle Street, Mount Joy PA 17552</p>					
<p>12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?</p>	<p>Yes</p>				
<p>13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?</p>	<p>Yes</p>				
<p>14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?</p>	<p>Yes</p>				
<p>15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES, please summarize your response below.</p>	<p>No/Not Sure</p>				
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mount Joy Borough, Susquehanna Regional</p>					
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Route 230, Route 743, Route 441, Route 23</p>					
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"> East Donegal Twp Manheim Boro Marietta Boro Mount Joy Boro Rapho Township </p>					
<p>19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).</p>	<p>Yes</p>				
20. Additional Comments:					
<p>Please see next page.</p>					

Magisterial District 02-3-01

This district has a caseload of 3690 which ranks 16th out of 19 magisterial districts within the county and is 33% below the county average. However, given the large volume of criminal cases filed in this district and the complex nature of those filings, the workload associated with this district is 38,308 and falls within the desired range as outlined in the reestablishment guidelines.

Accordingly, realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-02	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	5,443	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		162	7th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-82	-1 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within an acceptable range.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		44,108	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		3,541	9 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The workload of this magisterial district is within the desired range.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

B. Denise Commins

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/31

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

15 Geist Road, Lancaster PA 17601

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

East Lampeter Twp, Pennsylvania State Police

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 23, US Route 30, Route 772, Route 340, Route 896

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

East Lampeter Twp
Upper Leacock Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-03	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	4,061	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-1220	15th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-1464	-26 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		26,119	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-14,448	-36 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

William E. Benner, Jr.
Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23
Term Expiration Date

12/31/37
Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

324 Beaver Valley Pike, Willow Street PA 17584

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

West Lampeter Township, Strasburg Township, Strasburg Boro, PSP

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 272, Route 896, Route 741, Route 324, US Route 222

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Pequea Twp
Strasburg Boro
Strasburg Twp
West Lampeter Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-03

This district has a caseload of 4061 and ranks 15th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 36% below the average district court workload in the county.

This district is comprised of the townships of Pequea, West Lampeter and Strasburg as well as Strasburg Borough. Every borough and township within District 02-3-03 experienced a 10 year growth in population with Pequea having the greatest 10 year population growth and West Lampeter Township having the 6th greatest population growth in Lancaster County. Consequently, this district is one of the fastest growing areas in Lancaster County. The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Because of its location and the composition of the adjacent districts, it is not feasible to add on to its jurisdiction through realignment to raise the district's workload and caseload. Conestoga Township, of Magisterial District 02-2-06, is adjacent to the west of this district. However, the district court office for Magisterial District 02-2-06 lies within Conestoga Township, and because of leasehold obligations and because of significant expenses involved in moving the office, it was determined that Conestoga Township should not be realigned into District 02-3-03. Likewise, townships lying to the south and east of this district cannot be absorbed into this district as it would result in even greater workload and caseload disparities below the county average of those other adjacent magisterial districts.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

However, already in place and in each year from 2014 through 2019, approximately 1200 parking cases were diverted from the City of Lancaster to District 02-3-03 helping to somewhat ease the high caseload of the city districts. The court plans to continue this diversion to District 02-3-03 as an on-going means to promote greater workload equalization.

Because of this district's physical proximity to City of Lancaster and because it can absorb additional workload and caseload, this district is in a unique position to be able to draw cases from the City of Lancaster through the diversion of city parking cases or through some other similar mechanism.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, the realignment of this district is not recommended.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-04	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	2,979	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-2302	18th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-2546	-46 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		27,548	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-13,019	-32 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Stuart J. Mylin

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/28

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

25 East State Street, Quarryville PA 17566

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Quarryville Borough, PSP

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 272, Route 896, US Route 222, Route 372

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

- Colerain Twp
- Drumore Twp
- East Drumore Twp
- Eden Twp
- Fulton Twp
- Little Britain Twp
- Martic Twp
- Providence Twp
- Quarryville Borough

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-04

This district has a caseload of 2979 and ranks 18th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 32% below the average district court workload in the county. Also, this district is the largest in Lancaster County in terms of geographic area. To add one of the municipalities from an adjacent magisterial district and further expand the size of the district would result in significant travel inconvenience for much of the public and the police and would further increase the workload disparity that already exists in the adjacent districts. The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

This district is bordered on the east and north by two magisterial districts that are already significantly below the average county caseload/workload, and which both have lower workloads than District 02-3-04. It was therefore determined that no municipalities from those districts should be transferred to this district. In addition, Conestoga Township, which lies to the northwest of this district, cannot be absorbed to raise the overall caseload and judicial workload because it contains the district justice office for Magisterial District 02-2-06.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Because of these limitations, no realignment changes are recommended for this district.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-05	County:	Lancaster
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>
	3,474	5,281	5,525
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
		-1807	17th out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-2051	-37 %
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>
		22,733	40,567
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-17,834	-44 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Raymond S. Sheller

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

1/2/28

Term Expiration Date

12/31/59

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

3 Heritage Drive, Suite 100, Gordonville, PA 17529

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Christiana Borough PD, PSP

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Interstate 76, Route 340, US Route 30, Route 897

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

- Bart Twp
- Caernarvon Twp
- Christiana Boro
- Leacock Twp
- Paradise Twp
- Sadsbury Twp
- Salisbury Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-05

This district has a caseload of 3474 and ranks 17th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 44% below the average district court workload in the county. Also, this district is one of the largest in Lancaster County in terms of geographic area. To add one of the municipalities from an adjacent magisterial district and further expand the size of the district would result in significant travel inconvenience for much of the public and the police and would further increase the workload disparity that already exists in the adjacent districts. Additionally, the magisterial district judge assigned to 02-3-05 was newly re-elected in 2022 and a new magisterial district court facility is currently being constructed in Leacock Township that will serve this district for at least the next 10 years.

This magisterial district was realigned in 2012 and the district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Because of these limitations, no realignment changes are recommended for this district.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-06	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	5,359	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		78	8th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-166	-3 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This magisterial district's caseload is within an acceptable range.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		32,051	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-8,516	-21 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Jonathan W. Heisse

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

12/31/23

Term Expiration Date

12/31/45

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

745B East Main Street, New Holland PA 17557

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

New Holland Boro, Earl Twp, East Earl Twp, Pennsylvania State Police

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Interstate 76, Route 897, US Route 322, Route 625, Route 23

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Brecknock Twp
Earl Twp
East Earl Twp
New Holland Boro
Terre Hill Boro
West Earl Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-06

This district has a caseload of 5359 and ranks 8th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 21% below the average district court workload in the county. It should be noted that while a workload of 21% causes this district to fall outside of the desired range, the caseload of this district is only 3% less than the average district court caseload in the county.

This district is bordered on the north and south by two magisterial districts that are already significantly below the average county caseload/workload. To add one of the municipalities from an adjacent magisterial district and further expand the size of the district would result in significant travel inconvenience for much of the public and the police, and would further increase the workload disparity that already exists in the adjacent districts. Additionally, Upper Leacock Township and Ephrata Township contain the magisterial district court facilities for Districts 02-3-02 and 02-2-07, respectively, and cannot be realigned. The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be further studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Because of these limitations, no realignment changes are recommended for this district.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-07	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	4,592	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-689	11th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-933	-17 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		25,126	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-15,441	-38 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Clark A. Bearinger

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████
Birthdate

1/2/28

Term Expiration Date

12/31/34

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

2 Cardinal Drive, Stevens PA 17578

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

East Cocalico Twp, PSP

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Interstate 76, Route 897, US Route 222, Route 272

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Adamstown Boro
Denver Boro
East Cocalico Twp
West Cocalico Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-07

This district has a caseload of 4592 and ranks 11th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 38% below the average district court workload in the county. District 02-3-07 borders only two other magisterial districts in the county, District 02-3-06 and District 02-2-07. These contiguous districts are too large to be incorporated into District 02-3-07 in their entirety and to realign a portion of those districts into District 02-3-07 would be to their detriment given they have similarly low caseload and workload volumes and would further increase the workload disparity that already exists in the adjacent districts.

The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. Much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. These cases could be reassigned to another magisterial district court(s) with a much lower workload and could be heard in another centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Because of these limitations, no realignment changes are recommended for this district.

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number:	02-3-09	County:	Lancaster	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:		
Caseload Analysis				
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	<i>Class of County</i>	
	2,747	5,281	5,525	
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		-2534	19th	out of 19
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i># of Cases</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-2778	-50 %	
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				
Workload Analysis				
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Magisterial District</i>	<i>Judicial District</i>	
		28,511	40,567	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>	
		-12,056	-30 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the petition</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Please see additional comments.</p>				

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Randall L. Miller

Magisterial District Judge Name

██████████

Birthdate

1/4/26

Term Expiration Date

12/31/40

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

920 South Spruce Street, Elizabethtown PA 17022

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Elizabethtown Borough, Northwest Regional

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Route 230, Route 283, Route 743

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Conoy Twp
 Elizabethtown Boro
 Mount Joy Twp
 West Donegal Twp

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?

If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:

Please see next page.

Magisterial District 02-3-09

This district has a caseload of 2747 and ranks 19th out of 19 magisterial district courts in terms of caseload volume and has a workload that is 30% below the average district court workload in the county. District 02-3-09 borders only one other magisterial district in the county, District 02-3-01, which currently falls within the desired range of caseload and workload. District 02-3-01 is too large to be incorporated into District 02-3-09 in its entirety and to realign a portion of this district into District 02-3-09 would cause an unacceptable cascading effect amongst several surrounding districts to maintain some semblance of caseload equity. Additionally, the magisterial district judge assigned to 02-3-09 was newly elected in 2020 and a new magisterial district court facility is currently being constructed in West Donegal Township that will serve this district for at least the next 10 years.

The district boundary lines as currently drawn are well established, very clear and convenient for the public and police, and there is a strong preference to maintain that clarity as much as is reasonably possible. This district was realigned in 2012 and much disruption and confusion could result among the police and the public if the realignment process created a magisterial district configuration so irregular that it becomes a major obstacle for the public and police.

Rather than realign this district, the opportunity exists to divert caseload and its associated judicial workload through the assignment of certain classes of cases to this district from other magisterial districts by local court order. The available options to obtain workload equity for this district will be studied to determine the most feasible diversionary program, with implementation to take place after the redistricting process has been completed but no later than the end of 2023. One such example pertains to criminal cases that fall under Title 62 commonly known as Welfare Fraud which are currently filed within District 02-1-01. It is believed that this office, above all others, would be the most suitable district to accept these filings given its proximity to the Pennsylvania State Treasury Office located in Harrisburg. These cases could be heard in a centrally located venue such as the Lancaster County Courthouse by the magisterial district judge associated with this court or using a rotation of magisterial district judges from districts with lower workloads.

Because of these limitations, no realignment changes are recommended for this district.

Feb 11, 2022

Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke St
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

Mr. Glass,

This letter is to inform you that I **do not** support the plan of Judge David Ashworth to have county judges hear and try Lancaster city cases. I live in Lancaster city and I know that county judges have no connection to the city or what is going on here. They should remain in the places they were elected to represent. Furthermore, if there needs to be more judges in Lancaster City, then the people who live in the city should vote on persons from their community to serve as new district judges.

Thank you,

Eliza Booth
Lancaster, PA

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Adriel Rose <adriel.eliz.rose@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:46 AM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on the Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Glass,

I am writing to you today to express my opinion on Judge Ashworth's proposal.

All of Lancaster County deserves the right to vote on our judges. Judge Ashworth's proposal is far from equitable for all citizens of this county.

Another city court must be created in order to lower the workload of overburdened courts and to abide by the Supreme Court standard. This will also give residents the chance to have a democratically elected judge who actually represents us.

Please do not approve Judge Ashworth's proposal and come up with an option that is equitable and just for all Lancaster County residents!

Thank you,

Adriel Rose

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Alexander King <aking@koryaks.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:53 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changes to Magisterial Districts

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to object to the current plan to change the MDJ districts and urge you to craft a better proposal, which better distributes the workload more evenly across all districts in the county.

thank you,
Alexander D. King

[REDACTED]

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Amanda Bakay <amandabakay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:35 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Judge Ashworth's proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Glass,

I have reviewed the proposal put forth by Judge Ashworth to move precincts 4-1 and 4-2 in the City of Lancaster into district 02-2-02 to address the issue of overloaded courts and also to assign certain cases to other District Justices with lower caseloads. I am strongly opposed to this plan for several reasons.

First, moving two precincts into another court that is already above average caseload does not solve the issue. District 02-1-01 (where I reside) is so far above average that this move would impact that very little. Second, the precincts proposed to move are demographically very different than the other areas served by 02-2-02. Third, assigning cases to other judges with lighter caseloads removes the ability of all Lancaster County residents to be heard by a judge that they have the ability to elect.

A more balanced solution that would actually address caseloads, would be to add a fifth district within the City of Lancaster, relieving strain on three over-burdened courts at once. Lower-volume courts can be redistributed as judges retire. This solution ensures that Lancaster County residents continue to get to elect the judges that serve them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Bakay



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Amanda Bakay

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Amy Sechrist <amy.sechrist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:01 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback- MD Reestablishment Proposal

Dear Mr. Glass,

I am in favor of the creation of a new magisterial district for Lancaster City. I believe cases should be heard in the district where they occurred, by an MDJ who was democratically elected by the citizens in that area.

Representation matters, and Judge Ashworth's proposal is not an equitable solution.

Sincerely,

Amy E. Sechrist
Manor Township, PA

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: B. David Smith <bdavidsmith2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:03 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments

Dear Mr. Glass,

I am a member of the NAACP and have comments below regarding the Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposals. Thank you.

B. David Smith

- The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.
- It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.
- The NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration.

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Barbara Stengel <barbara.stengel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:08 AM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magistrate Court Proposal is not adequate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I write to insist that the Proposal for making magistrate court workload equitable (in light of recent census figures) submitted by President Judge David Ashworth (for whom I generally have a great deal of respect) simply does not go far enough. We have an opportunity to make this equitable just once every ten years and this is it. In some cases, disparities are dramatic and trends suggest that this will continue over the next ten years. Please take advantage of the opportunity you have to address equity and representation with respect to magistrate work loads.

It is difficult to look at the numbers as noted in the proposal and not realize that the proposal is grossly inadequate. I can only wonder about the inertia (and political pressure?) that has prevented Judge Ashworth and the Court Administrator from doing the job they are charged to do. Please do your job and equalize workloads.

Best regards,

Barbara Stengel
barbara.stengel@gmail.com



QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Ben Brown <ben@redroseinsurance.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:26 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SoWe

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am a concerned resident of Southwest Lancaster City (St Joseph St.). The MDJ Redistricting Proposal does not allow my neighbors and the residents of our district to access the justice system equitably and equally. We want to elect our own justices and urge the local government to engage and listen to the community.

Sincerely,
Ben Brown

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Candace Roper <roperc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:22 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Input on Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District

Dear Mr. Glass,

Thank you for relaying my concerns about proposed changes to the magistrate courts in Lancaster and for acknowledging this email.

This proposed change has only come to my attention today, on the last day for public comment. As a former two-term elected official and fairly well-informed citizen, I have to wonder if and how this issue and the call for public comment was publicized, as I have not found anyone who is aware of it. That is a big problem. Here are my other concerns:

- The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. Resources should be given to those areas of Lancaster City and county with larger populations and heavy work loads.
- I have to question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.

Thank you,

Candace Roper




Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas

Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District

Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke St
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480
courtadmin@co.lancaster.pa.us

We the Spanish American Civic Association:

- Opposition of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District.
- Have major concerns regarding how the public was made aware of this proposal and the public's opportunity to discuss this matter in-depth with the President Judge.
- Do not believe, based on the reported drastic differences in District Court caseloads, that by simply shifting the 4th ward from District 02-1-01 to District 02-2-02 in no means addresses the Supreme Court's goal in creating a more equitable distribution in caseload between the District Courts within the entire county.
- Oppose any type of Central Court or Administrative Order that would bring District Judges with lower caseloads into the city to hear cases from District Courts with higher caseloads.
- Believe that a new District Court is needed within the city of Lancaster with a presiding District Judge elected by the residents within that particular ward/precinct. Place elected District Judges where Judges are needed, where higher volumes of caseloads exist.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos E Graupera, CEO

Jose R Lopez, President

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Chet Stewart <chetstewart63@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:28 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mdj

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am strongly recommending that the voters in the City of Lancaster PA choose the district justices in their districts. It is the democratic way that gives the residents of the district a voice in who is selected. Thank you , Chester Stewart, Jr

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Dennis Bakay <dennisbakay@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:44 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Judge Ashworth's proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Russell Glass,

This message is submitted as feedback to the proposal of Judge Ashworth to address caseloads of District Justices.

I oppose Judge Ashworth's proposal to move two precincts from Judge Witkonis's district to Judge Roth's. This doesn't address the issue of caseloads as it will add more cases to Roth's district putting it above the threshold, while Witkonis's district will still be above the threshold. The easy solution is to add a fifth district in the city so that all districts are less burdened by case loads. Added to that, the citizens of Lancaster must have the right to choose their judges and not have that decided by the President Judge.

Sincerely,

Dennis

Sent by my iPhone

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Dina Burch <dina.m.burch@rrd.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:56 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District.

Hi,

Please review my concerns below about a proposed change to the magistrate courts in Lancaster City and County.

The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.

We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.

It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

The NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration.

Thank You,

Dina Burch / RR Donnelley

IT Asset Administrator
Indirect Procurement
1905 Old Philadelphia Pike, Suite 101, Lancaster, PA 17602
o 717-293-2430
e dina.m.burch@rrd.com
w rrd.com



QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Elizabeth Rickard <melizabeth.rickard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ashworth Plan -- County Judges Should Not Come into the City of Lancaster to Hear and Try Cases

To: Russell A Glass, Deputy Court Administrator

No, I do not support President Judge David Ashworth's plan for county judges to come into the City to hear cases.

Residents of Lancaster City want and deserve to vote for a new district judge for our community.

Elizabeth Rickard



QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Emily Brown <emilycbrown18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:14 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns about MDJ redistricting proposal

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am a concerned resident of Southwest Lancaster City (St Joseph St.). The MDJ Redistricting Proposal does not allow my neighbors and the residents of our district to access the justice system equitably and equally. We want to elect our own justices and urge the local government to engage and listen to the community.

Sincerely,
Emily Brown

--

Emily Barry Brown



February 16, 2022

County of Lancaster, PA Courts

TO: Russell Glass, Deputy Court Administrator

Though previously unaware of the opportunity for public comment to "Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District," today I was alerted to this possibility to provide input. I ask you to please bring my remarks to decision-makers' attention.

Thank you.

"Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District"

I believe that *considerations of elements in a magisterial hearing are more appropriately informed* if the court is located in the community's own setting and if the Justice hearing cases is personally familiar with that location's context.

It appears obvious that re-allocation of resources across jurisdictions needs to support those locations having dense populations and largest caseloads. I trust reason and fairness will weight the decision to this end.

Thank you,

The Rev. Faith J. D'Urbano

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Gretchel Hathaway <ghathawa@fandm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:39 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial District Reestablishment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Mr. Glass: My responses to the court reestablishment proposal is below:

- The focus of the proposal should focus on resources given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- Why do we need the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Since every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted there seems to be an equity issue here.
- It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. Please urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. This should occur in locations where there is a high need for equity in the court system.

Gretchel L. Hathaway, PhD P'07

Lancaster, PA 17603
(She,Her) ([Why Pronouns](#))





Russell A Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N Duke Street
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480
courtadmin@co.lancaster.pa.us

Re: Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal For the Second Judicial District

Dear Russell A. Glass,

This letter is in reference to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal For The Second Judicial District. This letter is from the SoWe Advisory Board and the SoWe Community Safety Committee who has reviewed the proposal and rejects the proposal to redistrict 02-1-01 and the proposal to reduce caseloads by allowing certain cases to be tried by Magistrate District Judges (MDJ) that are elected and serve outside the district. SoWe believes the proposal does not serve the best interest of the Southwest Lancaster City residents nor does it provide equal access to the justice system. SoWe and city residents deserve MDJ offices with lower caseloads as well as the right to be tried by their elected MDJ for any case that falls within the purview of the MDJ court. SoWe does not believe the redistricting proposal meets the intended goal of 'equitably distribute caseload and judicial workload among the remaining district'. The proposed changes raise concerns about residents' ability to equally and equitably access the justice system. SoWe calls for a larger community input process to fully understand community concerns and recommendations.

SoWe is a community development initiative supported by Tenfold, partner organizations, and the residents of Southwest Lancaster City. The initiative was created by residents to stem the tide of disinvestment in this neighborhood and ensure residents are supported and organized. SoWe hosts a resident-led board of directors as well as seven standing committees that advocate for the needs of its residents. Currently, the SoWe neighborhood boundaries fall within district 02-1-01.

SoWe does not support the proposed adjustments to 02-1-01 and the removal of the 4th ward. Although the removal of the 4th ward from district 02-1-01 decreases the MDJ's case load, it disrupts the footprint of an existing neighborhood. In the proposal's rationale to reestablish other MDJ districts it states, "*districts are established, clear and convenient to public and police*". This rationale should hold true to this district as well. Removal of the 4th ward from this district hinders the neighborhood's ability to speak as a unified voice and is geographically confusing. The proposal and the Court of Commons Pleas has not solicited community input for the proposed changes beyond a public comment notice.

Furthermore, incorporating the 4th ward to 02-2-02 places additional stress on a district that ranks 5th in the county in case load and has 13% higher cases than all other MDJ courts. With

417 Poplar St. Lancaster, PA 17603
SoWeLancaster.org
717.455.3626



the current proposal, the stress of the court system is transferred, and residents still do not have equitable access to the justice system as compared to their neighbors in the county. The Court should consider the creation of a new district in the city to equitably distribute caseloads and provide residents of the district equal access to the justice system as their county neighbors.

SoWe rejects the proposal to transfer certain cases in our district to outside judges. The proposal denies residents the right to be tried by a judge that they elected. The proposal suggests certain cases such as Welfare Fraud could be tried by MDJs with lower caseloads. MDJs with the lowest caseloads are largely from rural parts of the county where the community, its demographics, its constituents, and life experience are vastly different than those that live in district 02-1-01 and other high stress districts in the city. Residents throughout the county have the right to be tried by a judge they elected and SoWe and city residents deserve the same right.

In closing, the proposed method to reduce caseloads harms the overall equity of Southwest residents and their ability to fairly access the justice system. Residents of SoWe and district 02-1-01 are not given the same access to the justice system compared to county residents. SoWe supports the reduction of the caseload of district 02-1-01 but the current proposal is not in the best interest to equitably serve residents. SoWe calls for a larger community engagement process to understand community concerns to develop a proposal that meets the needs of the community. The MDJ system is set up to elect local judges at the neighborhood level. Allowing some cases to be tried by other judges creates a separate precedent for residents of the Southwest than other MDJ districts throughout the county. The Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas should reconsider their proposal and seek to not only reduce caseloads for MDJs but seek to ensure residents across Lancaster County have equal and equitable access to the justice system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Thorsen', with a long, sweeping underline.

Jake Thorsen
SoWe Neighborhood Director
jthorsen@wearetenfold.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martha Montes', with a long, sweeping underline.

Martha Montes
SoWe Board Chairperson

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Janae Allgire <janaemsa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:29 AM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District Re-establishment Proposal

Court Administration Office:

As a Lancaster City resident, I oppose this proposal. A better solution is to add a 5th district to the city bringing the caseload down. As a judge of a lower caseload district retires, their load can be geographically redistributed to adjoining lower caseload districts.

Janae Allgire


QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Jessica Henry <jlhenry30@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:19 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment:Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns regarding the Reestablishment Proposal for the 2nd Judicial District.

- The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- I question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.
- It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. I urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. I look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

Thanks!
Jessica Henry

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Jonathan Fox <jonpaulfox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 3:12 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Cc: Jean Bickmire
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed LanCo. MDJ Area Changes.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please be advised :

We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order.

Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.

It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

Regards,
-jpf.

Jonathan Paul Fox
Lancaster County, PA.
[1.717.475.8810](tel:1.717.475.8810)

@HaveAHeartLancaster



QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Dr. Karen Hinton- Polite <kepolite7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:16 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attention Russell Glass to Judge Ashworth!

Hello Mr. Glass and Judge Ashworth,

I am emailing you to express my concern/disagreement about the pending decision to have county district justices, hear city cases. To do this is a temporary solution to a larger problem. A permanent solution would be to create at least one new district justice seat in Lancaster city, keeping city cases in the city district justice office.

Respectfully,

Dr. Karen E. Polite

--

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<https://karenepoliteconsulting.com/>

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Kendra Saunders <kendrajeansaunders@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:39 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial District Proposal

I am emailing to let you know that I oppose Lancaster County's President Judge proposal for changing the magisterial districts, specifically the court in the Southwest of Lancaster City. The State Supreme Court recommends equitable workload distribution among the district courts with courts being within 15% above or 15% below the average workload in the county. District judges in Lancaster City are much more busy than most county district judges, with Witkonis' district being 65% busier than the average in the county. Thus, making small changes is not enough, and instead, Lancaster County's President Judge should consider placing a new magisterial district in Lancaster City. Thank you for your time, Kendra

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: LaRock Hudson <lahudson80@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:08 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District."

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Judge Ashworth & County Officials,

As a County resident, I urge this court to take the following considerations in the case of this reestablishment proposal. Where caseload has become an issue, there are several issues within the city and county that have contributed to the dilemma that have plagued the courts for sometime.

The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. Nor is there a standardized procedure set forth by AOPC or the State Supreme Court for those workloads as a mandatory process, leading to a lack of communication and customer service. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court, and the autonomy of those courts workload handling procedures. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.

We question the need for a "diversionary program" or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. Every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.

The NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration. This moment in time is an opportunity for us to work together to release the public from the concept of debtors prison, which it has been proven fines and costs are the primary source of income for the magisterial courts.

It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. Even the Court is averted to assumed negative perception, in order to be the just body it is to be.

We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

--

LaRock A. Hudson, II

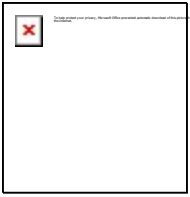
Pronouns He/Him

Chair, Political Action Committee

NAACP 2302 Lancaster, PA

p: (717) 405-3115 x 712

c: (717) 962-2436



pastatenaacp.org

www.naacp.org

*"Without community, there is no **liberation**...but community must not mean a shedding of our differences, nor the pathetic pretense that these differences do not exist."*

-Audre Lorde

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Attn: Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke St.
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District as presented. Given the scope and stated purpose of the reestablishment evaluation, I find the proposal absent of any effective or meaningful solutions. I am also concerned about the manner in which the public comment period was conducted, and I sincerely hope that future proposals warranting public engagement will be approached in the spirit of the law, not merely the letter of it.

Lack of Transparency and Public Awareness

AOPC guidance states that interested parties should have at least thirty days from the publishing date to submit comments for inclusion in the proposal. Not only is the publishing date nowhere to be found on the website for the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas, there is no statement inviting public comment whatsoever, and the posting of the proposal document is linked in the margin of the Magisterial District page in a most obscure manner. All information related to the public comment period—the invitation, the expiration date, and how to submit feedback—is buried in the document itself, after an introduction of the scope, and a listing of the nineteen magisterial districts.

It could be concluded that this approach is simply based in precedent, except that on the home page of the same website, there is a clearly posted “Public Announcement” section informing the public of all parts of the process used to fill the County Commissioner vacancy in recent weeks. (Screenshots of the vast difference in these two postings are included in the appendix of this document for reference.)

When I inquired with the Court Administration Office about the manner in which public notice was communicated, I was told that providing 30 days for the comment period is considered “best practice”, though not required. According to the office, the document was posted to the website on January 18, 2022, though I can find no mention of this anywhere on the website or in the document. I was also told that the media outlets notified included Lancaster Newspapers (LNP) and several local TV and radio stations. However, after searching <https://www.publicnoticepa.com/>, I have been unable to find any articles announcing anything related to the subject.

I want to contrast this with what local law requires of Lancaster’s City Council for both announcing public meetings and when voting on resolutions and ordinances. Public notice cannot simply be sent out as a press release, leaving it to chance that a news outlet will feature it by virtue of their own goodwill. An advertisement is placed to ensure that the message will go to print. Additionally, recognizing that more and more constituents receive their news online, the City of Lancaster makes social media and website postings announcing upcoming legislation and public meetings. The latter action is largely in response to growing criticism that matters of public interest were not accessible enough to the average person in the past.

Just because a method of doing something is within the confines of the law, it does not guarantee that it is the best solution or one that is operating in good faith. Throughout history, our laws have been used to limit the freedoms of countless people groups deemed less worthy of having a say, as demonstrated by the fact that I would not have been

able to legally vote as a woman prior to 1920. I reject Judge Ashworth's insinuation to One United Lancaster that prioritizing the overall transparency of the process would be too much a burden for him and his office. If the Lancaster City's Administration and City Council is able to consistently notify their constituents of matters of interest and intentionally solicit their feedback, the Lancaster County Court can too, especially on changes that will be in place for the next decade.

Unclear Metrics

I do not presume to know what all goes into the calculations used to weight cases and volume of cases, but I can do basic math. To facilitate a better understanding of the comparison between district courts, I took the workload volumes from each worksheet in the proposal and entered it into a spreadsheet. When I took an average of all the workload totals together, I was surprised to find that it was much lower than the number cited in the proposal. I believe this to be relevant because the lower average effectively places two more district courts outside of the +/-15% standard deviation from the average. (A copy of my spreadsheet is included in the appendix of this document for reference.) I don't know what the purpose was in bolstering the average used as a standard to base the assessment off of, but it feels misleading. I would like to better understand the calculation and reasoning behind the stated average of 40,567 since my calculation returns an average workload of 38,331.

Pursuit of Workload Equity

Guidance from the AOPC identifies two main objectives for reestablishment: determine how many districts are needed overall to handle case filings both now and over the next decade, and assess where boundaries should be drawn so that the workload is equitably distributed among the MDJs countywide.

I do not believe that this proposal does anything to address workload equity countywide. It simply redistributes a section of the very most overloaded magisterial district to another within the city boundary, effectively making the entire city above the 15% threshold. This does nothing to lower caseloads in the remaining two districts of the city, or in Manheim Township. Of the remaining 15 districts (not including Lancaster City and Manheim Twp), 7 districts are below the 15% threshold. Nothing has been proposed to redraw boundaries in these areas, even though the workload is drastically lower than the average. It is hard to understand how one judge can be doing three times the workload of another judge, both of whom are paid the same, and no one sees an issue with that.

More importantly, it seems as though considering another district within the city boundaries to address the ongoing excessive workload disparity is off the table for Judge Ashworth. The prioritization of convenience and familiarity over equity is concerning, if not insulting. The suggestion that the Lancaster City Police Department cannot handle re-learning new district lines makes it sound as if they are lazy, incompetent, or both. And to bring the public into it as a further argument is laughable, as if legislators ever cared about clarity and convenience for voters when they have the opportunity to stack a voting district in their favor. Sticking with the status quo because that's how it's always been does nothing to tackle the stated purpose of the reestablishment. Change can be difficult and complicated, and often requires a significant amount of thankless work. This is a truth about public service and should not come as a surprise to anyone.

Pretending that a problem does not exist—or doing the bare minimum to make it look as if something is being done when it's not effecting real change—that approach lacks the integrity that I expect from a person in a position of power such as Judge Ashworth.

Administrative Orders

While I believe it can be reasonable as a short-term solution to issue Administrative Orders to redistribute cases to other districts in certain situations, that must not be the primary approach to addressing workload inequity over the next

decade. Farming out cases on a regular basis to address long-term disparity intentionally undermines the system by which our cases are heard and decided on by the judges we elected to office through our long-standing democratic process. If there is any tradition worth upholding, it's that.

Conclusion

The bottom line for me is this: if the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has deemed that our magisterial district judges should be democratically elected and not appointed, by design, the power has been given to the people to decide who will represent and serve them in matters that are frequently complex and multi-faceted. Assigning certain classes of cases to be heard by judges outside of our districts can have far-reaching effects on our individual lives, It is not only reasonable, but also moral and just, to expect that our judges come from our communities, and that they better understand the many complexities in the lives of low-to-moderate income families. Judges who adjudicate cases in their own communities are more likely to find restorative solutions for individuals and families instead of strapping them with more fines, higher bails, or longer incarceration times. Restorative justice can make all the difference in the life of a person who has made some bad choices but is trying to improve their lives, or someone who has found themselves with a mountain of parking fees that they cannot afford to pay.

The numbers speak for themselves about the workload disparity across our judicial district. I am asking the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reject the proposal as written, and uphold your own standards by demanding a more equitable workload distribution across Lancaster County by eliminating district courts with low caseloads and retiring judges and adding another district within the boundaries of Lancaster City. Doing so would guarantee a drop in volume not just for one district court, but potentially all city courts, lowering the overall average and ultimately bringing all court percentages to be more in line with the guidance set forth by the Supreme Court (+/- 15% of the average).

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading my comments,

With sincerity,

Lauren Slessor

Lancaster City Resident

District 02-1-01

APPENDIX

Public Announcement

The Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County is now accepting applications from interested persons for the position of County Commissioner of Lancaster County. [Click here for more...](#)

Public Announcement Clarification - Released 1/3/2022 [Click here for more...](#)

Democratic Commissioner Applicant List - [Click here](#)

Lancaster County Democratic Commissioner Candidates Selected for Interview - [Click here](#)

Live-stream of Democratic County Commissioner Interviews, February 4th, 2022 @ 1:00PM - [Click here](#)

Lancaster County Democratic Commissioner Chosen - [Click here](#)

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Magisterial District Courts

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Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal 2nd Judicial District

Magisterial District Courts

Magisterial District Court Procedures - Updated 12/17/20

Magisterial District Court is the first level of judicial authority in Pennsylvania and is the court where most people experience the judicial system for the first time. Magisterial District Judges handle all traffic cases, minor criminal cases, and civil cases involving amounts up to \$12,000. Magisterial District Judges also set bail and conduct preliminary hearings in misdemeanor and felony criminal cases to determine if the cases should be dismissed or transferred to the Court of Common Pleas for further proceedings.

There are 19 Magisterial District Judges located in offices throughout Lancaster County. They are elected to six-year terms and are employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Civil Suits

If you decide to file a civil suit in a magisterial district court, you must decide which Magisterial District Judge has the authority to handle the suit. There are rules which govern where a suit may be filed. Generally, the suit must be filed in the magisterial district where the cause of action arose or where a transaction or occurrence took place which gave rise to the cause of action.

Quick Links

- Magisterial District Map
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2nd Judicial District

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Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District

The Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas has publicly posted its proposal for the reestablishment of the magisterial districts within Lancaster County in accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

[To view the proposal click here.](#)



COLOR KEY	Using Stated Average	Using Actual Average
# of Districts Where Workload Exceeds 15% Threshold	4	6
# of Districts Where Workload Within Allowable Range	9	7
# of Districts Where Workload Below -15% Threshold	7	6

Stated Average Workload 40,567

Actual Average Workload 38,331

PERCENTAGES BASED ON STATED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT AVERAGE					ACTUAL MAG. DIST. COURT AVERAGE			
District Court	City/Townships/Boroughs Served	Magisterial District Judge	Current Workload	% +/- Stated Avg.	District Court	Magisterial District Judge	Current Workload	% +/- Stated Avg.
02-1-01	Lancaster City, Wards 4 & 8	Adam Witkonis	67,109	65%	02-1-01	Adam Witkonis	67,109	75%
02-1-02	Manheim Township	David Miller	51,190	26%	02-1-02	David Miller	51,190	34%
02-2-04	Lancaster City, Wards 2 & 6	Andrew Lefever	51,188	26%	02-2-04	Andrew Lefever	51,188	34%
02-2-01	Lancaster City, Wards 3 & 7	Jodie Richardson	48,421	19%	02-2-01	Jodie Richardson	48,421	26%
02-2-03	Lancaster Twp, City, Ward 9-4 & 9-5	Mary Sponaugle	45,971	13%	02-2-03	Mary Sponaugle	45,971	20%
02-1-03	Columbia, Mountville, Hempfield	Miles Bixler	44,586	10%	02-1-03	Miles Bixler	44,586	16%
02-3-02	East Lampeter, Upper Leacock	Denise Commins	44,108	9%	02-3-02	Denise Commins	44,108	15%
02-3-01	Marietta, Mt. Joy, E. Donegal, Rapho	Scott Albert	37,308	-8%	02-3-01	Scott Albert	37,308	-3%
02-2-08	Lititz, Elizabeth, Warwick, Penn	Edward Tobin	36,705	-10%	02-2-08	Edward Tobin	36,705	-4%
02-2-02	Lancaster City, Wards 1, 5, & 9	Bruce Roth	36,060	-11%	02-2-02	Bruce Roth	36,060	-6%
02-2-05	East Petersburg, East Hempfield	Brian Chudzik	35,557	-12%	02-2-05	Brian Chudzik	35,557	-7%
02-2-06	Millersville, Conestoga, Manor	Joshua Keller	35,373	-13%	02-2-06	Joshua Keller	35,373	-8%
02-2-07	Akron, Ephrata, Clay	Tony Russell	32,628	-20%	02-2-07	Tony Russell	32,628	-15%
02-3-06	New Holland, Terre Hill, Brecknock, Earl, East & West Earl	Jonathan Heisse	32,051	-21%	02-3-06	Jonathan Heisse	32,051	-16%
02-3-09	Elizabethtown, Mt. Joy, W. Donegal, Conoy	Randall Miller	28,511	-30%	02-3-09	Randall Miller	28,511	-26%
02-3-04	Quarryville, Colerain, Drumore, E Drumore, Eden, Fulton, Little Britain, Martic, Providence	Stuart Mylin	27,548	-32%	02-3-04	Stuart Mylin	27,548	-28%
02-3-03	Strasburg, Pequea, West Lampeter	William Benner Jr.	26,119	-36%	02-3-03	William Benner Jr.	26,119	-32%
02-3-07	Adamstown, Denver, E./W. Cocalico	Nancy Hamill	25,126	-38%	02-3-07	Nancy Hamill	25,126	-34%
02-3-05	Christiana, Bart, Caernarvon, Leacock, Paradise, Sadsbury, Salisbury	Raymond Sheller	22,733	-44%	02-3-05	Raymond Sheller	22,733	-41%

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Linda Gehman Peachey <gehmanpeach@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:48 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial district reestablishment proposal

Dear Mr. Glass,

I am writing as a resident of Lancaster City with reference to the changes proposed by Judge Ashworth to our magisterial court districts. I believe we deserve the right to elect our own judges and have cases decided in our own local city magisterial courts. Rather than assigning cases to other districts, it would be much more fair and democratic to create another city court to handle the case-load. We deserve the right to choose and elect judges who understand and represent us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Gehman Peachey
Lancaster City

269 Chestnut Grove Road
Conestoga, PA 17516
February 12, 2022

Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 North Duke Street
P O Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

Dear Mr. Glass:

I have reviewed the proposal for the reestablishment of the Magisterial District Courts for Lancaster County. There are three aspects of the proposal that concern me and that I would like to object to.

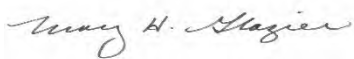
First, the data clearly show that there is a disparity between the caseloads of the magisterial district judges serving the city of Lancaster and the average caseload that most county magisterial district judges carry. This disparity disadvantages citizens whose issues bring them into the city magisterial district courts. Higher caseloads mean longer delays in having matters heard and less time available on the part of the magisterial district judge to engage with the parties in the cases before them. The remedy is not to reassign cases within the city but to create a new magisterial district court located within the city. I am confident that there are solutions to the logistical problems of combining areas outside the city to reduce the number of judicial districts there.

Second, reassignment of the 4th Ward to magisterial district court 02-2-02 will have a deleterious effect on the historic Cabbage Hill area. Ward 4 and Ward 8 share common demographic characteristics and are well-served by together constituting the jurisdiction of the 02-1-01. Removing Ward 4, an integral part of the southwest section of Lancaster City, from its current magisterial district will create confusion and hardship for the citizens that reside there. Their access to the office of the magisterial district judge will be lessened as they will now need to travel to a building with no available parking and a more intimidating setting. The magisterial district court serving the people of Ward 4 will be far less a neighborhood resource than currently. Reassigning a portion of a district that has a very high caseload to a district with a somewhat lower but still very high caseload is not a solution. It is akin to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Third, I believe it is unwise to reassign cases arising out of city jurisdictions to county magisterial district judges. The magisterial district courts are geographically located so that the judges elected to serve therein understand the circumstances that give rise to the matters before them. In addition, it increases the hardships of travel and time commitment for the party that is in the city district but has to travel to an outlying area of the county to have its case resolved.

In conclusion, I think that the proposed changes are unwise. It would be preferable to retain the current situation until a more equitable allocation of magisterial district court resources is proposed.

Thank you,



Mary H. Glazier, PhD
Professor Emerita of Sociology

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Michele Capobianco <mrapczyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:01 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment regarding proposed change to the magistrate courts

Mr. Glass,

I am writing to comment regarding the proposed change to the magistrate courts in Lancaster City and County.

The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.

We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.

It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

I support the position of the NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally which is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration.

Thank you,

Michele Capobianco
Millersville, PA



QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: NELSON POLITE <polite7@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:37 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attention Russell Glass to Judge Ashworth

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Russell and Judge Ashworth,
I am a life long city resident, and I am emailing you to express my disappointment about your pending decision to have country district justices hear city cases. I do not believe this action is the best action for Lancaster city or its residents. I strongly encourage you to reconsider this decision, and create a new district justice position for Lancaster City as the solution to the problem.

Sincerely,
Nelson M. Polite, Jr.

**SAMUEL C. STRETTON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
103 South High Street
P.O. Box 3231
West Chester, PA 19381-3231**

**610-696-4243
FAX 610-696-2919**

February 16, 2022

Honorable David L. Ashworth
Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County
50 North Duke Street
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608

Re: Redistricting

Dear Judge Ashworth:

I have been consulted by a number of individuals in the city of Lancaster, including Blanding Watson, who as you know is very active in the community and is the President of the NAACP. I have seen the proposed redistricting maps of the District Judges of Lancaster County.

I do not represent the NAACP in this matter but I have been asked by individuals to submit some comments.

Although I understand the need for equality of work by the Judges, my concern is that the districts that are being affected are the inner city of Lancaster and it is breaking up some unified districts. Further, people are being moved further from their District Judges by being put in new districts and this creates a great deal of problems not only for them but also the police.

Specifically, I noted that Ward 4-1 was being taken out of District 2-1-01, and similarly, Ward 4-2 is being taken out of District 2-2-02.

First, I have been advised that most members of the community were not aware of these changes since it was just discovery last week. These were just discovered this week and the time period to comment is Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 and that is not sufficient time.

Honorable David L. Ashworth
February 16, 2022
Page Two

Further, there was no opportunity for members of the community to come to a meeting to express their concerns. I believe that is important.

Although, obviously workload parity is important, it is not critical or essential. Every district has varying degrees of cases depending on where they are located in the district. What is paramount is the need for the black and Hispanic community to have some cohesiveness and also feel that their districts will reflect the needs of the community. As I see these map divisions, they are not able to do that. The name of equality of work trumps some of the community's concerns.

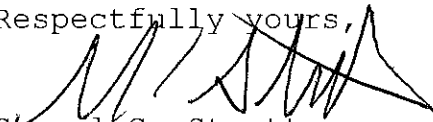
It seems to me, that a better proposal would be to take the inner city and perhaps make a new district within this community. It would help to redistribute the work responsibilities but at the same time, reflect the needs of the community and the cohesiveness in the black and Hispanic communities. This would also allow for the opportunity to have more minority district judges, if they chose to run and then would have a chance at prevailing.

I think it is imperative that there be a community meeting where citizens and community leaders can express their concerns on these maps and make some alternative proposals.

I have just been given the material so I have not had a chance to fully digest it, but these are my initial thoughts on behalf of a number of people in the community who have asked me to send this letter on their behalf.

I will await your Honor's advice.

Respectfully yours,



Samuel C. Stretton

SCS:rht

Cc: Mark Dalton, Court Administrator
Russell Glass, Deputy Court Administrator

VIA FACSIMILE

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Robert Grubb <robtrgrubb@epix.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:26 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District

Attn: Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator

I am sending this e/mail at the request of NAACP Lancaster Branch 2302, of which I am a member, to express support for the organization with regard to the following concerns:

- The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.
- It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.
- The NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration.

Thank you,

R. Grubb

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: RON FORD <ronford285@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:00 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] reestablishment proposal

i am oppose to the changes outlined by judge ashworth. these changes, as outlined, would have a negative impact on the residents of the southeast area of the city in terms of fair representation and access.

ron ford



NAACP

Lancaster Unit #2302

President
Blanding P. Watson

Vice President
Alysa Poindexter

Second Vice President
Al Williams

Secretary
Rosemary T. Krill

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Executive Committee Members:

Maxine Cook – Legal Redress

Elizabeth Guthridge – Economics

Patricia Hopson-Shelton – Criminal Justice

Shayna Watson – Religious Affairs

Robert Corsey – At large

Martin Dees, Jr. – At large

Stephanie Dickerson – Health

Jennifer VanBuskirk Eaton – At large

India Folk – At large

Cheryl Holland-Jones – At large

Nick Miron – At large

Titus Peachey – At large

Charasay Powell – At-large

Andrea Roth – At-large

Delia Sanchez –At-large

Address:

NAACP Lancaster Branch

P. O. Box 911

Lancaster, PA 17608

717.723.8892

lancasternaacp2302@gmail.com

<https://www.naacplancasterpa.org>

Facebook: @NAACP Lancaster PA

Youtube: NAACP Lancaster, PA

Mr. Russell A. Glass
Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke Street
P. O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480

Dear Mr. Glass:

On behalf of NAACP Lancaster Unit 2302, please let me register a concern about the Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal for the Second Judicial District as shown in the website of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas. (<https://court.co.lancaster.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/1292/Magisterial-District-Reestablishment-2nd-Judicial-District>.) We are now aware that the public comment period ends on February 16.

The NAACP both nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. This issue represents one of the top six strategic initiatives, called “Game Changers” that are our focus. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration and release.

We share grave concerns about the Magisterial Reestablishment Proposal. The proposal offered only one change to the magisterial districts, the movement of Wards 4-1 and 4-2 from District 02-1-01 to District 02-2-02. To put this change in terms that many voters and members of the public would recognize, this would be the realignment of an area around S. Prince Street and S. Lime Street, south from about King Street to the city boundary. The areas would move to be included with northwest areas of the city. This is the change, as stated in the Magisterial Reestablishment Proposal: “It is therefore proposed that District 02-1-01 be realigned by having Wards 4-1 and 4-2 incorporated into District 02-2-02 effective the beginning of the next election cycle for District 02-2-02 on January 1, 2024.”

We are aware that many factors affect the Magisterial Reestablishment Proposal. However, we understand that the reallocation of workload is the major goal of the State Supreme Court. We see in the proposal that analysis shows the current workload of District 02-1-01 to be “65% above the average district court

workload in the county.” We understand that this change appears to address the goal of workload allocation and to improve the magisterial district court system.

We have several concerns about the present Magisterial Reestablishment Proposal. The Proposal does not appear to adequately reallocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload or caseloads.

NAACP Lancaster Unit 2302 believes the following:

1. The workloads would/could be more equitable with the addition of another Judge and District established in the city of Lancaster;
2. A new District gives the citizens access to an elected judge from their community;
3. An underlying issue is the demography of the areas.

In addition, we are concerned about the public announcement of the reestablishment proposal. It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.

Thank you for the chance to comment on the Magisterial Reestablishment Proposal.

Sincerely,

Blanding Watson
President, NAACP Lancaster Unit 2302
Interim President, Pennsylvania State Conference, NAACP

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Tene Darby <tenedarby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:56 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City of Lancaster MDJ

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Your Honor,

As a lifelong resident of Lancaster's southeast quadrant, I am in opposition of allowing judges from outside our city's limits to preside over our communities MDJ courts. There is an evident logic to why a Magisterial District Justice must reside in their presiding jurisdictions. Judges are more culturally aware and in-turn with the environment in which they serve in.

If this was an about-face issue, I am certain county residents would have a mutual loathe of this resolution.

Judge Roth is not running for another term, this is an ideal time to come up with a solution to add, drop or combine offices. As other judges in the county retire the same should be evaluated in those areas.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concern.

Respectfully,
Tene Darby
SE Lancaster City

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: TINA DUNSEN <tdunsen420@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:36 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Court cases

- The reestablishment proposal does not appear to adequately allocate court resources to those districts with the most need, in terms of workload. The Court has an opportunity to take a hard look at the resource allocation of the magisterial court. We advocate that resources be given to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- We question the need for a “diversionary program” or the reassignment of certain classes of cases to other magisterial districts by court order. Clients who come before the magisterial court are best served by justices who know the community and who have experience with the context of their cases. And every voter in Lancaster City and County is best served when the cases are decided by justices for whom they voted.
- It is not clear when and through what channels this proposal was posted for public comment. We urge the Court to evaluate the communication channels and time frame for public response. We look forward to timely and wide public notice of any change in the judicial system in the future.
- The NAACP, nationally, state-wide, and locally is strongly interested in criminal justice reform. We advocate for equity in all levels of the system, from policing, to the court system, to the system of incarceration

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

QuilesCespedes, Marielena

From: Titus Peachey <tilin2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:57 PM
To: CourtAdmin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on District Court Resource Allocation

Dear Mr. Glass,

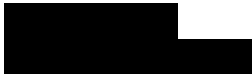
My name is Titus Peachey. I am a resident of Lancaster City, and I want to comment on the proposal to reallocate judicial resources to districts.

- a. Please ensure that the court resources are allocated to those areas of the county with high population and high work loads.
- b. Please ensure that justices are assigned to areas where they know the community and understand the cultural contexts. I am concerned that the proposed "diversionary program" will send justices to areas where they have little connection or understanding of the people.
- c. I only became aware of the opportunity offer comment at the last minute. In the future, please ensure that you seek public comment through wide promotion and notification.

Thank you for your kind attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Titus Peachey



V. Wright-Smith, Esq.
117 South Marshall Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

February 16, 2022

Russell A. Glass, Deputy Court Administrator
Court Administration Office
50 N. Duke Street
P.O. Box 83480 Lancaster, PA 17608

VIA EMAIL: courtadmin@co.lancaster.pa.us

Re: Public Comment on the Notice of Proposal Reestablishing Magisterial Districts in Lancaster County (2nd Judicial District)

Dear Mr. Glass:

Attached are my public comments to be included in the Proposal Reestablishing Magisterial Districts in Lancaster County (2nd Judicial District).

President Judge David L. Ashworth in accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements states that he is obligated to submit a proposal to the Supreme Court for the reestablishment of the Magisterial districts within his jurisdiction. The overall goal of reestablishment is supposed to be to equalize caseload and judicial workload among the magisterial districts to the extent that it is feasible, and to otherwise ensure the effective administration of justice throughout the judicial district while concurrently maintaining local community access to magisterial district courts throughout the County of Lancaster.

Trying to equalize the caseloads and judicial workloads are not new issues. If you speak to anyone with experience in this area, it is well known that the Lancaster City District Judges have always had a heavier caseload and workload than the District Judges in the County of Lancaster. It is time to have a serious discussion about how to rectify these problems. And the answer is not the proposal being recommended by President Judge David L. Ashworth, in my opinion.

The obvious solution is to reestablish the Magisterial Districts in a way to give the city the extra Judge that they have long needed to do the work that they are voted to do by the residents of the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania even if that means raising the total number of District Judges in the entire district to 20 District Judges. Frankly in my opinion, it is time to downsize the County Judges and even consider combining some of their offices. Several of those County District Judges' terms expire on December 31, 2023. This seems like the perfect time to focus on downsizing them as an effective administration of justice.

President Judge David L. Ashworth suggests giving cases to the County Judges to help out some of the other Judges. To me that flies in the face of the residency requirement for Magisterial

District Judges. Magisterial District judges are required to live within the districts they serve. This rule is designed to keep courts connected to residents. And believe me when I tell you residents want to be judged by the people that they elect and not by a Judge that does not reside in their district. When they have a matter that requires them to appear before a Judge, they want it to be before a Judge from their district because they want to make sure that they get a fair chance. They cannot be sure that they will receive the same fairness if their case is given to a Judge that is not connected to the district where they reside. This is a very real concern. The fact that cases have been reassigned for Lancaster Parking Authority, DUI and Domestic Violence cases does not make it fair and/or just.

I have read the 64-page proposal twice and it still does not make sense to me how President Judge David L. Ashworth thinks he is equalizing the caseloads by giving certain cases to the county Judges, especially since it will not be following the residency requirement for the District Judges. He seems to be ignoring the fact that District Judges are required to live in the district where they will be presiding over the case. The resident really does expect that the law regarding the residency of the District Justice is going to be followed. They want their Judge to be connected to their community. That is the reason for the residency requirement. Seems to me the better effective administration of justice would be to add another Magisterial District Judge to the City, bringing the total number of District Judges to 20.

President Judge David L. Ashworth also seems to go out of his way to justify the low caseloads of the County Judges. It should be noted that since their caseloads are so low, if any changes are to be made, the changes should be made with the county Judges and not with cases from other Districts. If you do not want to bring the total District Judges to 20. Then why not phase out one of the District Judge positions in the county and give a new District Judge position to the city (This way you can keep the current number of 19 District Judges)? The city is where there is an obvious need. The city is where the help is needed. But the need should come from someone in the city that the residents are connected to and not someone that is appointed by the President Judge. Something does not seem to be right about assigning city cases to county Judges. It just does not make any sense. You should not be able to issue a local court rule to get around the residency requirement for the District Judge to reside in the district where they serve.

Finally, I am a little concerned that the public must read a 64-page proposal, this is a lot to read for me and I am an attorney. I know the proposal says that the media was informed, but I would be curious to know what media outlets were informed, because a lot of the public seem in the dark about proposal. There is a link to the proposal on the Court website and that is it. This is a serious matter, I believe there should have been more public input, since it is the public that will greatly impacted by this proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/ V. Wright-Smith

V. Wright-Smith



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

DAVID L. ASHWORTH
PRESIDENT JUDGE

50 NORTH DUKE STREET
P.O. Box 83480
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA 17608-3480
(717) 299-8055

To all respondents to the Reestablishment Proposal,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the Magisterial District Court Reestablishment Proposal. Your comment has been received and will be included with the proposal when sent to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. As you may be aware, as President Judge of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas I do not have the authority to eliminate a Magisterial District Court or reestablish/realign a district's boundary lines; that authority rests solely with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. It is my role as President Judge to make recommendations or requests of the Supreme Court and they, in turn, may approve or disapprove those requests.

It is important that I provide some additional background information on the thoughts and considerations in making this reestablishment proposal. Unfortunately, a great deal of misinformation and misstatement of facts have been publicized. In recent years there were two failed attempts to close Magisterial District Courts. One was Magisterial District Court 02-2-01 in Lancaster City, the other was 02-3-09 in Elizabethtown. Both proposals failed because of feedback from the communities served by those Magisterial District Courts. The takeaway from those efforts is that the Magisterial District Courts provide a service that goes beyond the adjudication and disposition of cases. I believe that each and every one of our 19 Magisterial District Courts is a valuable resource that has been established in each of those communities for decades and should be preserved. From the moment I took the office as President Judge, I made a commitment that I would not move to close any Magisterial District Courts unless directed to do so by the Supreme Court. That directive was not included as part of this reestablishment process, and I remain steadfast in my commitment to not close any Magisterial District Courts.

At the direction of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the first consideration of the reestablishment/redistricting process is to compare the average caseloads of the Magisterial District Courts in Lancaster to those in the other Class 2A Counties. In the chart provided below by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, you will note that with a full contingent of 19 Magisterial District Judges, Lancaster is 4th out of 5 and is 4% below the average of Class 2A counties in Pennsylvania.

<i>Annual Average Filings per Court</i>	
Class 2A Average	5525
Bucks	5904
Chester	6257
Delaware	4450
Lancaster	5281
Montgomery	5733

Based upon this analysis, a contingent of 19 Magisterial District Judges for Lancaster is the right number and there is no justification for adding another Magisterial District Judge as doing so would only serve to create more disparity with other Class 2A counties.

The second consideration is to equalize caseload and judicial workload among the magisterial districts to the extent that it's feasible to within +/-15% of the county average, and to otherwise ensure the effective administration of justice throughout the judicial district while concurrently maintaining local community access to the Magisterial District Courts. If a departure of that degree exists, an explanation must be provided that includes factors such as the use of a central court or other mechanism that would redirect caseload and ameliorate the inequity. It must also be noted this proposal was a collaborative process, involving all 19 Magisterial District Judges, all of whom indicated that the current workload is not excessive. In keeping with my promise to consult the MDJs in matters affecting them, I spoke directly with each and every MDJ.

It has been long standing practice to have Magisterial District Judges from outside one's own district arraign, adjudicate and dispose of cases. Examples include, but are not limited to, coverage during the day when a Magisterial District Judge is not available, coverage when a Magisterial District Judge is on leave, Central Arraignment Court in which each Magisterial District Judge serves in a rotation every morning and every evening 7 days a week, certain traffic cases and almost all cases involving Domestic Violence or Driving Under the Influence. The use of Central Courts, heard by a rotation of Magisterial District Judges, is widely accepted and commonplace throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In the cases involving Welfare Fraud for example, regardless of where the defendant resides - whether they are a city resident or a resident of a more rural area, all cases are filed and heard in Magisterial District Court 02-2-01 (our busiest office) for no reason other than that is where the Public Assistance Office is located. Of course, it is a misstatement of fact and an insult to suggest that only residents of the city are charged with Welfare Fraud. Given the workload of 02-1-01, it would make more sense to have those cases heard by a rotation of Magisterial District Judges from across the county in a central location such as the Lancaster County Courthouse. Since these cases are prosecuted by a state agency rather than the Lancaster City Police, the impact of such a change is greatly minimized. To be clear, it has never been the intention of this Court to "farm out" all types of matters, particularly criminal matters from "City" MDJs to "County" MDJs.

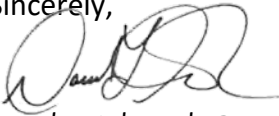
Since the last redistricting analysis that was completed in 2012, the workload of the four core Magisterial District Courts comprising Lancaster City decreased by 14%. In Magisterial District Court 02-2-04 alone, workload has been reduced by 25% and was the largest decrease of all Magisterial District Courts in Lancaster. These decreases are significant and to add another Magisterial District Court at this time in the City of Lancaster when caseload/workload is trending downward, would not be supported by the Supreme Court. Regardless, there are significant logistical hurdles that would need to be overcome if another Magisterial District Court were to be created in Lancaster City. There is no current facility that could accommodate a Magisterial District Court and it would come at a great expense to the taxpayers. District boundary lines in Lancaster City would need to be redrawn creating much disruption and confusion. Lancaster City Police would have to cover 5 venues instead of 4 creating even more difficulty with scheduling their officers to attend hearings.

The reestablishment proposal was uploaded to the Court's website on January 18, 2022, prior to a Public Announcement being made to local media outlets the same date. This is, and has been, customary practice for the Court when making Public Announcements. Within the Public Announcement was the deadline by which comments were to be received and the deadline was also included within the proposal itself. The Court has made every effort to be transparent in

this process and comply with the guidelines set forth by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Although not required, I received one last minute request for a Town Hall Zoom Meeting with the NAACP and agreed to do so on a date and time of their choosing. Unfortunately, for circumstances of which I am not aware, those planning the meeting were not able to proceed on the date they selected, and we were unable to reschedule.

For the aforementioned reasons, the proposal previously set forth and the comments submitted by all parties, will be presented to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for consideration. Thank you again for your interest, comments, and perspective in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Ashworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David L. Ashworth, President Judge

Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas

Lancaster County Courthouse

50 North Duke Street

P.O. Box 83480

Lancaster, PA 17608-3480