



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

January 6, 2022

Chairman Mark A. Nordenberg  
2021 Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission  
PO Box 203079  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Nordenberg and Commission members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), representing the 1,454 Townships of the Second Class, I respectfully submit the following comments for the record regarding the draft House and Senate reapportionment maps the commission has presented. Our membership is concerned that once again townships have been unduly split without any discernible rationale. As the Pennsylvania Constitution specifically provides that, “unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided”, we question the criteria that was used to divide townships and why this criterion is not uniformly used amongst all municipalities in this process.

In particular the Commission’s draft House map, 45 townships are divided. That’s more than any other type of municipality. Not a single township in Pennsylvania is larger than the 64,050 the targeted size of a House district so there should not be any township splits. In fact, one proposed township split has less than 7,500 people (Delaware Township, Pike County). There are 25 townships that were not previously split and remain below the target size and yet are split this time. See Attachment “A”. A deeper dive into the population deviations suggest a range from 61,096 (129th) to 66,821 (31st) or 5,725 people further suggest that these voluminous township splits are unnecessary

It’s understandable that communities larger than the target size must be split, but that should only include Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, Reading, Bethlehem and Scranton. It is worthy to note and perplexing that State College, Harrisburg and Lancaster (all less than 64,050) were previously whole, have LOST population and are now split. This raises legitimate questions.

In closing we ask that the Commission review these excessive township splits and explain why these communities of interest have been divided and the criteria used to justify them and why deviations occurred.

Sincerely,

David M. Sanko  
Executive Director

## Townships Split by House Districts

### Allegheny County

McCandless Township

Moon Township

South Fayette Township

Upper St. Clair Township

### Berks County

Cumru Township

Spring Township

### Bucks County

New Britain Township

Northampton Township

### Chester County

Caln Township

East Goshen Township

### Cumberland County

South Middleton Township

### Delaware County

Middletown Township

### Lancaster County

Manor Township

Salisbury Township

West Lampeter Township

### Lehigh County

North Whitewall Township

Upper Macungie Township

### Monroe County

Middle Smithfield Township

Montgomery County

Franconia Township

Horsham Township

Upper Gwynedd Township

Northampton County

Hanover Township

Westmoreland County

Derry Township

North Huntingdon Township

York County

Dover Township