

12-30-21

ACTION ALERT FROM 49th District Rep Bud Cook
www.repbudcook.com

Dates and Links for Redistricting and filing Exceptions 12-31-21

Friday, December 31st, noon

If you wish to testify on Tuesday 4th

Email: 49th Rep Bud Cook bcook@pahousegop.com

Monday January 3rd,

Written Testimony due (you will be contacted)

Tuesday January 4th, 4 pm.

HEARING: Southwest PA Policy Hearing on State Legislative Redistricting

When: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 – 4:00 pm

Where: Town of McCandless (9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090)

The Policy Committee will hold a hearing to discuss how the Legislative Redistricting Commission's redistricting map impacts communities and their constituencies.

Microsoft Teams meeting, Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 814-580-6199,554800566# United States, Erie Phone Conference ID: 554 800 566#

Watch the meeting live on the web <http://www.pahousegop.com/livestreams>

Thursday, January 6th, (2 time spots) (five minutes per testifier)

This is an open public hearing called by Professor Nordenberg about his Maps

Time and location announced

Upcoming Hearings regarding Preliminary Plans:

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

Submit Written testimony to Commission:

submitted on the Commission's public website portal.

S & STATE

Panel gives state House, Senate district maps preliminary OK

BY MARK SCOLFORD
AND MARC LEVY
Associated Press

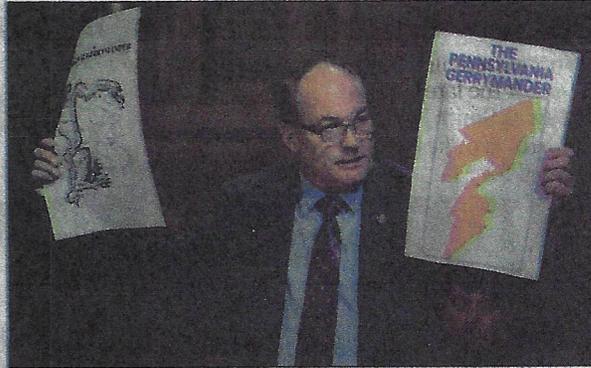
HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted Thursday in favor of new preliminary district maps over sharp objections from the House's Republican leader, as a large increase in the state's minority population helped shape big changes.

The maps also reflect general population changes over the past decade, which have favored Democratic-leaning areas in the southeast, cities and suburbs, as more conservative areas in northern and western Pennsylvania lost population or grew more slowly.

The panel voted 5-0 for the Senate plan and 3-2 for the House plan, with both Republicans opposed to it.

The maps of 203 House seats and 50 Senate seats could have a dramatic effect on entrenched Republican majorities in the state Legislature. Republicans have effectively drawn district maps the last two decades in the politically divided presidential battleground state.

Passage of the first draft of the new district maps is a pivotal moment in the once-in-a-decade redistricting process, required by the state constitution to account for population shifts in the 2020 Census. Decisions on the drafts will reverberate politically for years to come.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre holds up maps during a meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission at the Capitol in Harrisburg on Thursday. The commission voted Thursday in favor of new preliminary district maps over sharp objections from the House's Republican leader about how his chamber's district lines would change.

The vote on maps will trigger a period of public comment and objections. The commission will then produce a final map, after which legal challenges can be made before the state Supreme Court.

At the commission meeting, the chairman, Mark Nordenberg, the former University of Pittsburgh chancellor who was chosen as chairman by the Democratic-majority state Supreme Court, said both of the new maps still lean Republican.

He attributed that to registered Democrats living in such a tight cluster in southeast Pennsylvania, and a Republican political advantage embedded in maps over time. But, he said, it is politically impossible to start with a new map when

the commission's other four members are party caucus leaders in each chamber.

Nordenberg said that it is an "intuitive democratic ideal that attracting about 50% of the popular vote also ought to mean winning about 50% of the contested seats."

Nordenberg said the maps create eight districts – seven in the House, one in the Senate – without any incumbent living in them that have heavily racial minority populations. That should create the opportunity for a racial minority to get elected, he said.

"There is no incumbent advantage that will have to be overcome in any of these districts, which would give minority communities residing in them a special opportunity," he said.

Critics: Bid to help Latinos win more seats off mark

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG - An effort to reflect the rapid growth of Pennsylvania's Hispanic population in newly drawn districts for the state's predominantly white Legislature is drawing criticism that it didn't exactly accomplish that mission. Instead, proposals from

the five-member Legislative Reapportionment Commission that must reflect a decade of demographic changes identified by the census actually narrowed opportunities for Latinos, critics say.

The commission - composed of the Legislature's four partisan floor leaders and a chair picked by the Democratic-majority state Supreme Court - voted Dec.

16 in favor of new preliminary maps, starting a 30-day public comment period.

The commission could make changes before it issues final maps, and Victor Martinez - who testified twice during commission hearings this year - said it should.

When Martinez testified, he urged commission members to create districts that reflect the growth of Penn-

sylvania's Spanish-speaking population.

However, Martinez, who owns Spanish-language radio stations in markets across eastern Pennsylvania, said the commission instead created more districts that favor minority candidates generally, but not necessarily Latino candidates.

See Seats, Page A2



ASSOCIATED PRESS
House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre holds up maps during a meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission at the Capitol in Harrisburg on Dec. 16.

Seats

Continued from Page A1

"You might have made it more inclusive, but as far as my testimony, as far as the people who I represent and the people I testified for, they didn't do us any good, they didn't make it any easier," Martinez said in an interview.

Out of 1.5 million Hispanic or multiracial Hispanic residents in Pennsylvania,

However, only one has a majority Latino population. That district, the Allegheny-based 22nd House district, actually shrinks the Latino population from the current 22nd, Martinez said.

Even an existing Latino-majority district in Reading went from 60% Latino to 50% Latino, Martinez said. Pennsylvania's shrinking white population and growing Hispanic population is relatively extraordinary. It is just one of four states - Connecticut, Louisiana and

Rhode Island are the others - that would have lost population over the past decade if it weren't for Hispanic population gains, according to census figures.

Four metropolitan areas - Pittsburgh, Reading, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton and Scranton-Wilkes-Barre - also would have lost population but for new Hispanic residents. It's the same for seven counties: Berks, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Pike, Snyder and Washington.

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FAQ on Preliminary House Map

What is the definition of a gerrymander?

Dictionary definition: "When the boundaries of an electoral constituency are manipulated so as to favor one party or class."

Why is the Nordenberg map a gerrymander?

Because it is drawn to give Pennsylvania House Democrats an advantage beyond Pennsylvania's natural political geography.

What is Pennsylvania's natural political geography?

Pennsylvania's natural political geography, which has Democrats largely clustered in urban areas and Republicans in suburban/rural districts has Democrats largely top out at around 93 seats under any map using Pennsylvania's natural political geography.

How does this map help Democrats above Pennsylvania's natural political geography?

Map analyses show anywhere between 99 and 106 seats for Dems under this map. Our analysis and that of Dave's Redistricting App put it at 106.

That means this map gives Democrats an unnaturally-crafted advantage of between six and 13 seats above Pennsylvania's natural political geography.

That means this map is drawn to favor Democrats beyond what they should naturally get, which is the very definition of a gerrymander.

How does it achieve this result?

Splits. Unexplained splits of cities like Harrisburg, Reading, State College, Allentown, Lancaster, and Scranton can only be explained to give Democrats more seats than necessary.

These splits also lead to a diminishment in Republican representation with Republicans more scattered and Democrats more packed.

Who is to blame?

Chancellor Nordenberg.

He refused to break down the barriers of conflict to get the parties together to develop a consensus product. Based upon his description of the process, he clearly drew this map. He was a rogue agent from the beginning and this map reflects his ideological priorities and does not reflect the best interests of Pennsylvania.

The Princeton Gerrymandering Project rates the map an "F" for competitiveness, which means districts and future legislatures will be more polarized with only a handful of competitive seats. This is bad for Pennsylvania and is an impediment to getting stuff done.

What about the current map?

It was agreed to and supported by the Democrat leader Frank Dermody and approved by the PA Supreme Court after extensive litigation.

Proposed Gone from the Old 49th
Washington County
New Eagle
Carroll
Mononghela
Donora
Fallowfield
Ellsworth
Cokeburg
North Bethlehem
Fayette County
Belle Vernon
Fayette City
Nowell
Washington Township
Jefferson Township
Franklin Township

