

January 9, 2022

Memo regarding PA House Redistricting:

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to present comments regarding the draft proposal to redistrict the PA House of Representatives.

My name is Vince DiFilippo. I am a resident of Silver Spring Township. I have served as a supervisor for Silver Spring Township, and I am currently in my second term as one of the three Cumberland County commissioners. It is well known that Cumberland County is one of the fastest, if not the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth.

In reviewing the proposed redistricting maps for the PA House of Representatives, I again see that Cumberland County continues to be the recipient of very questionable redistricting. The borough of Mechanicsburg is once again split into two voting districts. South Middleton Township is also split into two voting districts. I am happy to see that Silver Spring Township is no longer split as it was under the current map. This splitting of municipalities frequently creates confusion and discontent among voters. What positive outcome is produced by this proposed, continued gerrymandering?

Even more alarming is the proposed change in the 103rd voting district, which has never included municipalities in Cumberland County. The potential inclusion of East Pennsboro Township, Lemoyne, Camp Hill and Wormleysburg into the 103rd district benefits neither the citizens in these municipalities nor the citizens of Harrisburg. My interpretation of this proposed change is that it is being done for political purposes. Unfortunately, past history clearly indicates that Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country but both major political parties once again have the opportunity to produce fair maps.

I mean no disrespect to anyone, and I do realize that redistricting is not a perfect science. But, the proposed inclusion of East Pennsboro Township, Lemoyne, Camp Hill and Wormleysburg into the 103rd district defies a reasonable explanation in my opinion.

Cumberland County does not have a "city" within its boundary. The needs of the good folks who live in East Pennsboro Township, Lemoyne, Camp Hill and Wormleysburg are somewhat different than those of the good folks who live in the city of Harrisburg.

I respectfully request that the proposed redistricting map for the PA House of Representatives be changed to allow the municipalities of East Pennsboro Township, Lemoyne, Camp Hill and Wormleysburg to remain in voting districts completely within Cumberland County. In addition, no municipality (in this case the borough of Mechanicsburg and South Middleton Township) should be split between voting districts.

Sincerely,

Vince DiFilippo
Commissioner, Cumberland County