

Dear County leaders,

Reapportionment and redistricting is based on the census taken every 10 yrs. The number of seats in the general assembly is based on relative population. After the census of 2010, we lost one seat and went from 19 to 18 because Pennsylvania no longer had a population that would support 19 seats.

Redistricting occurs to accommodate those reapportionment numbers based on the census. Every district at every level should have approximately the same number of people within that level. Political registrations should not be counted or considered, however, in our present system they are heavily considered. Each state has its own system and PA ranks third for having the most partisan redistricting system in the U.S.. When our existing commission looks at registration, it becomes an exercise of shaping districts to get a political advantage. That is what is happening now. The Pennsylvania Constitution asks for compact, contiguous districts that have approximately the same number of people. "Communities of Interest" should also be kept intact. We will show how voting districts are "cracked and packed", which is what is happening now in Pennsylvania. Our present system is not what our Pennsylvania Constitution calls for with redistricting and reapportionment.

Presently, whatever party is in power at the time creates districts which favor their candidates and at the same time dilutes or totally wastes the votes of the other party. Currently district lines are drawn by considering voter registration and voter history. Both parties have done this when they can. That is why we are pushing to develop a new format for the redistricting commission whereby no voter's registration is even known. The districts would be redrawn as the population changes according to municipal lines. Communities that should remain intact will remain intact and, most importantly, district lines will not be drawn based on the number of party votes, but simply based on the number of people. Our new system would not allow members of the commission to be privy to voter registrations and they must have no known vested interest like running for office, being married to a government official, etc. What we have now is unfair and does not embrace a true democracy.

Many county commissioners and municipalities throughout the State of Pennsylvania have signed a resolution calling for an independent commission, not our current partisan commission, to draw up the new district lines after the 2020 census. Our neighbors, the Clinton county Commissioners and 100% of the municipalities in Clinton County, have signed the attached resolution. To pass the resolution does not cost anything, other than mailing, and will show your support for the idea of 1 person=1vote, and that all votes are equal; just what the PA Constitution intended. You can help lead the way in this effort to protect the vote of every Pennsylvanian.

If you do decide to pass a resolution, for the greatest impact, we ask that you forward a hard copy of the resolution to the individuals on the attached list, which we have included with the template for your resolution. I have included all names and addresses for your convenience.

Thank you for considering this important Tioga County action.

Fair Districts PA-Tioga County

Janet Gyekis- [janetgyekis@yahoo.com](mailto:janetgyekis@yahoo.com) : phone- 570 439-5742

Arline Buchman- [arlinebuchman@gmail.com](mailto:arlinebuchman@gmail.com)

Wayne Grey- [4wavgr@gmail.com](mailto:4wavgr@gmail.com)

Steve McCarthy- [starbrightsteve@frontiernet.net](mailto:starbrightsteve@frontiernet.net)