

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Judicial District Summary Sheet

County Name: **Mifflin**

Judicial District #: **58**

Caseload and Magisterial District Elimination Analysis

The difference between the average annual caseload of Judicial District # 58 and its class of county: **-12 %**

This judicial district is comprised of 3 magisterial districts. Geography is not amenable to realignment and elimination without placing undue hardship on the remaining districts.

Summary of Proposed Actions

58-3-01 Reestablish

58-3-02 Reestablish

58-3-03 Reestablish

Night/Central/Alternate Court Operations

This judicial district utilizes the following diversionary courts to assist in balancing workload:

Central Court: Yes Night Court: No

Central court balances CR workload among all three magisterial districts.

Public Comment

Proposal Posted for Public Comment: Yes Comments Received: Yes

Helen Kirk: Objects to three magisterial districts because of the burden to taxpayers.

General Comments *Mifflin exceeds the average total workload for 6th class counties (25,084). Although there is no SCI, turnpike, college or major interstate within the county, the magisterial districts have an average workload that is 7% above the 6th class county average. The county is on the fringe of the Marcellus Shale band. Over the next ten years, US 322 may be expanded to join a 4 lane highway to Boalsburg which can increase residential and commercial development along this corridor.*

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

County Name: Mifflin

Judicial District #: 58

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 58-3-01

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	3,235	Average Annual Workload:	35,709
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	13.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	33.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-1.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

The number of LT filings in Lewisburg Borough is large because it is now less than 50% owner occupied.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Jack E. Miller

103 West Market Street, Suite 1 P.O. Box 88

Lewistown, PA 17044

Birthdate: 2-8-55

Mandatory Retirement: 2025

Term Expires: 12-31-17

Existing Geography:

BRATTON TWP Voting District; GRANVILLE TWP VTD EAST; GRANVILLE TWP VTD WEST; JUNIATA TERRACE Voting District; KISTLER Voting District; LEWISTOWN WD 01 PCT 01; LEWISTOWN WD 01 PCT 02; LEWISTOWN WD 02; LEWISTOWN WD 03; LEWISTOWN WD 04; LEWISTOWN WD 05 PCT 01; LEWISTOWN WD 05 PCT 02; MC VEYTOWN Voting District; NEWTON HAMILTON Voting District; OLIVER TWP Voting District; WAYNE TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

BRATTON TWP Voting District; GRANVILLE TWP VTD EAST; GRANVILLE TWP VTD WEST; JUNIATA TERRACE Voting District; KISTLER Voting District; LEWISTOWN WD 01 PCT 01; LEWISTOWN WD 01 PCT 02; LEWISTOWN WD 02; LEWISTOWN WD 03; LEWISTOWN WD 04; LEWISTOWN WD 05 PCT 01; LEWISTOWN WD 05 PCT 02; MC VEYTOWN Voting District; NEWTON HAMILTON Voting District; OLIVER TWP Voting District; WAYNE TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Lewistown Police Dept; Granville Twp Police; PSP

Major Highways: US 22/322, US 22/522 & SR 103

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 58-3-02

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	3,313	Average Annual Workload:	30,459
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	15.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	13.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	1.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

This court has higher LT and Civil workload than 58-3-03; but falls below 58-3-01 in LT.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Aaron L. Gingrich	Birthdate:	10-2-71
7 Ort Valley Road, Suite A	Mandatory Retirement:	2041
Lewistown, PA 17044	Term Expires:	1-3-16

Existing Geography:

BURNHAM Voting District; DECATUR TWP VTD EAST;
DECATUR TWP VTD WEST; DERRY TWP VTD EAST;
DERRY TWP VTD NORTH; DERRY TWP VTD SOUTH;
DERRY TWP VTD WEST; LEWISTOWN WD 06;
LEWISTOWN WD 07

Proposed Geography:

BURNHAM Voting District; DECATUR TWP VTD EAST;
DECATUR TWP VTD WEST; DERRY TWP VTD EAST;
DERRY TWP VTD NORTH; DERRY TWP VTD SOUTH;
DERRY TWP VTD WEST; LEWISTOWN WD 06;
LEWISTOWN WD 07

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Lewistown Police Dept.; Mifflin County Regional Police Dept; PSP

Major Highways: US 22/322' US 22/522

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 58-3-03

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	2,069	Average Annual Workload:	14,416
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-28.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-46.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-37.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

This is one of three magisterial districts. Elimination of this district would significantly increase the workload of the other two magisterial districts. Consideration was given to realigning with another court, but the caseload and workload gained would be nominal and would not impact equity and bring it into balance.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Tammy L. Hunter	Birthdate:	6-14-68
96 South Main Street P. O. Box 580	Mandatory Retirement:	2038
Reedsville, PA 17084	Term Expires:	1-3-16

Existing Geography:

ARMAGH TWP VTD NEW; ARMAGH TWP VTD OLD;
BROWN TWP Voting District; MENNO TWP Voting
District; UNION TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

ARMAGH TWP VTD NEW; ARMAGH TWP VTD OLD;
BROWN TWP Voting District; MENNO TWP Voting
District; UNION TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Mifflin County Regional Police; PSP

Major Highways: US 322; SR 655

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

Judicial District and Class of County Comparison Statistics

Mifflin / 58

Judicial District Average Caseload			
2011 Class	2011 Filings	2012 Class	2012 Filings
6	2,872	6	2,872

2011 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2011 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	251	126	2,087	485	231	43	41	3,263

2012 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2012 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	244	155	2,019	477	228	42	39	3,204

Notes on Analysis:

CASELOAD: The statistics provided are used to compare the average annual caseload of each magisterial district to the class of county average as one measure to assess whether any changes should be proposed. Reported values are provided by the judicial district; the comparison values are provided by the MDJS.

WORKLOAD: Where the average annual workload of a magisterial district is greater/less than 15% of the judicial district's workload average, the judicial district should realign - OR - explain why this difference does not impact workload equity within the judicial district. A value that is green indicates it is within range; red requires justification if realignment or elimination are not proposed.

Judicial District Caseload Averages		
Mifflin	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	301	301
NT	569	569
PC	178	178
TR	1,519	1,519
CV	231	231
LT	39	39
MD	35	35
AVG	2,872	2,872

Judicial District Workload Averages		
Mifflin	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	11,057	11,057
NT	6,107	6,107
PC	1,914	1,914
TR	3,463	3,463
CV	2,603	2,603
LT	566	566
MD	1,147	1,140
-15 % Workload	22,829	22,823
Average Workload	26,858	26,851
+ 15% Workload	30,887	30,878

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

58-3-01

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,235		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

13	12.64%	12.64%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-1	-0.87%	0.96%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
35,709		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

33	32.96%	32.99%
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58-3-02

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,313		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

15	15.36%	15.36%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

1	1.52%	3.40%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
30,459		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

13	13.41%	13.44%
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Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

58-3-03

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
2,069	2011	2012

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-28	-27.96%	-27.96%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-37	-36.60%	-35.43%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
14,416	2011	2012

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-46	-46.32%	-46.31%
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COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MIFFLIN COUNTY
58TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mifflin County Courthouse
20 North Wayne Street
Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

TIMOTHY S. SEARER, PRESIDENT JUDGE
RICK WILLIAMS, JUDGE

PHONE (717) 248-4613
FAX (717) 248-8337

February 29, 2012

Joseph J. Mittleman, Esq.
Director of Judicial Programs
Administrative Office of PA Courts
1515 Market Street, Suite 1414
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Magisterial District Reestablishment

Dear Mr. Mittleman:

Enclosed is our magisterial district reestablishment final proposal seeking no change within Mifflin County. Our proposal, as submitted, consists of the following:

- Judicial District Summary Worksheet
- Magisterial District Reestablishment Worksheets for 58-3-01, 58-3-02 and 58-3-03
- Copy of news release
- Copy of public posting
- Copy of one public comment received

If you have any questions or need additional submissions, please advise.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Searer
President Judge

TSS:mkf

Enclosures



AOPC

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER:	58
A.	Wh at is the class of county?	6
B.	Wh at is the percentage difference in the average annual caseload between this judicial district and the applicable class of county?	-12%
II.	PROPOSED ACTIONS:	
A.	List existing magisterial districts: 58-3-01, 58-3-02 & 58-3-03	
B.	Does this judicial district have an annual average caseload that is ten percent above the average caseload for the applicable class of county?	NO
1.	If the answer to II. B. above is <i>NO</i> , are eliminations proposed?	NO
a)	List magisterial districts proposed for elimination.	
b)	If no eliminations are proposed based on II. B. above, what are the factors for this decision?	
	<p>Given the geography of Mifflin County (location of population, major highways and commercial districts), elimination of one of our three minor courts would greatly increase the caseload/workload of the remaining two. The caseloads of the remaining two courts (58-3-01 & 58-3-02) would increase to 31% and 33%, respectively, above the average total caseload of 6th Class counties; each court (58-3-01 & 58-3-02) is currently within 1% of the average caseload of 6th Class counties.</p> <p>Further, the workloads of the remaining two courts would increase to 71% and 50%, respectively, above the average total workload of 6th Class counties. Those courts are currently at +42% and +21%, respectively, above the average total workload of 6th Class counties and +33% and +13%, respectively, above this judicial district's average total workload.</p>	

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

2. If the answer to **II. B.** above is *YES*, are eliminations proposed? Choose Yes or No

a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination.

C. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment? YES

1. List magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment.
58-3-01, 58-3-02 & 58-3-03

D. Are any magisterial districts proposed for realignment? NO

1. List magisterial districts proposed for realignment.
None

III. NIGHT AND CENTRAL COURT OPERATIONS

A. Is there a night court operating within the judicial district? NO

B. Is there a central court operating within the judicial district? YES

C. Note comments regarding how night, central or other similar court programs impact operations within the judicial district.
Central Court greatly balances the criminal workload among our three magisterial districts.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. A request for public comment was posted: YES

B. Comments were received: YES

C. Comments are attached: YES

V. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING PROPOSAL:

Mifflin County currently ranks 14th among 24 6th Class counties in terms of caseload numbers.

Mifflin County exceeds the average total workload for 6th Class counties (25,084). Our judicial district's average total workload is 26,861. Notwithstanding the fact there is no SCI, turnpike, college or major interstate within Mifflin County, our judicial district's minor courts have an average workload 7% above that of the 6th Class county average. That workload ranks us 8th of 24 6th Class counties.

AOPC

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

Mifflin County is just on the outside of the Marcellus Shale band. Drilling companies have been making drilling contract inquiries of property owners.

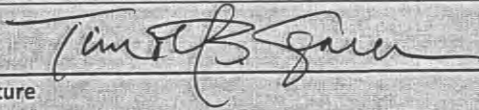
Going forward into the reestablishment period, it is anticipated US 322 could be expanded to connect the four-lane highway to Boalsburg, PA. Such an expansion could result in continued residential and commercial development along US 322 served by 58-3-03.

Consideration was given to adding contiguous areas along the US 322 corridor to 58-3-03. However, the caseload/workload gained in 58-3-03 and taken from 58-3-02 would be so slight that greater equity would not be achieved. The contiguous areas to 58-3-03 are primarily farmland resulting in few filings.

VI. DATE SUBMITTED TO AOPC: *FEBRUARY 29, 2012*

VII. PRESIDENT JUDGE NAME: Timothy S. Searer, P.J.

Signature



Fultz, Melissa

From: Fultz, Melissa
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:58 AM
To: 'Helen Kirk'
Subject: RE: Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal

Ms. Kirk:

Thank you for your input.

Melissa K. Fultz, DCA
58th Judicial District
Mifflin County Courthouse
20 North Wayne Street 3FL
Lewistown, PA 17044
Voice: 717.242.5453
Fax: 717.248.8337
E-Mail: mfultz@co.mifflin.pa.us

From: Helen Kirk [<mailto:hkirk1@verizon.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:36 AM
To: Fultz, Melissa
Subject: Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal

Dear Mrs. Fultz:

I object to having three (3) District Judges. The added expense of having the third one is a burden to the tax payers. We do not need the third one unless the crime work load picks up. There is not enough work to maintain the third office. If you check the records the work load is down and really there is not enough to keep two (2) offices busy. The expenses for maintaining the third office is not paying for its self.

Helen Kirk
10589 Ferguson Valley Road
Lewistown, PA 17044

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	58-3-01
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	3,235
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	+13%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-1%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	35,709
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	33%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> the judicial district's average total workload?	Yes
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Large number of landlord/tenant filings in Lewistown Borough which is now less than 50% owner-occupied property.	
IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:		
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2013
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:		
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Jack E. Miller	



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2017
C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2025
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	103 W. Market St., 2FL Lewistown, PA 17044
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Lewistown Police Dept., Granville Township Police Dept. & PA State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	US 22/322, US 22/522 & SR 103
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Townships: Bratton, Granville, Oliver & Wayne Boroughs: Juniata Terrace, Kistler, Lewistown (Wards 1-5), McVeytown & Newton Hamilton
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Same
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	58-3-02
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	3,313
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	+15%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	+1%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	30,459
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	13%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> the judicial district's average total workload?	No
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? 58-3-02 surpasses 58-3-03 in landlord/tenant and civil workload. 58-3-02 falls below 58-3-01 in that 58-3-01 has a larger number of landlord/tenant filings in Lewistown Borough which is now less than 50% owner-occupied property.	
IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:		
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2013
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:		
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Aaron L. Gingrich, Esq.	

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016
C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2041
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	7 Ort Valley Rd., Suite A Lewistown, PA 17044
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Lewistown Police Dept., Mifflin County Regional Police Dept. & PA State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	US 22/322, US 22/522
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Townships: Decatur & Derry Boroughs: Burnham & Lewistown (Wards 6 & 7)
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Same
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	58-3-03
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,069
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-28%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-37%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	14,416
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-46%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> the judicial district's average total workload?	Yes
D.	<p>If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?</p> <p>This is one of three districts. Given the geography of Mifflin County (location of population, major highways and commercial districts), elimination of this one minor court would greatly increase the workloads of the remaining two. The remaining two would increase to 71% and 50%, respectively, above the average total of workload of 6th Class counties. Currently, these two courts are 42% and 21% above the average total workload of 6th Class counties while being 33% and 13% above this judicial district's average total workload.</p> <p>Consideration was given to adding contiguous areas along the US 322 corridor to 58-3-03. However, the caseload/workload gained in this district and taken from 58-3-02 would be so slight that greater equity would not be achieved. The contiguous areas to 58-3-03 are primarily farmland resulting in few filings.</p>	

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A. Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B. What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2013
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A. Magisterial District Judge Name:	Tammy L. Hunter
B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016
C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2038
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Main Street Reedsville, PA 17084
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	Yes
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Mifflin County Regional Police Dept. & PA State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	US 322, SR 655
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Townships: Armagh, Brown, Menno & Union	
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Same	
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

Magisterial District Reestablishment Proposal Public Comment

January 24, 2012 – The reestablishment plan for Mifflin County's three magisterial district courts is on display for a period of 30 days. The plan is accessible from the Mifflin County Government homepage by following the links to the Court Office or Magisterial District Judges. This plan will also be posted within each MDJ court and within the Mifflin County Commissioners' Office. No changes are anticipated to the number or boundaries of Mifflin County's three magisterial districts. The time for public comment will expire at close of business Friday, February 24, 2012.

Public comments related to Mifflin County's plan may be mailed c/o Court Administrator, Mifflin County Courthouse, 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044, or emailed to mfultz@co.mifflin.pa.us. Comments must include the sender's full name and address.

Above notice was posted on the County's government home page. MDJ Worksheets and Judicial District Worksheet were posted on the Courts' respective web sites. Above hard-copy notice posted within each MDJ Court facility and the Commissioners' Office with copies of the MDJ Worksheets and Judicial District Worksheet attached.

NEWS FOR JANUARY 24 RELEASE

LEWISTOWN, PA – The reestablishment plan for Mifflin County's three magisterial district courts has been posted and can be viewed for a period of 30 days on-line at the Mifflin County Government homepage (www.co.mifflin.pa.us) by following the links to the Court Office or Magisterial District Judges. The proposal will also be posted within each MDJ court and within the Mifflin County Commissioners' Office. No changes are anticipated to the number or boundaries of Mifflin County's three magisterial districts.

Judicial redistricting, also referred to as reestablishment, is a statutorily required process that takes place once every ten years to determine how to allocate state court system resources to best serve the Commonwealth's citizens. The review covers the number and boundaries of each of the state's 539 magisterial districts.

Conducted within each judicial district by the president judge and court administration, under guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the statewide process is administered by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. "This comprehensive analysis helps ensure that the configuration of each magisterial district is appropriate to serve its residents over the next decade," Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille said of the process.

New to this year's process is a directive from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to develop a statewide plan to reduce the overall number of magisterial district court judgeships to address a series of financial shortfalls Pennsylvania's Judiciary has struggled with over the last several years. The Supreme Court has set as a goal a ten percent overall reduction in magisterial district judgeships through the upcoming reestablishment process.

Public comments related to Mifflin County's plan may be mailed c/o Court Administrator, Mifflin County Courthouse, 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044, or emailed to mfultz@co.mifflin.pa.us. Comments must include the sender's full name and address.