

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Judicial District Summary Sheet

County Name: **Monroe**

Judicial District #: **43**

Caseload and Magisterial District Elimination Analysis

The difference between the average annual caseload of Judicial District # 43 and its class of county: **-3 %**

Summary of Proposed Actions

43-2-01 Reestablish

43-2-02 Reestablish

43-3-01 Realign

43-3-02 Realign

43-3-03 Realign

43-3-04 Realign

43-4-01 Reestablish

43-4-02 Realign

43-4-03 **Eliminate**

43-4-04 Reestablish

Night/Central/Alternate Court Operations

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

Central Court: No Night Court: No

In the process of developing a central court which will become operational in six months - one year.

Public Comment

Proposal Posted for Public Comment: Yes Comments Received: Yes

Joseph Rogan, Constable, Tobyhanna in a Letter to the Editor, Pocono Record: Opposed to elimination of district.

General Comments *High mortgage foreclosure rate and resulting attrition; including school closings.*

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

County Name: **Monroe**

Judicial District #: **43**

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-2-01

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	5,425	Average Annual Workload:	33,404
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	28.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	3.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	23.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Kristina Anzini	Birthdate:	12-8-64
Pocono Outlet Complex 823-A Ann Street	Mandatory Retirement:	2034
Stroudsburg, PA 18360	Term Expires:	1-5-14

Existing Geography:

STROUDSBURG WD 01; STROUDSBURG WD 02;
STROUDSBURG WD 03; STROUDSBURG WD 04;
STROUDSBURG WD 05

Proposed Geography:

STROUDSBURG WD 01; STROUDSBURG WD 02;
STROUDSBURG WD 03; STROUDSBURG WD 04;
STROUDSBURG WD 05

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Stroudsburg Area Regional Police Department

Major Highways: I-80

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-2-02

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	3,486	Average Annual Workload:	31,538
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-18.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-2.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-21.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

The location of East Stroudsburg University in this borough and the expansion of the student population contribute to the decision to reestablish. In addition, the MDJ handles the problem solving truancy court for the entire East Stroudsburg School District, even though part of the school district is in 43-4-01. All filings are filed in 43-2-02.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Michael R. Muth	Birthdate:	12-28-50
98 Day Street	Mandatory Retirement:	2020
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 01; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 02; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 03; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 04; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 05; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 06

Proposed Geography:

EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 01; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 02; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 03; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 04; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 05; EAST STROUDSBURG DIST 06

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: East Stroudsburg Borough

Major Highways: I-80, County Route 209

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-3-01

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	5,898	Average Annual Workload:	51,860
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	28.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	60.10
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	25.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Removing Mt. Pocono Borough and adding it to 43-4-02 will reduce filings to less than 10% above the average caseload and workload for 4th class counties.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Anthony D. Fluegel	Birthdate:	5-27-54
5520 Memorial Blvd.	Mandatory Retirement:	2024
Tobyhanna, PA 18466	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 01; COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 02;
COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 03; COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 04;
MT. POCONO Voting District

Proposed Geography:

COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 01; COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 02;
COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 03; COOLBAUGH TWP DIST 04

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department; PSP

Major Highways: I-80; County Route 940

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-3-02

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,530	Average Annual Workload:	28,999
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-40.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-10.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-43.00		

Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

C. Daniel Higgins , Jr.	Birthdate:	5-26-67
1211 North 5th Street, Suite 103	Mandatory Retirement:	2037
Stroudsburg, PA 18360	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

STROUD TWP DIST 01; STROUD TWP DIST 02; STROUD TWP DIST 03; STROUD TWP DIST 04; STROUD TWP DIST 05; STROUD TWP DIST 06; STROUD TWP DIST 07

Proposed Geography:

HAMILTON TWP VTD NORTH; HAMILTON TWP VTD SOUTH; STROUD TWP DIST 01; STROUD TWP DIST 02; STROUD TWP DIST 03; STROUD TWP DIST 04; STROUD TWP DIST 05; STROUD TWP DIST 06; STROUD TWP DIST 07

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Stroud Area Regional Police Dept; PSP

Major Highways: I-80

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-3-03

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	3,166	Average Annual Workload:	28,864
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-25.34	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-10.60
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-26.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Realignment will bring caseload to 6,474 and workload to 39,774. Jackson Twp, when part of 43-4-04 artificially inflated traffic filings due to PSP "Safe Traffic" Initiatives.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Thomas E. Olsen	Birthdate:	6-14-54
Old Mill Road P.O. Box 736	Mandatory Retirement:	2024
Tannersville, PA 18372	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

POCONO TWP DIST 01; POCONO TWP DIST 02; POCONO TWP DIST 03; POCONO TWP DIST 04

Proposed Geography:

JACKSON TWP Voting District; POCONO TWP DIST 01; POCONO TWP DIST 02; POCONO TWP DIST 03; POCONO TWP DIST 04

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Pocono Township Police; PSP

Major Highways: I-80

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-3-04

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	5,773	Average Annual Workload:	32,692
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	36.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	1.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	33.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Although more municipalities are added, they are rural and similar to existing Chestnuthill. MDJ Mancuso also handles problem solving truancy court for the Pleasant Valley School District.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Colleen Mancuso	Birthdate:	2-15-66
Route 209 & Shafer Drive	Mandatory Retirement:	2036
Brodheads ville, PA 18322	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 01; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 02; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 03; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 04; JACKSON TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 01; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 02; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 03; CHESTNUTHILL TWP DIST 04; ELDRED TWP Voting District; POLK TWP Voting District; ROSS TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: PSP

Major Highways: County Rte 209; 115; I-80

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-4-01

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	5,373	Average Annual Workload:	33,012
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	26.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	2.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	21.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Via administrative order from 11/07-8/09, PSP Swiftwater filed traffic citations for the last 20 days of each month in this district rather than 43-3-04 in order to equalize filings. Order was rescinded in 8/09.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Brian R. Germano	Birthdate:	9-9-59
1155 Red Fox Road, 1st Floor	Mandatory Retirement:	2029
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

DELAWARE WATER GAP Voting District; MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TWP VTD EAST; MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TWP VTD WEST; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 01; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 02; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 03

Proposed Geography:

DELAWARE WATER GAP Voting District; MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TWP VTD EAST; MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TWP VTD WEST; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 01; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 02; SMITHFIELD TWP DIST 03

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: PSP

Major Highways: County Route 209; I-80

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-4-02

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,199	Average Annual Workload:	18,150
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-48.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-44.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-50.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Plan to move the office to a more centralized location within the district. MDJ Whitesell handles problem solving truancy court for Pocono Mountain school district.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

John D. Whitesell	Birthdate:	2-24-48
Route 191 P.O. Box 213	Mandatory Retirement:	2018
Mountainhome, PA 18342	Term Expires:	1-5-14

Existing Geography:

BARRETT TWP DIST 01; BARRETT TWP DIST 02;
PARADISE TWP Voting District; PRICE TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

BARRETT TWP DIST 01; BARRETT TWP DIST 02; MT.
POCONO Voting District; PARADISE TWP Voting
District; PRICE TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Barrett Twp Police; PSP

Major Highways: County Rte. 191, 390, 940

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-4-03

Proposed Action: Eliminate

Average Annual Caseload:	3,130	Average Annual Workload:	26,786
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-26.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-17.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-29.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

This district will be eliminated and combined with 43-3-02 and 43-3-04.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

JoLana Krawitz	Birthdate:	6-20-52
103B Gypsum Road	Mandatory Retirement:	2022
Stroudsburg, PA 18360	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

ELDRED TWP Voting District; HAMILTON TWP VTD NORTH; HAMILTON TWP VTD SOUTH; POLK TWP Voting District; ROSS TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: PSP

Major Highways: County Route 33, 209

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 43-4-04

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	5,428	Average Annual Workload:	37,770
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	28.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	17.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	23.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

The slight deviation will be helped by the creation of central court.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Richard S. Claypool	Birthdate:	12-23-65
HC 89 Box 260	Mandatory Retirement:	2035
Pocono Pines, PA 18350	Term Expires:	12-31-17

Existing Geography:

TOBYHANNA TWP VTD EAST; TOBYHANNA TWP VTD WEST; TUNKHANNOCK TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

TOBYHANNA TWP VTD EAST; TOBYHANNA TWP VTD WEST; TUNKHANNOCK TWP Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Pocono Mountain Regional; PSP

Major Highways: I-80; County Route 940, 115

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

Judicial District and Class of County Comparison Statistics

Monroe / 43

Judicial District Average Caseload			
2011 Class	2011 Filings	2012 Class	2012 Filings
5	4,240	4	4,240

2011 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2011 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
5	409	144	2,559	688	289	101	85	4,275

2012 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2012 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
4	392	141	2,635	733	262	92	66	4,320

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		
Monroe	2011	2012
Class	5	4
CR	287	287
NT	516	516
PC	97	97
TR	2,749	2,749
CV	413	413
LT	85	85
MD	92	92
AVG	4,240	4,240

Judicial District Workload Averages		
Monroe	2011	2012
Class	5	4
CR	10,553	10,553
NT	5,547	5,547
PC	1,038	1,038
TR	6,269	6,269
CV	4,655	4,655
LT	1,237	1,237
MD	3,009	3,009
-15 % Workload	27,462	27,462
Average Workload	32,308	32,308
+ 15% Workload	37,154	37,154

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

43-2-01

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,425		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

28	27.94%	27.94%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

23	26.91%	25.57%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
33,404		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

3	3.39%	3.39%
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43-2-02

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,486		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-18	-17.79%	-17.79%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-21	-18.45%	-19.31%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
31,538		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-2	-2.38%	-2.38%
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Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

43-3-01 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,898		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

28	39.09%	39.09%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

25	37.98%	36.52%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
51,860		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

60.1	60.52%	60.52%
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43-3-02 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,530		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-40	-40.33%	-40.33%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-43	-40.81%	-41.44%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
28,999		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-10	-10.24%	-10.24%
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43-3-03 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,166		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-25.34	-25.34%	-25.34%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-26	-25.93%	-26.72%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
28,864		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-10.6	-10.66%	-10.66%
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Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

43-3-04 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,773		
36	36.14%	36.14%
33	35.05%	33.63%

WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
32,692		
1	1.19%	1.19%

43-4-01 Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,373		
26	26.71%	26.71%
21	25.70%	24.37%

WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
33,012		
2	2.18%	2.18%

43-4-02 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,199		
-48	-48.14%	-48.14%
-50	-48.56%	-49.10%

WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
18,150		
-44	-43.82%	-43.82%

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

43-4-03

Eliminate

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,130		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-26	-26.19%	-26.19%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-29	-26.78%	-27.55%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
26,786		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-17	-17.09%	-17.09%
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43-4-04

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
5,428		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

28	28.01%	28.01%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

23	26.98%	25.64%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
37,770		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

17	16.91%	16.91%
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Monroe County District Courts Reestablishment Plan 2012

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2. Reestablishment Summary
3. Draft Proposal
4. AOPC Worksheets –
 - One (1) Judicial District Summary Worksheet (2 pages)
 - Ten (10) sets (two pages each) Magisterial District Reestablishment Worksheets
 - Caseload/Workload Combination Worksheets (4)
5. Pocono Record Home Foreclosure Article – January 7, 2011
 - 1995-2011 Mortgage Foreclosure Graph
6. Pocono Record School Closing Articles – (5)
 - Pocono Mountain 1/26/2012
 - Stroudsburg 1/17/2012
 - East Stroudsburg 2/07/2012
 - Pocono Mountain 4/07/2011
 - Pleasant Valley 3/05/2010
7. Monroe County Population Growth Chart 2000-2010
 - Pocono Record Census Results Article – 3/10/2011

43rd Judicial District
Monroe County Pennsylvania
District Court Reestablishment Plan
March 2012

Judicial redistricting, also referred to as reestablishment, is a state constitutionally required process that takes place once every 10 years to determine how to allocate state court system resources to best serve the Commonwealth's citizens. 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 by ten percent (10%).

The minor courts, also called the "special courts," are the first level of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. These courts are presided over by magisterial district judges who decide small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, traffic cases and minor criminal matters. There are 544 magisterial district judges based in community courts throughout the Commonwealth. These judges are not required to be lawyers, but they must undergo legal training and attend continuing legal education programs.

At the present time, there are ten (10) Magisterial district courts in the 43d Judicial District, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. In evaluating the reestablishment of these courts, we must consider factors such as the number of case filings in each district and the average workload (a weighted value assigned by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to different types of cases which provides a more realistic idea of how much time each specific type of case may require). We must also consider that, following the 2010 Census, Monroe County was noted as the third fastest growing County in Pennsylvania over the past decade and was re-classified from a 5th to a 4th class county. Additionally, we consider Monroe County's unique mixture of townships, boroughs and rural area, as well as the pattern of growth, which presents a quandary in the establishment of magisterial districts. Finally, we cannot ignore the County's high mortgage foreclosure rates and resulting attrition, together with school closings in each of our four school districts. (Please see articles from The Pocono Record, attached).

Details of the proposal are contained in the recommendations summary and attached maps, together with the individual Magisterial District Reestablishment Worksheets.

The following briefly summarizes the proposed reestablishment plan:

1. Monroe County currently has 10 magisterial districts;
2. The average caseload for a magisterial district court in a class 4 county is 4,407 cases; the average caseload for a magisterial district court in Monroe County is 4,240 cases;
3. The average workload (weighted caseload) for a Magisterial District Court in a class 4 county is 36,884; the average workload for a magisterial district court in Monroe County is 32,308;
4. Four of the Monroe County Magisterial Districts are over 15% above average in caseload, however, only one of those districts is over 15% above average in workload;
5. The disparity among the Monroe County Magisterial Districts warrants realignment (changes in boundaries) of certain courts and elimination of one district;
6. The proposal recommends that one district be eliminated (Snydersville);
7. The proposal recommends that four districts be reestablished – no change to boundaries (Stroudsburg Borough, East Stroudsburg Borough, Marshalls Creek and Pocono Pines);
8. The proposal recommends that four districts be realigned – changes to boundaries (Snydersville to be eliminated and realigned with Stroud Township and Chestnuthill Township; Jackson Township to be removed from Chestnuthill and realigned with Pocono Township; the Borough of Mount Pocono to be removed from Tobyhanna and realigned with Mountainhome);
9. Additional case reassignments are proposed, unrelated to district boundaries, including the establishment of a central court to assist in achieving a more evenly distributed workload;
10. The proposal recommends that the 43d Judicial District, Monroe County, maintain nine (9) magisterial district courts.

Written comments or suggestions regarding the proposal may be directed to Deborah Krom Powell, District Administrator Special Courts, Monroe County Courthouse, 610 Monroe Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, by fax to (570) 517-3879 or by e-mail to dakrom@co.monroe.pa.us. All written comments or suggestions must be received **no later than April 5, 2012**.

Margherita Patti Worthington, President Judge

43rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
MONROE COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

LEGEND

- Magisterial Districts
- 43-2-01 - District Judge Kristina Anzini
 - 43-2-02 - District Judge Michael R. Muth
 - 43-3-01 - District Judge Anthony D. Fliegel
 - 43-3-02 - District Judge C. Daniel Higgins, Jr.
 - 43-3-03 - District Judge Thomas E. Olsen
 - 43-3-04 - District Judge Colleen Mancuso
 - 43-4-01 - District Judge Brian R. Germano
 - 43-4-02 - District Judge John D. Whitesell
 - 43-4-03 - District Judge Johanna Krawitz
 - 43-4-04 - District Judge Richard S. Claypool



1:270,000



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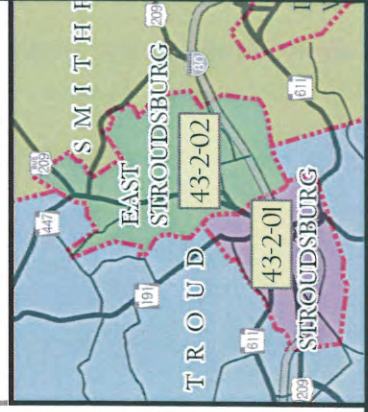
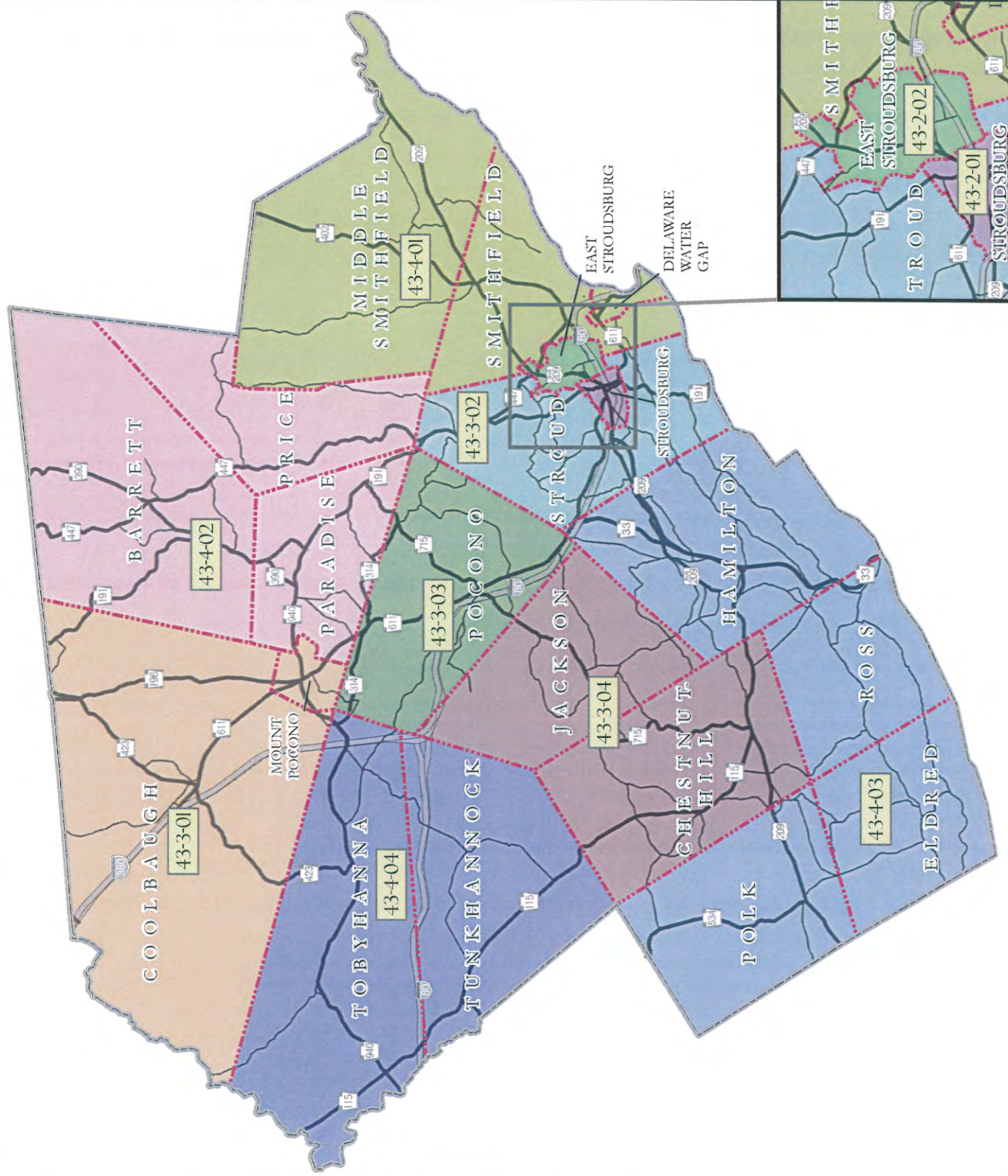
PREPARED BY

Monroe County
Planning Commission

1 Quaker Plaza, Room 106
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 517-3100
mepe@co.monroe.pa.us

February 2012

12-013



43rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PROPOSED
MAGISTERIAL
DISTRICTS
MONROE COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

- LEGEND
- Proposed Magisterial Districts
- District 43-2-01
 - District 43-2-02
 - District 43-3-01
 - District 43-3-02
 - District 43-3-03
 - District 43-3-04
 - District 43-4-01
 - District 43-4-02
 - District 43-4-04



1 289,019



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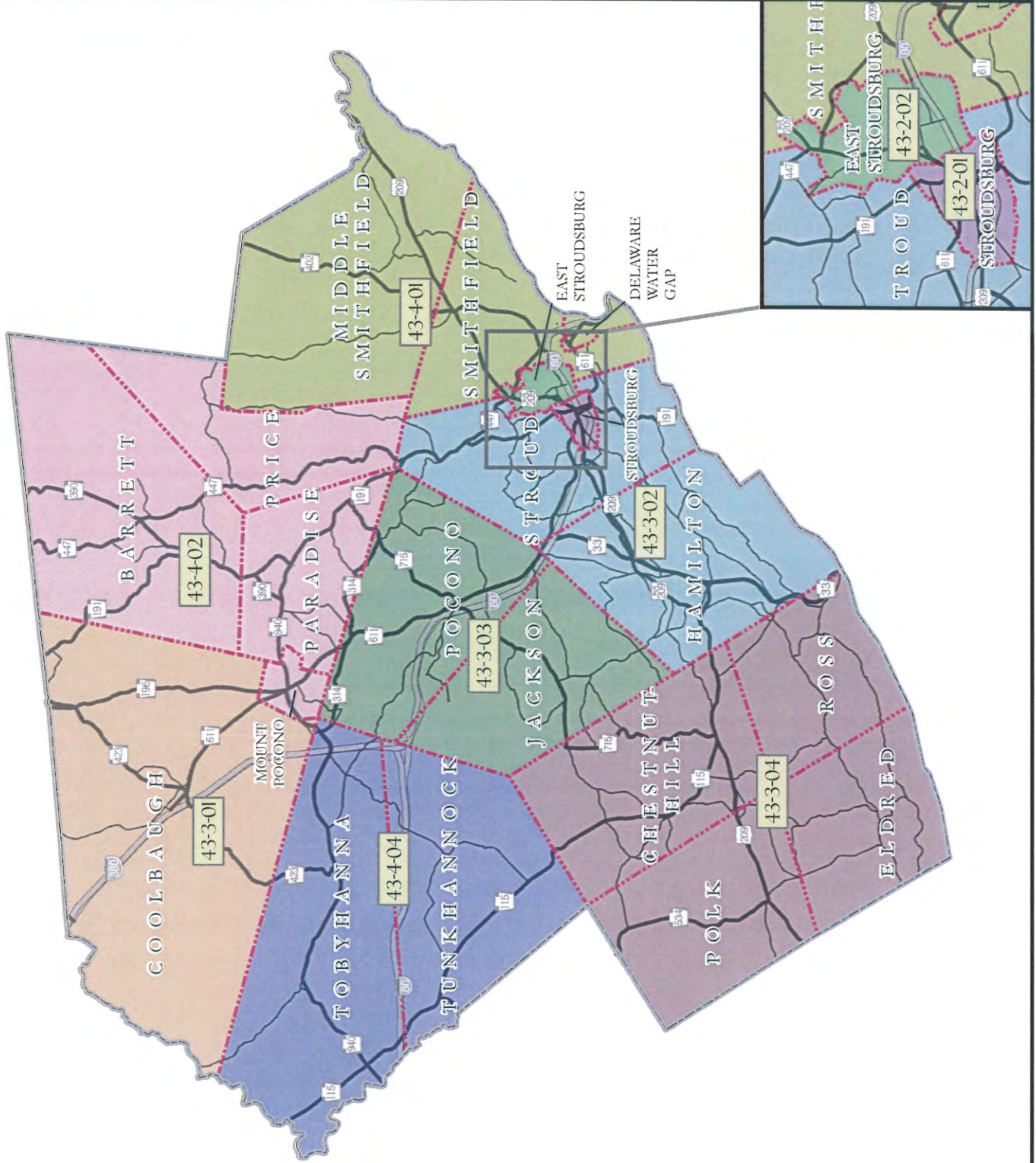
PREPARED BY

**Monroe County
Planning Commission**

1 Quaker Plaza, Room 106
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 517-3100
mepc@co.monroe.pa.us

February 2012

12-017



DRAFT PROPOSAL

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE 43RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT – MONROE COUNTY

I. REESTABLISHMENT OF CURRENT DISTRICT COURTS

Stroudsburg Borough 43-2-01 – Currently this court’s average caseload is 5425 cases per year, 23% above a Class 4 County’s average caseload. The workload is 33404, 10% below a Class 4 County’s average caseload. MDJ Anzini’s term expires December 31, 2013. This district court has an extraordinarily high number of traffic citations due to the parking meters in the borough. Electronic filing of these citations helps to keep the work load manageable. No changes are being requested of this court at this time.

East Stroudsburg 43-2-02 – Currently this court’s average caseload is 3486 cases per year, 21% below a Class 4 County’s average caseload. The workload is 31538, 14% below a Class 4 County’s average workload. MDJ Muth’s term expires December 31, 2017. East Stroudsburg University is currently expanding its student base and constructing two new dormitories within this district. Additionally, this MDJ handles problem-solving truancy court through the Monroe County Truancy Elimination Plan (currently in its 5th year) for the entire East Stroudsburg School District, part of which is under the jurisdiction of district court 43-4-01. All filings for violations of compulsory attendance for both districts will be filed in 43-2-02. No changes are being requested of this court at this time.

Marshalls Creek 43-4-01 – Currently this court’s average caseload is 5373 cases per year, 22% above a Class 4 County’s average caseload; the workload is 33012, 10% below a Class 4 County’s average workload. MDJ Germano’s term expires December 31, 2017. Due to an administrative order from November 2007-August 2009 redirecting traffic citations from a busier court to be filed in this court, the traffic numbers are artificially inflated. No changes are being requested of this court at this time.

Pocono Pines 43-4-04 – Currently this court’s average caseload is 5428 cases per year, 23% above a Class 4 County’s average caseload; the workload is 37770, 2% over a Class 4 County’s average workload. MDJ Claypool’s term expires December 31, 2017. The two townships that comprise MDJ Claypool’s district are over the average for a Class 4 County; however each separately does not qualify as a Class 4 County district. No changes are being requested at this time.

II. ELIMINATION OF SNYDERSVILLE DISTRICT COURT 43-4-03

Snydersville 43-4-03 - Currently this district's caseload is 3130 per year, 29% below a Class 4 County's average caseload and the workload is 26786, 27% below a Class 4 County's average workload.

MDJ JoLana Krawitz of district court 43-4-03 is retiring on December 31, 2017 at the end of her current term. Elimination of this district at that time will fulfill the AOPC's desire to realign by attrition.

**III. REALIGNMENT OF JACKSON TOWNSHIP WITH
POCONO TOWNSHIP 43-3-03**

Jackson Township – This township's average caseload is 3308 per year and workload is 10910.

Pocono Township 43-3-03 - Currently this court's average caseload is 3166 per year; 28% below a Class 4 County's average caseload; the workload is 28864, 22% below the workload of a Class 4 County.

Jackson Township would be removed from the Chestnuthill Township district court 43-3-04 and realigned with Pocono Township 43-3-03. The geographic layout and population density is more similar to Pocono than Chestnuthill and while the caseload for this combined district would be 6474, the workload would average approximately 39774, less than 8% over the Class 4 County average.

**IV. REALIGNMENT OF HAMILTON TOWNSHIP WITH
STROUD TOWNSHIP 43-3-02**

Hamilton Township – This township's average caseload is 1744 per year and workload is 11578.

Stroud Township 43-3-02 – Currently this court's average caseload is 2530 per year; 43% below a Class 4 County's average caseload; the workload is 28999, 21% below the workload of a Class 4 County.

By combining Hamilton Township with this district, the Stroud Township district court 43-3-02 will have a caseload of 4157 and a workload of 40577, bringing both figures within the desired 10% range, and joining two areas that are similar both geographically and demographically.

V. REALIGNMENT OF POLK, ROSS AND ELDRED TOWNSHIPS WITH

CHESTNUTHILL TOWNSHIP 43-3-04

Polk, Ross and Eldred Townships – The caseload from these townships is 1503 and workload is 13995.

Chestnuthill Township 43-3-04 – After separating Jackson Township (which is being realigned with Pocono Township) from Chestnuthill district court 43-3-04, the average caseload is 2405 per year; 45% below a Class 4 County's average caseload; the workload is 22395, 39% below the workload of a Class 4 County.

By combining Polk, Ross and Eldred Townships with Chestnuthill Township 43-3-04, the caseload is estimated at 3908, 11% below a Class 4 County's caseload and a workload of 36390, 1% below a Class 4 County's average workload.

VI. REALIGNMENT OF TOBYHANNA (43-3-01) AND

MOUNTAINHOME (43-4-02) OFFICES

Tobyhanna 43-3-01 – Currently this court's average caseload is 5898 cases per year, 34% over a Class 4 County's average caseload; the workload is 51860, 41% over a Class 4 County's average workload.

Mountainhome 43-4-02 – Currently this court's average caseload is 2199 cases per year; 50% below a Class 4 County's average caseload. The court's average workload is 18150 per year; 51% below a Class 4 County's average workload.

Removing Mount Pocono Borough from the Tobyhanna district court and adding it to the Mountainhome district court results in Tobyhanna having a more manageable caseload and workload (4535 cases; 34204 workload).

The Mountainhome office then increases its average annual caseload to 3864 (12% below a Class 4 County's average caseload) and workload of 34210 (7% below a Class 4 County's average workload), which realizes a more even distribution.

NOTE: CR/NT/PC/TR figures from AOPC are separated by township, CV/LT/MD are not since those cases are not recorded or filed by township in the MDJS computer system. A 30% average was taken from Coolbaugh Township (in Tobyhanna's jurisdiction) to approximate totals that would be added to Mountainhome by Mount Pocono Borough's CV/LT/MD filings.

AOPC

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

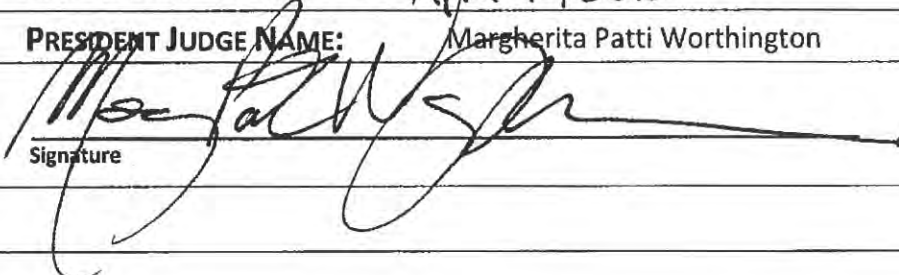
PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I. JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER:	43
A. What is the class of county?	4
B. What is the percentage difference in the average annual caseload between this judicial district and the applicable class of county?	-3%
II. PROPOSED ACTIONS:	
A. List existing magisterial districts: 2-01; 2-02; 3-01; 3-02; 3-03; 3-04; 4-01; 4-02; 4-03; 4-04	
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?	YES
a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination. 43-4-03	
b) If no eliminations are proposed based on II. B. above, what are the factors for this decision?	
2. If the answer to II. B. above is <i>YES</i> , 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. 43-2-01; 43-2-02; 43-4-01; 43-4-04	
D. Are any magisterial districts proposed for realignment?	YES
1. List magisterial districts proposed for realignment. 43-3-01, 43-4-02, 43-3-03, 43-3-04	

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

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?	NO
C. Note comments regarding how night, central or other similar court programs impact operations within the judicial district. We are in the process of developing a central court in Monroe County - tentative start date is six months to one year from now.	
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT	
A. A request for public comment was posted:	YES
B. Comments were received:	Choose <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes or No (1 rec'd)
C. Comments are attached:	Choose <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes or No
V. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING PROPOSAL:	
The reestablishment plan proposed considers the growth in population as juxtaposed against the high and steady mortgage foreclosure rate and resulting attrition, as well as the recent school closings in every school district within Monroe County. In analyzing these seemingly contradictory circumstances, we believe that the realignment of certain districts and the development and establishment of a central court will best serve the needs of the people in the 43rd judicial district.	
VI. DATE SUBMITTED TO AOPC:	April 10, 2012
VII. PRESIDENT JUDGE NAME:	Margherita Patti Worthington
Signature	

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 (#####):	43-2-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
	A. Average Total Caseload:	5,425
	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:	23%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
	A. Average Total Workload:	33,404
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	3%
	C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
	D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal. Realignment necessary in several offices at this time.	
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):	
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
	A. Magisterial District Judge Name: Kristina Anzini	
	B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2034
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	823a Ann St Stroudsburg 18360
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:	Stroud Area Regional Police Department
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Stroudsburg Borough	
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Stroudsburg Borough	
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
No changes requested at this time.	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-2-02
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A. Average Total Caseload:	3,486
B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-18%
C. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-21%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A. Average Total Workload:	31,538
B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-2%
C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	Presently unequal, realignment is necessary for several offices
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):	
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A. Magisterial District Judge Name:	Michael R. Muth
B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2017

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2020
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	98 Day Street East Stroudsburg 18301
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:	Stroud Area Regional Police Department
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80; County Route 209
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	East Stroudsburg Borough ✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	East Stroudsburg Borough ✓
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	<p>The location of East Stroudsburg University in the borough and the anticipated expansion of its student population with the completion of two new freshman dormitories, warrants reestablishment of this district due to the anticipated growth of the student population. Additionally, this MDJ handles problem-solving truancy court through the Monroe County Truancy Elimination Plan (currently in its 5th year) for the entire East Stroudsburg School District, part of which is under the jurisdiction of district court 43-4-01. All filings for violations of compulsory attendance for both districts will be filed in 43-2-02.</p>
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-3-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	5,898
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:	25%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	51,860
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	37%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal, realignment is necessary for several offices	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" 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: Anthony D. Fluegel	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2024
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	5520 Memorial Dr Tobyhanna 18466
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:	Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department; PSP
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80; County Route 940
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Coolbaugh Township; Mount Pocono Borough	✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
Coolbaugh Township	✓
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
Removing Mount Pocono Borough and adding it to 43-4-02 will reduce filings to less than 10% over the average case load and workload for Class 4 counties.	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-3-02
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,530
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-40%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-43%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	28,999
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-10%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal, realignment is necessary for several offices	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: C. Daniel Higgins, Jr.	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2034
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	1211 No. 5 th Street Stroudsburg 18360
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:	Stroud Area Regional Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	✓
Stroud Township	
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	✓
Stroud Township, Hamilton Township	
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
Combining the Stroud Township district court 43-3-02 with Hamilton Township will bring the caseload to approximately 4157 (5% below a Class 4 County's average caseload) and the workload to 40577 (10% above a Class 4 County's average workload).	
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-3-03
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	3,166
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-34%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-39%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	28,864
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-12%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal, realignment is necessary for several offices	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Thomas E. Olsen	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2024
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Old Mill Road Tannersville 18372
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:	Pocono Township Police; PSP
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Pocono Township
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Pocono Township; Jackson Township
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	Realigning this court to include the adjacent Jackson Township will bring the combined caseload to 6474 and the workload to 39774. While the caseload is +15%, the workload will be less than +10% of the average of a Class 4 County. Additionally, district 43-3-04, which included Jackson Township, had an artificially inflated traffic total due to PSP targeting the area in their "Safe Traffic" initiatives.
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-3-04
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	5,773
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	36%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	31%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	32,692
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	1%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? This office is in need of realignment to help balance the caseload and workload.	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Colleen Mancuso	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2017

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2036
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Route 209 & Shafer Dr Brodheads ville 18322
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:	Pennsylvania State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	County Route 209; County Route 115; Interstate 80
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Chestnuthill Township; Jackson Township ✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Chestnuthill Township, Eldred Township, Ross Township, Polk Township ✓
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	This court is being realigned by removing Jackson Township and adding Ross, Eldred, and Polk Townships, currently part of district 43-4-03 which is being eliminated under this plan. This will help balance the case filings; although the court is adding several townships, those townships are rural and geographically similar to Chestnuthill. Additionally, MDJ Mancuso handles problem-solving truancy court through the Monroe County Truancy Elimination Plan for the Pleasant Valley school district.
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	



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 (#####):	43-4-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	5,373
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	26%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	21%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	33,012
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	2%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? The inequity of this district was temporarily made by an administrative order.	
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):	
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Brian R. Germano	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2018

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2029
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	1155 Red Fox Road East Stroudsburg 18301
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:	PSP
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	County Route 209; Interstate 80
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Delaware Water Gap; Smithfield Township; Middle Smithfield Township ✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Delaware Water Gap; Smithfield Township; Middle Smithfield Township ✓
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	By administrative order, from Nov 2007 to Aug 2009 the Pennsylvania State Police Swiftwater Barracks were required to file traffic citations in this district which would have regularly been filed in 43-3-04. This was required for the last 20 days of each month in an attempt to equalize the traffic filings between these two districts and therefore artificially inflated traffic filings and workload in this district. The Order was rescinded in August 2009. The 2011 caseload was 2956, 33% below a Class 4 County's average caseload; the 2011 workload was 29695, 19% below a Class 4 County's average workload. No changes are requested at this time.
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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 (#####):	43-4-02
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,199
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-48%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-50%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	18,150
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-44%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal; realignment is necessary in this case.	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" 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: John D Whitesell	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2018
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Route 191 Mountainhome 18342
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:	Barrett Township Police; PSP
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	County Route 191; County Route 390; County Route 940
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Price Twp; Paradise Twp; Barrett Twp ✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	
	Price Twp; Paradise Twp; Barrett Twp; Mount Pocono Borough ✓
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	
	Adding Mount Pocono Borough to 43-4-02 will bring this office to within 12% of the caseload and 7% of the workload of a Class 4 county. We will move the office to a more central location in the district. Additionally, MDJ Whitesell handles problem-solving truancy court through the Monroe County Truancy Elimination Plan for the Pocono Mountain school district.
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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 (#####):	43-4-03
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
	A. Average Total Caseload:	3,130
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-26%
	C. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-29%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
	A. Average Total Workload:	26,786
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-17%
	C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
	D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal; realignment is necessary in this case.	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
	A. Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
	B. What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
	A. Magisterial District Judge Name: JoLana Krawitz	
	B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2022
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	103b Gypsum Road Stroudsburg 18360
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:	Pennsylvania State Police
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	County Route 33; County Route 209
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Hamilton, Polk, Eldred And Ross Townships ✓
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	N/A
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	Eliminating this district court and combining it with 43-3-02 (Hamilton Township) and 43-3-04 (Eldred, Ross and Polk Townships) gives 43-3-02 the necessary caseload (4157) and workload (40577) to avoid closure. Taking the three remaining townships and adding them to district court 43-3-04 raises its caseload to 3908 (11% below a Class 4 County's average) and workload to 36390 (1% below a Class 4 County's average), thus balancing the inequity between these districts.
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

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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 (#####):	43-4-04
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
	A. Average Total Caseload:	5,428
	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:	23%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
	A. Average Total Workload:	37,770
	B. Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	17%
	C. Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
	D. If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Presently unequal; realignment necessary for several offices at this time.	
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):	
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
	A. Magisterial District Judge Name: Richard Claypool	
	B. Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2018



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2035
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Rt 940e & Hemlock Lane Pocono Pines 18350
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:	Pocono Mountain Regional; PSP
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Interstate 80; County Route 940; County Route 115
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Tobyhanna Township; Tunkhannock Township
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Tobyhanna Township; Tunkhannock Township
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	The creation of a Central Court should bring filings and workload more in line with the Class 4 County Averages. No changes are requested at this time.
PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.	

District Court Realignment

Tobyhanna/Mt Pocono Borough & Barrett/Paradise/Price

CASE LOAD DISTRIBUTION NOW

	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	TOTAL
3-01	415	667	93	3130	1278	186	129	5898
4-02	178	267	226	1275	196	35	22	2199

CASE LOAD DISTRIBUTION PROPOSED

3-01	313	439	98	2364	1074	156	91	4535
4-02	280	495	231	2041	655	102	60	3864

WORK LOAD DISTRIBUTION NOW

3-01	15251	7176	1002	7137	14410	2691	4202	51860
4-02	6518	2869	2424	2907	2205	500	727	18150

WORK LOAD DISTRIBUTION PROPOSED

3-01	9572	4614	876	4230	10087	1884	2941	34204
4-02	12197	5422	2550	2907	8646	500	1988	34210

The proposed change would move Mount Pocono Borough out of 3-01's jurisdiction and into 4-02's jurisdiction.

District Court Realignment

Chestnuthill Twp & Snydersville (Polk/Ross/Eldred ONLY)

CASE LOAD COMBINATION

	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	TOTAL
CH Twp	188	337	115	1360	289	46	70	2405
4-03	121	194	34	811	209	12	122	1503
Total	309	531	149	2171	498	58	192	3908

WORK LOAD COMBINATION

Total	11346	5703	1681	4950	5617	840	6253	36390
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Class 4 County Average Filings

Caseload	404	724	176	2697	250	97	58	4407 (+10% 4848)	(+15% 5068)
Workload	14845	7773	1890	6149	2975	1354	1898	36884 (+10% 40572)	(+15% 42417)

Census Numbers

Chestnut Twp +19% (14,418 to 17,156) from 2000 to 2010

Snydersville +14% (14,633 to 16,724) from 2000 to 2010

District Court Realignment

Jackson Twp & Pocono Twp

CASE LOAD COMBINATION

	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	TOTAL
Jack Twp	40	67	2	3095**	72	11	21	3308
3-03	347	324	47	1942	375	44	87	3166
<u>Total</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>5037**</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>6474</u>

WORK LOAD COMBINATION

<u>Total</u>	<u>14211</u>	<u>4199</u>	<u>524</u>	<u>11484</u>	<u>5042</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>3518</u>	<u>39774</u>
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Class 4 County Average Filings

<u>Caseload</u>	<u>404</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>2697</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>4407 (+10% 4848)</u> (+15% 5068)
<u>Workload</u>	<u>14845</u>	<u>7773</u>	<u>1890</u>	<u>6149</u>	<u>2975</u>	<u>1354</u>	<u>1898</u>	<u>36884 (+10% 40572)</u> (+15% 42417)

Census Numbers

Jackson Twp +17.6% (5,979 to 7,033) from 2000 to 2010

Pocono Twp +15.2% (9,607 to 11,065) from 2000 to 2010

District Court Realignment

Stroud Township 43-3-02 and Hamilton Township

CASE LOAD COMBINATION

	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	TOTAL
3-02	338	569	34	1079	354	79	77	2530
Hamil	138	106	12	1255	18	57	41	1744
<u>Total</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>675</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>2334</u>	<u>372</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>4157</u>
WORK LOAD COMBINATION								
<u>Total</u>	<u>17478</u>	<u>7250</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>5322</u>	<u>4196</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>3843</u>	<u>40577</u>

Class 4 County Average Filings

<u>Caseload</u>	<u>404</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>2697</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>4407 (+10% 4848)</u>	<u>(+15% 5068)</u>
<u>Workload</u>	<u>14845</u>	<u>7773</u>	<u>1890</u>	<u>6149</u>	<u>2975</u>	<u>1354</u>	<u>1898</u>	<u>36884 (+10% 40572)</u>	<u>(+15% 42417)</u>

Census Numbers


Stroud Township +37.5% (13,978 to 19,213) from 2000 to 2010


Hamilton Township +10.3% (8235 to 9083) from 2000 to 2010


Monroe home foreclosures continue on record trend

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By HOWARD FRANK
From the Pocono Record
January 07, 2011

Monroe home foreclosures hit a new high last year, continuing a troublesome trend that began in the middle of the past decade.

Monroe County racked up 2,029 new foreclosure filings in 2010. That followed three successive years in which foreclosures set new county records.

But foreclosures jumped 6 percent last year, the smallest growth since 2006, when the rate jumped by more than 50 percent. Still, market professionals think it will get worse before it gets better.

"I don't think we are topped out on foreclosures," said Vickie Brockelman of Commonwealth Real Estate Your Way in Mount Pocono. "I think we will see another peak."

The change, according to Brockelman, is in the types of homes going into foreclosure now. Foreclosures centered on homes below \$200,000 during the current cycle. But now the larger, higher priced homes built during the 2005-06 bubble are going into foreclosure.

"In a lot of them, the owners have tried to sell but the prices are too high," Brockelman said. "We'll see them (become available) in the first quarter. There will be some good deals out there."

Last year, according to Brockelman, many distressed higher-end homeowners tried to move their homes through short sales. That's when a homeowner gets the lender to agree to accept less than the total amount due on a mortgage so the home can be sold at a lower price.

Many of the homes still didn't sell, and now the banks are putting them in foreclosure.

And because of the influx of higher-priced homes into the foreclosure picture, Brockelman believes the 2010 foreclosure record will be short-lived.

"We haven't seen a decrease in the number of calls from banks looking for us to do BPOs (broker's opinion of value)," she said. The opinions are a leading indicator of foreclosure actions.

"No, we haven't peaked out. I think it's going to increase," said George Hanzimanolis, former president of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers and president of Bankers First Mortgage in Tannersville.

The banks, he said, decided for a time in 2010 to hold off on foreclosures because there were too many homes on the market. That may have resulted in a slowing of the foreclosure growth rate last year.

But it takes about two years from the time a bank institutes a foreclosure and the time it occurs locally, with notice requirements and an 18-month backlog at the sheriff's department.



"When the homeowners get to the 22nd month, we see a lot of them filing for bankruptcy, which stops the foreclosure," Hanzimanolis said. "Then they back out of the bankruptcy a few months later, and now the bank has to get back in line for another 18 months."

Hanzimanolis thinks there will be another two years of rising foreclosures before inventory even starts to go away and we see any improvement in the market.

While foreclosures are still increasing, home sales in some areas of the county have done better than others.

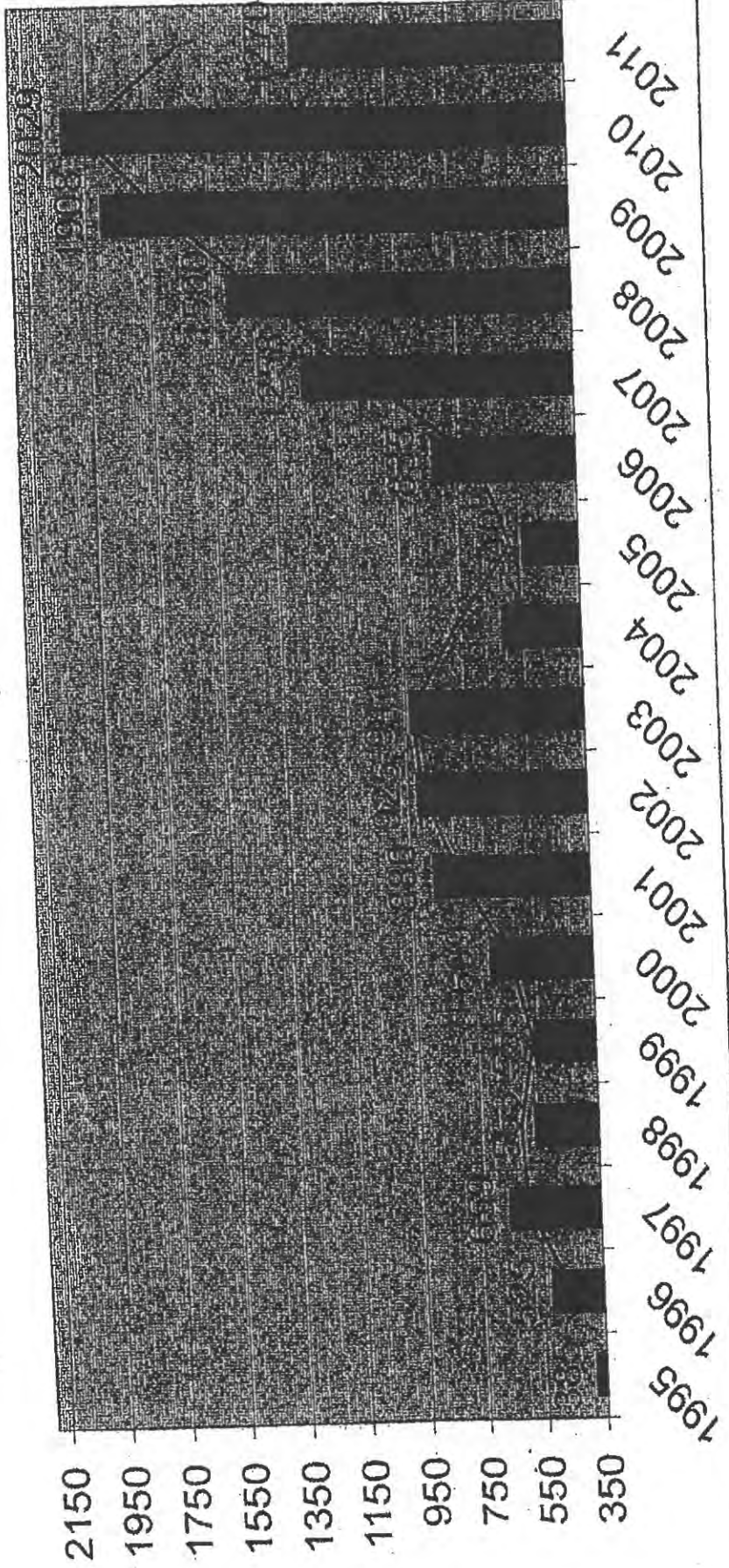
"(Non-foreclosure) sales have improved in certain pockets of the community," according to Joan Fitzgerald of Joan Fitzgerald Real Estate in Stroudsburg and Canadensis. But she doesn't see it as an indication of an upswing: "I think there is too much to sell."

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1995 to 2011 New Mortgage Foreclosures


Monroe County Office of Prothonotary George Warden, as of December 31, 2011





Pocono Mountain preliminary budget has deep cuts, tax hike

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By [Michael Sadowski](#)
Pocono Record Writer
January 26, 2012

Pocono Mountain School District is proposing closing three school buildings and making deep staff cuts, but the preliminary budget still calls for a 3.5 percent tax increase.

The preliminary budget approved Wednesday made deeper cuts into its teachers, support staff, administration and security force. Superintendent Elizabeth Robison said the exact number of positions eliminated isn't known yet and won't be known until the administration is able to examine each school's staff.

"Some of these (cuts) are not favorable," Robison said. "In two weeks, we were forced to find \$22 million. We're going to try from now until June to work some of those things out."

The budget includes closing three buildings — Coolbaugh Elementary Center, Swiftwater Intermediate Center and the former Coolbaugh Learning Center. The district's Pocono Mountain Learning Academy students currently go to Coolbaugh Learning Center.

State law requires the final budget to be adopted by June 30. According to the district, if the 3.5 percent tax increase remains, a property worth \$100,000 would pay an extra \$129 a year.

Two board members — George Strunk and Jacquelyn Leonard — said they would vote in favor of the preliminary budget Wednesday, but would not vote for a budget in June that included a tax increase.

Strunk said the district is paying for the sins of former administrations and boards that "refused to draw a line" for spending.

"Enough is enough," he said. "No more."



Board member Henry Bockelman said the board has been hampered by a 20-year period of tremendous growth, recent, steep enrollment decline and state funding policies that don't make sense for the district.

"We don't go out and raise taxes for the heck of it," Bockelman said. "I don't want to vote for it either, but I don't know where you're going to find (more cuts). I don't know how you can sit here and arbitrarily say you're not going to support a tax increase."


The district had hoped to use a debt reduction strategy to raise an additional \$10.4 million to balance the budget and avoid deeper cuts. However, the administration said it was advised by the district's financial team that it would not be prudent to restructure the debt because of future concerns. It would cost about \$23.7 million in future debt.

A public meeting on the possible closures of the three schools will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at the Swiftwater Elementary Center cafeteria.

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Stroudsburg's Ramsey Elementary School may close

Move would save district \$240K

By Christina Tatu
Pocono Record Writer
January 17, 2012 12:00 AM

Stroudsburg school officials Wednesday will weigh shutting the W.H. Ramsey Elementary School in an effort to close a \$9.8 million budget deficit.

The school, built in 1927, houses 140 students in kindergarten through second grade and would save the district about \$240,000 if it were closed, Business Manager Don Jennings said.

Teachers and educational support staff would follow the students, most likely to the B.F. Morey and Clearview elementary schools, where the Ramsey students would go if the building closed.

The closure would allow the district to eliminate two custodians, one secretary, one nurse and three cafeteria monitors, Jennings said.

Larger class sizes?

The school board also will consider opting for larger class sizes in the kindergarten through seventh grades, allowing the district to eliminate 14 teaching positions.

In an effort to trim some elective or redundant courses, the district will also consider reducing the number of credits required to graduate.

The board meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria Wednesday.

"These are some of what may turn out to be many things the board has to look at between now and May. These were just the first things we identified that could have an impact," Jennings said.

Closure considered in 1994

This isn't the first time the district has discussed closing one of its five elementary schools, which include Ramsey, B.F. Morey, Arlington, Clearview and Hamilton schools.

The last time Stroudsburg seriously discussed closing the Ramsey School was in 1994 under the guidance of then-superintendent Alfred Arena.

The idea was shot down, however, after a backlash from parents and teachers.

In the last two years, there was brief mention by board members about possibly closing Ramsey, but there were concerns about whether the other school buildings would be able to absorb those students, Jennings said.

If the school board votes to increase class sizes district-wide in kindergarten through seventh grade to up to 25 students per classroom, it would be easier to move the children from Ramsey into the other buildings because they would be consolidated into fewer classrooms.

Currently, there are nine classes at Ramsey. If the number of children in each class is increased to 25, it will reduce the number of classes to six, Jennings said.

According to the school district's website, it currently aims to keep the number of students per grade between 15 to 18 in kindergarten, 20 to 22 in grades one through four, and 22 to 25 in grades five through seven.

If class sizes are expanded, it would also allow the district to eliminate 14 teachers, saving an additional \$1.1 million, Jennings said.

He was not aware of any state guidelines on optimum classroom sizes.

Last neighborhood school

The district does not need permission from the state Department of Education to increase class sizes, but it does need the state's approval to eliminate teachers.

Former Ramsey teacher Gretchen Rusk said Ramsey is one of the last true "neighborhood schools" in the district.

"I think there is a lot to be said for small schools and small numbers in that the students know the teachers and the parents feel at home," said Rusk, who retired last year after teaching special education for 22 years.

When the idea was proposed in 1994, parents packed the school's small gymnasium to protest, she said.

"Parents were not interested in letting go of something they felt was so valuable. As a taxpayer, we don't want any more increases, but when you look at what is best for the children, I think people really felt what they had at Ramsey was a gem in the rough," she said.

"It's a neighborhood school. Where do you find one of those now? It's a school where you can walk to, it's a school where everyone knows each other."

Districts weigh closures

The district's preliminary 2012-13 budget, introduced earlier this month, shows \$103 million in total expenditures, but anticipates only \$94 million in revenue.

Since the proposal to close Ramsey is still in the early stages, Jennings was unsure of whether the district would keep the building or how long the process would take to close the school.

Stroudsburg joins Pocono Mountain and Pleasant Valley school districts in recently considering closing a school building.

Last year, Pocono Mountain proposed closing Barrett Elementary Center but took the idea off the table after backlash from parents.

In June 2010, Pleasant Valley closed its Eldred Elementary School, and the district has recently discussed closing Chestnuthill Elementary School. Closing the school would eliminate six teaching positions and save the district about \$815,000.

According to state law, the school district must wait at least 90 days from its first vote before it can hold a public hearing and vote to close the school, said Superintendent Doug Arnold. Another hearing has not been scheduled.

Two more Pocono elementary schools approach chopping block

By Christina Tatu
Pocono Record Writer
February 07, 2012 12:00 AM

J.M. Hill Elementary and Smithfield Elementary are the next Monroe County schools that could be up for closure as local districts struggle to close budget deficits.

East Stroudsburg Area School District will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the John T. Lambert Intermediate School auditorium where the school board will vote on holding a public hearing on the possible school closings.

The public hearing would likely be held in early March, said East Stroudsburg School Business Manager Patricia Bader. The district will vote on its final budget June 18.

The district is still investigating how much money closing the two buildings could save, where children would be moved if the buildings were closed and what effect it would have on staffing, Bader said.

The district is facing a projected \$10.2 million budget shortfall.

East Stroudsburg's \$149.8 million preliminary budget, approved last month, includes increasing taxes beyond the state mandated cap to reduce the deficit to \$6.9 million.

The cap allows the district to raise taxes only up to 2.4 percent each year, unless it qualifies for special exceptions. East Stroudsburg's preliminary budget raises taxes up to 5.8 percent.

Enrollment drop

Bader said school board members asked her to investigate closing the buildings because of declining enrollment in the district's elementary schools.

J.M. Hill was built in 1934, underwent renovations in 1987 and 1994, and holds 394 kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

Smithfield was built in 1931, renovated in 1964 and had a major renovation done in 2006. It holds 343 kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

"The idea would be to try and retain ownership of the buildings and find a leasing partner. At this point, we are not convinced that our decrease in enrollment is permanent," Bader said.

Enrollments have remained steady in the secondary grades.

It was during the 2008-09 school year, when the "housing bubble burst," that the district saw its elementary enrollments start to decline, Bader said.

All six of the districts' elementary schools — Bushkill, East Stroudsburg, J.M. Hill, Middle Smithfield, Resica and Smithfield — can hold up to 4,070 students total, but elementary enrollment is projected to fall just under 3,000 for the 2012-13 school year, Bader said.

Future of debt

The district is not only considering the operating costs and possible future uses of the buildings, but also what will happen to its debt if it closes the schools.

When Smithfield Elementary was renovated in 2006, the state awarded the district a subsidy toward the project, Bader said.

"The state gives us a certain percentage back when we renovate buildings that have to do with educational uses, but if you stop using that building for the school district, then you lose the subsidy," Bader said.

District officials are in contact with the state Department of Education to see what they may have to pay back if Smithfield were closed.

School closings a trend in budget troubles

With East Stroudsburg joining the list, each of Monroe County's four school districts has proposed closing buildings as a solution to budget deficits.

Last week, Stroudsburg officials deadlocked in a 4-4 vote on whether to hold a public hearing to close W.H. Ramsey Elementary School. They took the proposal off the table for the 2012-13 school year.

Pleasant Valley School District is moving to close Chestnuthill Elementary. The district in June 2010 closed Eldred Elementary.

Pocono Mountain School District is weighing closing Coolbaugh Elementary Center, Swiftwater Intermediate Center and the former Coolbaugh Learning Center.


For a district to close one of its buildings, officials must hold a public hearing advertised at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. After the hearing, officials must wait a minimum of 90 days before formally voting whether to close the building.


If the decision is made to close the school, any staff laid off must be notified at least 60 days before the start of the next school year.


Pocono Mountain eyes closing another school

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By [Michael Sadowski](#)
Pocono Record Writer
April 07, 2011

The Pocono Mountain School Board will consider closing Barrett Elementary Center in the latest cost-cutting move the district is mulling to correct extensive budget problems.

Superintendent Dwight Pfennig said the board will consider the move at a special public meeting at 7 p.m. April 26 at the district's East High School auditorium.

The Mountainhome school, built in 1989, is in need of substantial infrastructure upgrades, according to Pfennig. The school's heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit is in need of repair, and a recent crack in the school's multi purpose room floor was found.

"It is in need of repair at substantial cost," Pfennig said of the floor.

Also, he said the 420 students enrolled there is the smallest number in the district, and kindergarten enrollment has dropped.

If the board decides to close the school on April 26, there will be a 90-day waiting period for additional public comment. The board likely would then make a final decision in July, Pfennig said.

The current plan would be to absorb the displaced students in the Swiftwater and Pocono elementary schools, he said.

Any school closing also would have to be approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



It could be the second school in Barrett Township to close before the next school year.



As part of its 2011-12 budget — which won't be approved until June — the district is considering closing the Pocono Mountain Academy building. The school is the former Barrett School, built in 1926.


Closing the school would be a cost savings of anywhere from \$200,000 to \$700,000, district officials have said.

The Academy students would be moved to Coolbaugh Learning Center.

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Residents say no to closing Eldred school

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Residents protested the closing of Eldred Elementary at a meeting Thursday night. ADAM

RICHINS/Pocono Record

By Adam McNaughton

Pocono Record Writer

March 05, 2010

Pleasant Valley School District presented the case for closing Eldred Elementary School during a public hearing Thursday night.

More than 60 people attended the hearing at the Pleasant Valley Middle School to hear the district give reasons to close a school with declining enrollment that district Superintendent Doug Arnold called an "excellent school."

"Despite our best efforts to keep numbers up, we keep seeing a decline at Eldred," Arnold said during a presentation at the start of the hearing. "We had a lot of difficult decisions."

Student numbers are down at elementary schools across the district, Arnold said, but Eldred has seen the sharpest decline: a 35 percent drop in enrollment in recent years — from 239 students in 2007 to 155 today. Closing the school could mean a savings of about \$500,000 each year as students and faculty are shifted to Chestnuthill and Polk elementary schools.

Many of the public comments during the hearing were against closing the school, where the number of students per teacher is about 17, compared to 22 to 25 at Pleasant Valley Elementary. The district has expanded the area from where students are drawn into the school, and about 50 students at the school live inside Eldred Township. The majority of the students live in Ross Township, Arnold said.

"In my experience, Eldred school is unique," said Ethel Vellopolcek of Eldred Township. "From the time my daughter went there to the time she left after fourth grade, it was the most warm, welcoming, nurturing environment we could ask for. It's more than a school. It's a huge, giant family."

Arnold said the district had no plans to sell or demolish the building, and the school could possibly reopen when enrollment rises in the district. Chestnuthill Elementary was closed for about three years in the 1990s because of low enrollment.

Constance Andrews, a former teacher at Eldred Elementary, said she is concerned that if Eldred is closed, it will stay closed and Eldred Township will lose an important part of its community.

"Eldred school is in the south of Eldred Township and not on the Route 209 corridor," Andrews said. "Maybe we're somewhat off the beaten path, but closing Eldred School would be a mistake."

The hearing ended at 8:45 p.m. after more than an hour of public comments. The school board is required to wait at least 90 days from the end of the hearing before making a decision on Eldred's future. The decision could come in early June and would possibly take effect for the 2010-2011 school year.

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**Monroe County
Population Growth**

2000-2010

Pocono Record 3/10/11

District Ct	Township	2000	2010	% +/-
43-2-01	Stroudsburg	5756	5,567	-3.30%
43-2-02	E. Stroudsburg	9888	9,840	-0.5%
43-3-01	Coolbaugh	15205	20,564	35.2%
	Mt. Pocono	2742	3,170	15.6%
		17947	23,734	32.2%
43-3-02	Stroud Twp	13978	19,213	37.5%
43-3-03	Pocono Twp	9,607	11,065	15.2%
43-3-04	Chestnuthill	14,418	17,156	19.0%
	Jackson Twp	5,979	7,033	17.6%
		20,397	24,189	18.5%
43-4-01	DWG	744	746	0.3%
	Mid Smithfield	11,495	15,997	39.2%
	Smithfield	5,672	7,357	29.7%
		17,911	24,100	34.5%
43-4-02	Barrett	3,880	4,225	8.9%
	Price	2,649	3,573	34.9%
	Paradise	2,671	3,186	19.3%
		9,200	10,984	19.3%
43-4-03	Eldred	2,665	2,910	9.2%
	Hamilton	8,235	9,083	10.3%
	Polk	6,533	7,874	20.5%
	Ross	5,435	5,940	9.3%
		22,868	25,807	12.8%
43-4-04	Tobyhanna Twp	6,152	8,554	39.0%
	Tunkhannock	4,983	6,789	36.2%
		11135	15343	37.7%
MONROE COUNTY		138,687	169,842	23.7%

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MONROE COUNTY		138,687	169,842	23.7%

Census: Monroe, Pike among fastest growing counties in Pa.

By HOWARD FRANK

Pocono Record Writer

March 10, 2011 12:00 AM

Pike and Monroe were Pennsylvania's second- and third-fastest growing counties over the past decade.

Those figures, part of a massive 2010 U.S. census data release Wednesday, offer an MRI of the growing pains in the Poconos.

The fastest growing county in the state? Tiny Forest County, a community of 7,716 in northwestern Pennsylvania. However Forest's population includes the inmates of the state prison built since the last census, artificially fueling its No. 1 ranking.

While the state grew at a 10-year rate of 3.4 percent, Pike's population jumped by 23.9 percent and Monroe by 22.5.

Lehman Township was the fastest-growing municipality among both Poconos counties. Its population jumped by 42 percent from 2000 to 2010, census data show.

Middle Smithfield Township was Monroe's fastest growing. Its population jumped by 39 percent during the past decade.

Coolbaugh (20,564) remained the largest municipality in Monroe County. Stroud Township (19,213) replaced Chestnut Hill Township as the second largest.

Pike County's local population rankings remained relatively unchanged, with some musical chairs played among the less-populated municipalities.

Elsewhere across the state, Allentown and Reading grew significantly over the past decade, while Philadelphia edged up and Pittsburgh shrank.

Counties in eastern and central Pennsylvania experienced the most growth since the 2000 census. Western counties generally lost residents.

Overall, Pennsylvania's population increased 3.4 percent, to just over 12.7 million. But the state will lose one of its 19 congressional seats.

Pennsylvania's five most populous cities, in order, are Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie and Reading.

Allentown grew by 10.7 percent, Reading increased by 8.5 percent and Philadelphia went up by 0.6 percent over the past decade.

Pittsburgh's population went down 8.6 percent, while Erie lost 1.9 percent.

The state's Hispanic population has increased nearly 83 percent, from about 395,000 to almost 720,000. The Asian population grew nearly 59 percent, to 349,000.

The counties that lost the most population — between 5.1 percent and 14.9 percent — were all in the west: Beaver, Cambria, Cameron, Elk, Fayette and McKean.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

MONROE COUNTY

Municipality: 2000 Pop.: 2010 Pop.: % change

Barrett: 3,880: 4,225: 8.9%

Chestnuthill: 14,418: 17,156: 19.0%

Coolbaugh: 15,205: 20,564: 35.2%

Delaware Water Gap: 744: 746: 0.3%

East Stroudsburg: 9,888: 9,840: -0.5%

Eldred: 2,665: 2,910: 9.2%

Hamilton: 8,235: 9,083: 10.3%

Jackson: 5,979: 7,033: 17.6%

Middle Smithfield: 11,495: 15,997: 39.2%

Mount Pocono: 2,742: 3,170: 15.6%

Paradise: 2,671: 3,186: 19.3%

Pocono: 9,607: 11,065: 15.2%

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TOTAL: 138,687: 169,842: 22.5%

Pocono Records
Letter to Editor
March 2012

Pa. shouldn't close district court

EDITOR, THE RECORD:

I'm not sure how much more abuse I, as a Monroe County resident, can take from Harrisburg. Now our leaders in the capital are considering closing the magisterial court serving Eldred, Hamilton, Polk, and Ross townships in an effort to "save costs."

Monroe County, according to the 2010 Census, is one of the commonwealth's few rapidly growing counties. If these people are so worried about cutting costs, perhaps they should look more to Tioga, Beaver and Elk counties before Monroe. Worst of all, the Honorable JoLana Krawitz's Magisterial District happens to be the most likely part of Monroe County to still have massive growth over this next decade.

I know all too well that

Monroe County's magisterial courts are only gaining case loads; this is not a time to burden neighboring magisterial courts with more cases. Our county courthouse is also far too small for the population it serves. This is only a further example of "penny-wise, dollar stupid" leadership if they move forward on this. Monroe County needs all the courts and judges we have, plus more — not fewer!

JOSEPH ROGAN

Pennsylvania Deputy State

Constable

Tobyhanna