



JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

FIFTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURTHOUSE
SOUTH MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 1208
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA 16003-1208

DR. S. MICHAEL YEAGER
PRESIDENT JUDGE

TELEPHONE
(724) 284-1391

March 1, 2022

Joseph J. Mittleman, Esquire
Director of Judicial Programs
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
1515 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Mr. Mittleman,

Pursuant to the request of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, attached are the requisite worksheets related to our evaluation of the appropriateness of eliminating, realigning or reestablishing the several Magisterial District Courts within the 50th Judicial District, comprising Butler County, Pennsylvania. After analysis, and meeting with our Magisterial District Judges, as a County, we are recommending that there be no change in the configuration of our Magisterial Districts.

Butler County, Pennsylvania, continues to be one of the few counties in Western Pennsylvania that is experiencing a population growth. We expect that trend to continue, particularly in the southwestern tier of townships, as families migrate northward up the Interstate 79 corridor. We are also proceeding with the expectation of a significant increase in the number of complaints that will be filed in our Magisterial District Judge Offices in that region.

As requested, our proposal was posted on the Butler County, Pennsylvania, website, physically posted in the Butler County Law Library, and advertised in the Butler Eagle, our newspaper of general circulation within Butler County, Pennsylvania. Comments were invited; however, none were received.

S. MICHAEL YEAGER
JUDGE
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Although it appears some adjustment could be made with respect to District Court 50-3-05, located in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, after reviewing the data and discussing same with both of the Magisterial District Judges who would be impacted by any realignment, we are requesting that no changes be made. Therefore, at this time, we are respectfully recommending that there be no realignment in the configuration of the Magisterial Districts in the 50th Judicial District.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and should you have any questions, or require further documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me; otherwise, I will be awaiting your response hereto.

Sincerely,




S. Michael Yeager
President Judge of the
Court of Common Pleas of
Butler County, Pennsylvania

Judicial District Summary Worksheet – Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheet in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Hover the fields for tips and instructions. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint. Complete one worksheet or one for each county if you are a joint judicial district.

Judicial District Number:	50	County:	Butler	Class of County:	4
<p>1. List the existing magisterial districts in your judicial district (##-#-##):</p> <p>50-1-01, 50-3-01, 50-3-02, 50-3-03, 50-3-04, 50-3-05, 50-3-06</p>					
Caseload Analysis					
2. Average total caseloads:		<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>		<i>Avg for Class of County</i>	
		A.	4,022	B.	4,150
3. Compare the difference between the caseload average of your judicial district to the class of county.		<i>Difference (2A - 2B)</i>		<i>Ranking Total</i>	
		-128		7th	out of 9
4. Is your judicial district caseload average at the lower end of the caseload range when compared to the other judicial districts in your class of county?				Yes	
Proposed Actions					
5. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?					Yes
<p>If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment (no changes).</p> <p>50-1-01, 50-3-01, 50-3-02, 50-3-03, 50-3-04, 50-3-05, 50-3-06</p>					
6. Are any magisterial district proposed for realignment?					No
<p>If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for realignment (changes).</p>					
7. Are any magisterial districts proposed for elimination?					No
<p>If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for elimination.</p>					

Additional Workload Factors	
8. Do you have a night court operating within the judicial district?	No
9. Do you have a central court within your judicial district?	No
10. Do you have any special programs that will entail effort by the MDJs such as truancy programs or drug, DUI, veteran, or mental health diversion programs? If YES, briefly explain the types of programs.	No
Final Checklist	
11. Was a request for public comment posted?	Yes
12. Method of posting - electronic, physical copy, or both?	Both
13. Were media outlets notified?	Yes
14. Were public comments received?	No
15. Did you include a copy of the posting and public comments in your submission?	Yes
16. Did you complete summary worksheets for all magisterial districts?	Yes
17. Did you include your petition and all supporting documentation, if applicable?	Yes
18. Did you confer with the MDJs in your county?	Yes
19. Additional Remarks	
Verification of Submission	
20. Date submitted to AOPC: 3/1/2022	
21. President Judge Name: Dr. S. Michael Yeager	
Signature 	

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

Start by saving the fillable worksheet template locally on your system as a PDF form. Then, open and complete the worksheets in a PDF browser (not a web browser) to ensure all options and functionality are available. Answer the questions by typing or selecting responses. Press TAB or click on a field to advance. Hover the fields for tips and instructions. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Magisterial District Court Number: 50-1-01		County: Butler	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,441	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		-83	4th out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-211	-5%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
N/A			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 36,161	B. 34,590	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		1,571	5%
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.			
N/A			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p>Kevin P. O'Donnell</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p>121 Sunnyview Circle Suite 101 Butler, PA 16001</p>	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p>Butler Township, PA State Police, BC3</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p>PA Route 8, PA Route 422</p>	
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p>Butler Twp.</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p>N/A</p>	
20. Additional Comments:	



Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number:	50-3-01	County:	Butler
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4,274	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		252	2nd out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		124	3%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity. N/A			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>
		A. 34,233	B. 34,590
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-357	-1 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. N/A			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

Jospeh J. Nash

Magisterial District Judge Name

Birthdate

Term Expiration Date

Mandatory Retirement Date

11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

520 Kelly Boulevard Slippery Rock, PA 16057

12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?

Yes

14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?

Yes

15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If **YES**, please summarize your response below.

No/Not Sure

16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.

Slippery Rock Borough, Slippery Rock University, Moraine State Park, Harrisville Borough, Prosepect Borough, Portersville Borough, PA State Police

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

PA Route 8, I-79

18. List the **current** municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click [HERE](#) for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.

Brady Twp., Franklin Twp., Harrisville Borough, Mercer Twp., Muddy Creek Twp., Portersville Borough, Prospect Borough, Slippery Rock Borough, Slippery Rock Twp., West Liberty Borough, Worth Twp.

19. Are the **proposed** municipalities the same as above?
If **NO**, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).

Yes

20. Additional Comments:



Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number: 50-3-02		County: Butler	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3353	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		-670	7th out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-798	-19%
<p>6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p>Although this district has the smallest caseload in the county, it encompasses 14 of the 33 municipalities that comprise the county, and is a largely rural area.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 33,515	B. 34,590	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-1,075	-3 %
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p>N/A</p>			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Lewis E. Stoughton</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">112 North Main Street Chicora, PA 16025</p>	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">PA State Police</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">PA Route 8, PA Route 422</p>	
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Allegheny Twp., Bruin Borough, Center Twp., Cherry Twp., Cherry Valley Borough, Chicora Borough, Clay Twp., Clearfield Twp., Concord Twp., Donegal Twp., East Butler Borough, Eau Claire Borough, Fairview Borough, Fairview Twp., Karns City Borough, Marion Twp., Oakland Twp., Parker Twp., Petrolia Borough, Summit Twp., Venango Twp., Washington Twp., West Sunbury Borough</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
20. Additional Comments:	

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Magisterial District Court Number: 50-3-03		County: Butler	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3696	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		-326	5th out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-454	-11%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 25,990	B. 34,590	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-8,600	-25 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.			
<p>Due to significant housing developments and expected population growth in neighboring Magisterial District 50-3-06, Evans City, we expect the number of case filings and workload to increase in this magisterial district.</p>			

Magisterial District Information	
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information: Sue E. Haggerty <i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>	
11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location: 202 E. Main Street Saxonburg, PA 16056	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below. Due to significant housing developments and expected population growth in neighboring Magisterial District 50-3-06, Evans City, we expect the number of case filings and workload to increase in this magisterial district.	No/Not Sure
16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district. Buffalo Township, Middlesex Township, Penn Township, Saxonburg Borough, PA State Police	
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district. PA Route 8, PA Route 28	
18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past. Buffalo Twp., Clinton Twp., Jefferson Twp., Middlesex Twp., Penn Twp., Saxonburg Borough, Winfield Twp.	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
20. Additional Comments:	



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Magisterial District Court Number:	50-3-04	County:	Butler
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4114	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		92	out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-36	-1%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity. N/A			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 32,813	B. 34,590	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-1,777	-5 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. N/A			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p>Kevin J. Flaherty</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p>9028 Marshall Road Cranberry Township, PA 16066</p>	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p>Cranberry Township</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p>I-79</p>	
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p>Cranberry Twp., Seven Fields Borough</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p>20. Additional Comments:</p>	

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Magisterial District Court Number: 50-3-05		County: Butler	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023	
Caseload Analysis			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 5181	B. 4,022	C. 4,150
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		1159	1st out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		1031	25%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
N/A			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 51,583	B. 34,590	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		16,993	49 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.			
This district encompasses Butler City and is serviced by the City Police. Removing wards will require police and the public to travel outside of city limits - increasing travel time and access.			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">William T. Fullerton</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">227 W. Cunningham Street Butler, PA 16003</p>	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Butler City</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">PA Route 8</p>	
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">City of Butler</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p>20. Additional Comments:</p>	

Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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Magisterial District Court Number: 50-3-06		County: Butler
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/2/2023
Caseload Analysis		
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>
	A. 3599	B. 4,022
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
	-423	6th out of 7
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
	-551	-13%
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range and you are proposing to reestablish (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.		
N/A		
Workload Analysis		
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>
	A. 27,834	B. 34,590
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.	<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
	-6,756	-20%
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload and you are proposing to reestablish this magisterial district, please explain (<i>summarize your response from the plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.		
<p>This magisterial district is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the county because of its proximity to I-79 and downtown Pittsburgh. Due to significant housing developments, substantial population growth is expected within this magisterial district. As population increases, it is probable the workload of this magisterial district will increase as well.</p>		

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Amy Marcinkiewicz</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i> <i>Birthdate</i> <i>Term Expiration Date</i> <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">202 E. Main Street Evans City, PA 16033</p>	
12. Is this court within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
13. Is the MDJ's residence within the boundaries of the magisterial district?	Yes
14. Are all portions of the magisterial district contiguous?	Yes
15. To the best of your knowledge, are there any planned developments such as a mall, highway expansion or gas drilling that will likely cause an increase in the case filings for this office? If YES , please summarize your response below.	Yes
<p style="margin-left: 40px;">Significant housing developments within the existing magisterial district.</p>	
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Adams Township, Jackson Township, Lancaster Township, Evans City Borough, Mars Borough, Callery Borough, Evans City Borough, Zelenople Borough</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">I-79</p>	
<p>18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Adams Twp., Callery Borough, Connoquenessing Borough, Connoquenessing Twp., Evans City Borough, Forward Twp., Harmony Borough, Jackson Twp., Lancaster Twp., Mars Borough, Valencia Borough, Zelenople Borough</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p style="margin-left: 40px;">N/A</p>	
20. Additional Comments:	

TUESDAY

Raiders Fall

Seneca Valley comes up short
against North Allegheny

Page 9



Butler Eagle

Butler County's Great Daily Newspaper

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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Officials say no to district court hub

After review,
no change
recommended

By **Steve Ferris**
Eagle Staff Writer

Creating a central court in Butler County as a hub for preliminary hearings in criminal cases might be a way to reduce the workload of the one of the busi-

est magisterial district courts without changing district court boundaries or adding more magisterial district judges.

County court officials are recommending no changes to the number or the boundaries of the seven magisterial district courts in a review of the district courts.

The court administration office conducts reviews of the magisterial district courts every 10 years at the request of the Administrative Office of Penn-

sylvania Courts to determine if any changes are needed in the number of district courts or their boundaries to balance workloads and caseloads, said Erica Cihonski, deputy court administrator.

Keep all seven districts

"We're basically asking that they retain all seven magisterial district judges and that no realignment be done in our districts," Cihonski said.

She said the "reestablish-

ment" recommendation has been sent to the AOPC, which will forward the proposal to the state Supreme Court for a final decision.

According to the reestablishment worksheets posted on court administration office website, district court 50-3-05 presided over by Magisterial District Judge William Fullerton is one of the busiest in the county. The court's workload of 51,583 is the highest in the county, and its

caseload of 4,667 is the second highest.

Caseload is the total number of cases filed at each office. Workload is a weighted number reflecting the amount of time magisterial district judges spend on cases. Criminal cases receive the highest weighted score followed, in order, by landlord-tenant cases, nontraffic citations and ordinance violations, civil cases and

See Court, Page 5

Court

From Page 1

traffic citation hearings, court officials said.

Fullerton's caseload is higher than the 4,022 average among the county district courts and 12% higher than the average caseload in other fourth class counties.

The workload is 49% higher than the county average.

The AOPC asks counties to explain action they plan to take when a magisterial district has a workload difference of 15% higher or lower than the county average.

The county's explanation for reestablishment says only one municipality — Butler — makes up the magisterial district, and, because a voting district can't be split, the court's boundary can't be realigned to improve case equity.

The explanation also says District Court 50-3-05 has the highest number of criminal complaints, and exploring the possibility of creating a central court may help alleviate inequity in the future.

Fullerton says caseload 'manageable'

"I have found my caseload to be manageable. I don't see a need for a central court," Fullerton said.

He said the office is busy, but his staff helps it run smoothly.

"I've worked here for six

years. I found the districts as they are established seem pretty rational to me," Fullerton said. "I'm not aware of any problems that need to be addressed by redistricting."

Magisterial District Judge Sue Haggerty, who presides over district court 50-3-03 in Saxonburg, agrees with Fullerton.

She said creating a central court would be contradictory to the main reason the district court system was created — to have local courts available to residents.

Haggerty opposes central court

"I'm not in favor of central court," Haggerty said. "Why are you reinventing the wheel? I'm for the constituents, the people and victims. It's worked fine. There's not a need for it. I don't see a major need to change anything. As far as I know, it's running pretty smooth."

Maintaining the current number of district courts is necessary because the population is growing in several areas of the county, she said.

"I don't foresee a lot of changes," said Haggerty. "I think it's fairly evenly distributed. It's always hard to judge in the next 10 years where your growth is going to be."

The last review conducted in 2012 resulted in

no changes to the number of district courts, Cihonski said.

The last change to the county's magisterial district courts was made in 2002 when District Court 50-3-04 in Cranberry Township and District Court 50-1-01 in Butler Township were created.

Butler County Common Pleas Court President Judge S. Michael Yeager participated in the latest review, and the court administration office also met with the district judges before finalizing the recommendation, Cihonski added.

Comments sought

Public comment is being accepted on the reestablishment proposal until Feb. 28. The reestablishment worksheets containing the workloads and caseloads of each district court, and a link for submitting comments is available at butlercountypa.gov/722/MDJ-Reestablishment.

Ensuring all residents have access to a local court is one of the major factors the Supreme Court considers when determining the number and boundaries of magisterial district courts, said Richard King, a magisterial district judge in Allegheny County, who is a member of the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board, which provides legal education to magis-

terial district judges. He is also a past president of the Pennsylvania Special Courts Judges Association.

"Access to justice is a major factor the courts look at," King said.

Population is another a factor, he said.

The current review, which should be underway in all counties, looked at court numbers through 2018 to avoid the impact COVID-19 had on the courts, King added.

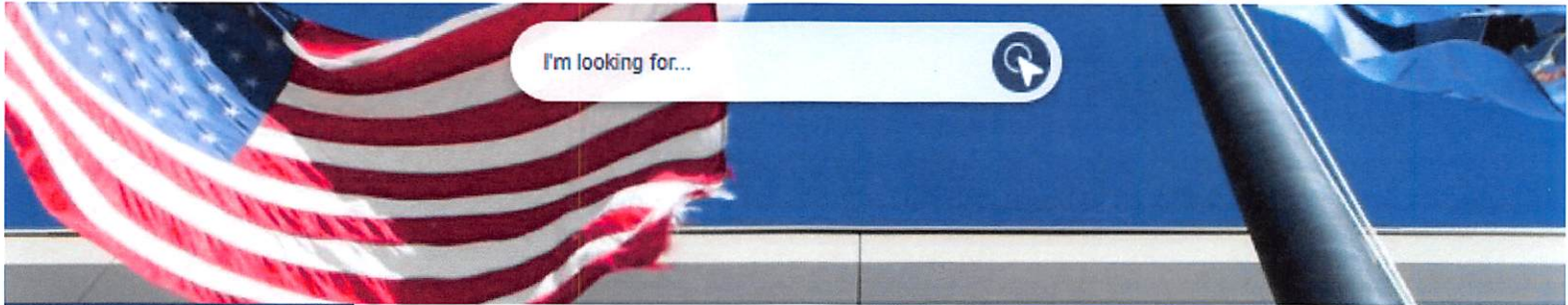
These reviews have resulted in eliminating magisterial district courts in some counties in past years, he said.

"Over the years, we've been the only branch of government that has eliminated jobs," King said.

Magisterial District 50-3-04 in Cranberry Township, which is presided over by Judge Kevin Flaherty, who was elected last year, had the highest average caseload, 4,907, and an average workload of 32,813.

District 50-3-02 in Chicora, presided over by Judge Lewis Stoughton, had the lowest average caseload of 3,181 and an average workload of 28,138.

District 50-3-06 in Evans City, presided over by Judge Amy Marcinkiewicz, who also was elected last year, had the lowest average workload of 27,834 and an average caseload of 3,556.



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MDJ Reestablishment

[Home](#) > [Courts](#) > [Court Administration](#) > MDJ Reestablishment

MDJ Reestablishment

Pursuant to the request of the Chief Justice, below are the requisite worksheets related to Butler County's evaluation of the appropriateness of eliminating, realigning or reestablishing the several Magisterial District Courts within the 50th Judicial District. Based upon our analysis, and after meeting with the Magisterial District Judges, we are proposing that there be no change in the configuration of Butler County's Magisterial District Courts.

In addition to the worksheets below, the Proposal for Reestablishment of the Magisterial District Courts, can be found in the Butler County Law Library, situated on the 3rd Floor of the Butler County Government Center.

This proposal is open for public comment until February 28, 2022. Comments may be submitted through the below link:

[Click here to submit Public Comment](#)

Proposal for Reestablishment Worksheets:

[Butler City 50-3-05](#)

[Butler Township 50-1-01](#)

[Chicora 50-3-02](#)

[Cranberry 50-3-04](#)

[Evans City 50-3-06](#)

[Saxonburg 50-3-03](#)

[Slippery Rock 50-3-01](#)