

January 19, 2022

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

Re: Proposal for Reestablishment of the Magisterial Districts within the 53<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District.

Dear Mr. Mittleman:

In accordance with the reestablishment requirements, I am respectfully requesting that the proposal herein be presented for review and adopted.

We are requesting there be no changes at this time.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominick Motto, PJ". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Honorable President Judge Dominick Motto

Cc: Michael A. Occhibone, District Court Administrator

## **Proposal For Lawrence County Reestablishment**

Currently Lawrence County has four Magisterial District Courts with an Annual Average Caseload of 4,161 filings. The Fifth Class County Average is 4119 filings. Lawrence County is approximately 1.1 percent above the class of county average.

We currently rank 4 out of 7 counties in the Fifth Class Counties.

53-1-01 has a higher Workload Average (35%) due to having the city cases (Civil, Criminal, Landlord/Tenant) which carry more weight. Caseload is slightly outside normal averages, due to more Workload and less Traffic Cases.

53-3-01 has lower Workload Averages (36%) due to having more Traffic and cases that carry less weight. Caseload is within slightly lower than normal averages, due to less Weightier cases and more traffic cases..

53-3-02 has a slightly higher Caseload Average (11%). Workload is within normal range.

53-3-04 has a lower Workload Average (28%) due to having more Traffic and cases that carry less weight. Caseload is within normal averages.

We have always maintained equity within the County by utilizing our Central Court Offices for all of the Magisterial District Judges on a rotation that includes all Preliminary Hearings.

This plan was discussed with the President Judge, all four Magisterial District Judges, District Court Administrator, and the Central Court Administrator. All parties support this proposal.

We are proposing to reestablish are Magisterial District Courts as they currently exist.

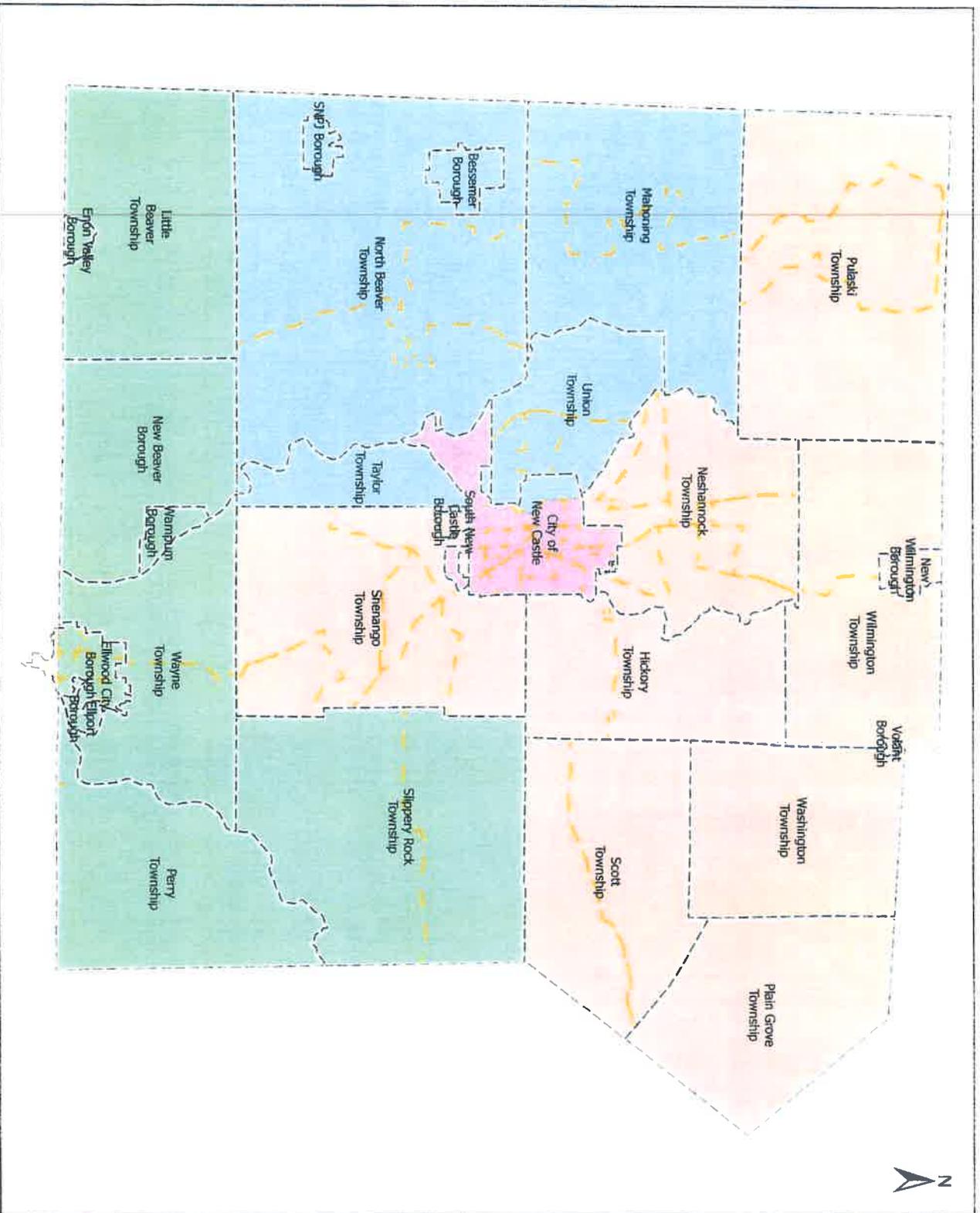
**Judicial District Summary Worksheet – Reestablishment 2021-2022**

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.

<b>Judicial District Number:</b> 53	<b>County:</b> Lawrence	<b>Class of County:</b> 5
<p>1. List the existing magisterial districts in your judicial district (##-#-##):</p> <p>53-1-01 53-3-02 53-3-01 53-3-04</p>		
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>		
2. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4,161	B. 4,119
3. Compare the difference between the caseload average of your judicial district to the class of county.	<i>Difference (2A - 2B)</i>	<i>Ranking</i> <i>Total</i>
	42	4th out of 7
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?		No
<b>Proposed Actions</b>		
5. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?		Yes
<p>If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment (no changes).</p> <p>53-3-01 53-3-02 53-3-01 53-3-04</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 <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you have a central court within your judicial district?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
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 <b>YES</b> , briefly explain the types of programs.	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Final Checklist	
11. Was a request for public comment posted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Method of posting - electronic, physical copy, or both?	Both <input type="checkbox"/>
13. Were media outlets notified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Were public comments received?	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Did you include a copy of the posting and public comments in your submission?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
16. Did you complete summary worksheets for all magisterial districts?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
17. Did you include your petition and all supporting documentation, if applicable?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
18. Did you confer with the MDJs in your county?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
19. Additional Remarks	
Verification of Submission	
20. Date submitted to AOPC: 2/19/2022	
21. President Judge Name: Honorable President Judge Dominick Motto	
Signature	

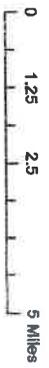
# Magisterial Districts Lawrence County, Pennsylvania



- Legend**
- Magisterial District Judges**
- 1-1-1-01 - Melissa A. Amode
  - 2-2-2-01 - Jerry Carwright
  - 3-3-3-02 - Jennifer L. Nicholson
  - 4-4-4-04 - Rick Russo
- Voting Precincts**



Prepared by the  
Lawrence County Department of Planning  
and Community Development  
Allen J. Miller  
January 2022



Lawrence County accepts no liability or responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional inaccuracies in the content of this map. Reliance on the map is at the user's own risk. This map is for informational purposes only and should not be used for surveying, engineering, or other specific analysis.

## 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.

<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 53-3-02		<b>County:</b> Lawrence	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/1/2023	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4,570	B. 4,161	C. 4,119
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>
		409	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>
		451	+11 %
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 32,305	B. 34,231	
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>
		-1,926	-5 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> 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.  Within range no explanation required.			

<b>Magisterial District Information</b>			
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:			
Jennifer L. Nicholson	██████████	1/2/28	12/31/48
<i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>		<i>Term Expiration Date</i>	<i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>
11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:			
4824 State Rt. 18, New Castle, PA 16102			
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 <b>YES</b> , please summarize your response below.			No/Not Sure
16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.			
Bessemer Police Department, Mahoning Twp. Police Department, Mohawk School District, New Castle Police Department, North Beaver Twp., PSP, Union Police Department			
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.			
Rt 18, 168, 224, 422, 376, 551			
18. List the <b>current</b> municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click <a href="#">HERE</a> for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.			
6th Ward of New Castle, Borough of Bessemer, Borough of SNPJ, Mahoning Twp., North Beaver Twp., Taylor Twp., Union Twp.			
19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).			Yes
<b>20. Additional Comments:</b>			
We are satisfied to have this Magisterial District Reestablished.			

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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 53-3-04		<b>County:</b> Lawrence	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/1/2023	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,872	B. 4,161	C. 4,119
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>
		-289	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>
		-247	-6 %
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 24,356	B. 34,231	
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>
		-9,875	-28 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> 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>The Average Workload is less in this area due to the high Traffic Cases, which are less weighted cases. The Caseload numbers for this office are within 15% (6%) lower on average.</p> <p>Our county is comfortable with reestablishment of this Magisterial District.</p>			

<b>Magisterial District Information</b>		
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:		
Richard A. Russo	1/4/26	12/31/37
<i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>	<i>Term Expiration Date</i>	<i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>
11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:		
4824 State Rt. 18, New Castle, PA 16102		
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 <b>YES</b> , please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure	
16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.		
Hickory Twp. PD, Laurel School District, Neshannock Twp., New Wilmington, PSP, Pulaski Twp. Police Department, Shenango Police Department		
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.		
Rt. 18, Rt. 19, 65, 79, 108, 158, 168, 208, 376, 388, 422		
18. List the <b>current</b> municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click <a href="#">HERE</a> for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.		
Borough of New Wilmington, Borough of South New Castle, Borough of Volant, Hickory Twp., Neshannock Twp., Plain Grove Twp., Pulaski Twp., Scott Twp., Washington Twp., Shenango Twp., Wilmington Twp.		
19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes	
<b>20. Additional Comments:</b>		
We are satisfied to have this Magisterial District Reestablished.		



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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>	53-3-01	<b>County:</b>	Lawrence
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: <b>Reestablish</b>		2. Effective date: 1/1/2023	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,343	B. 4,161	C. 4,119
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>
		-818	3rd 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>
		-776	-19 %
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 21,748	B. 34,231	
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>
		-12,483	-36 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> 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 Magisterial District Workload appears lower because this office processes many lower weighted Traffic Cases. Our county is comfortable with reestablishing this Magisterial District (53-3-01)			

Magisterial District Information		
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:		
Jerry G. Cartwright Jr.		12/21/23
<i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>		<i>Term Expiration Date</i>
		12/31/28
		<i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>
11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:		
607 Lawrence Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117		
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.		
Ellwood City Police Department, Ellwood City School District, Borough of Wampum, Little Beaver Twp., Pennsylvania State Police, Wayne Twp.		
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.		
PA Turnpike, PA 19, PA 65, Interstate 376, PA 388, PA 422, PA 488, PA 551		
18. List the <b>current</b> municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click <a href="#">HERE</a> for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.		
Borough of Ellport, Borough of Ellwood City, Borough of Enon Valley, Borough of Little Beaver, Borough of New Beaver, Borough of Wampum, Perry Twp., Slippery Rock Twp., Wayne Twp.		
19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If NO, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes	
20. Additional Comments:		
We are satisfied to have this Magisterial District Reestablished.		

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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 53-1-01		<b>County:</b> Lawrence	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date:	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,210	B. 4,161	C. 4,119
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>
		-951	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>
		-909	-22 %
6. If this magisterial district is at the lower end of the caseload range <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> (no changes), please summarize your response from the plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 46,222	B. 34,231	
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>
		11,991	+35 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower than</i> your judicial district average workload <b>and</b> you are proposing to <b>reestablish</b> 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>District 53-1-01 is -22% below caseload average due to fewer traffic cases than the rural area/highway location MDJ Offices. However, is + 35% above on Workload Caseload Averages due to having more Weighted Cases because of the city location.</p> <p>We are proposing a reestablishment for this Magisterial District, 53-3-01.</p>			

Magisterial District Information		
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:		
Melissa A. Amodie		1/4/26
<i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>		<i>Term Expiration Date</i>
		12/31/42
		<i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>
11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:		
Lawrence County Government Center, 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101		
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.		
New Castle Police Department, UPMC Police Department		
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.		
376		
18. List the <b>current</b> municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click <a href="#">HERE</a> for Realignment Orders submitted in the past.		
City of New Castle minus the 6th Ward		
19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes	
20. Additional Comments:		
We are satisfied with reestablishing this Magisterial District.		