

Adams County

Magisterial District Reestablishment

Report

2022-2031

January 10, 2022

Introduction

In July 2021, Adams County was notified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) of its requirement under 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1503 to participate in the reestablishment of magisterial districts. This event occurs every ten years and is directly related to the Federal decennial census. Adams County has received from the AOPC a set of guidelines, case filing statistics, and workload statistics for Criminal, Non-Traffic, Private Criminal Complaint, Private Summary Complaint, Traffic, Civil, Landlord/Tenant and Miscellaneous filings in the four District Courts in Adams County. In addition, Population Data and Projections were received from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development. The guidelines indicate that Adams County shall submit recommendations to the AOPC regarding the reestablishment of its District Courts no later than February 28, 2022.

The four District Courts in Adams County currently exist as follows:

1. District Court 51-3-01
525 Boyds School Road, Suite 900
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Coverage: Gettysburg Borough
 Straban Township
Current Magisterial District Judge: Matthew R. Harvey

2. District Court 51-3-02
45D West Hanover Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Coverage: Bonneauville Borough
 Littlestown Borough
 McSherrystown Borough
 Conewago Township
 Germany Township
 Mt. Joy Township
 Mt. Pleasant Township
 Union Township
Current Magisterial District Judge: Daniel S. Bowman

Newly elected Magisterial District Judge: Christopher A. Snyder

3. District Court 51-3-03
40 Church Road
East Berlin, PA 17316
Coverage: Abbottstown Borough
 East Berlin Borough
 New Oxford Borough

York Springs Borough
Berwick Township
Hamilton Township
Huntington Township
Latimore Township
Oxford Township
Reading Township
Tyrone Township

Current Magisterial District Judge: Tony J. Little

4. District Court 51-3-04
525 Boyds School Road, Suite 800
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Coverage: Arendtsville Borough
Bendersville Borough
Biglerville Borough
Carroll Valley Borough
Fairfield Borough
Butler Township
Cumberland Township
Franklin Township
Freedom Township
Hamiltonban Township
Highland Township
Liberty Township
Menallen Township

Current Magisterial District Judge: Mark D. Beauchat

The following report, along with required worksheets provided by the AOPC, will meet the requirements of the AOPC. The process of coming to the conclusion in this report will be accomplished by a combination of the examination of the data, conferring with the Magisterial District Judges in Adams County, and the guidance and review of the report by a committee to be comprised of the following Adams County members, as appointed by the President Judge:

1. Court of Common Pleas Judge Thomas Campbell, Chair
2. Commissioner Randy Phiel
3. Magisterial District Judge Matthew Harvey
4. District Attorney Brian Sinnott
5. Public Defender Kristin Rice
6. District Court Administrator Donald Fennimore

Background

In 2012, Adams County submitted its last report regarding reestablishment. In that report, the recommendation was to reestablish the four District Courts and to change boundaries in order to address the equitable distribution of caseload. District Court 51-3-01 eliminated Tyrone Township and District Court 51-3-03 added Tyrone Township. These recommendations were accepted by the AOPC and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Guidelines

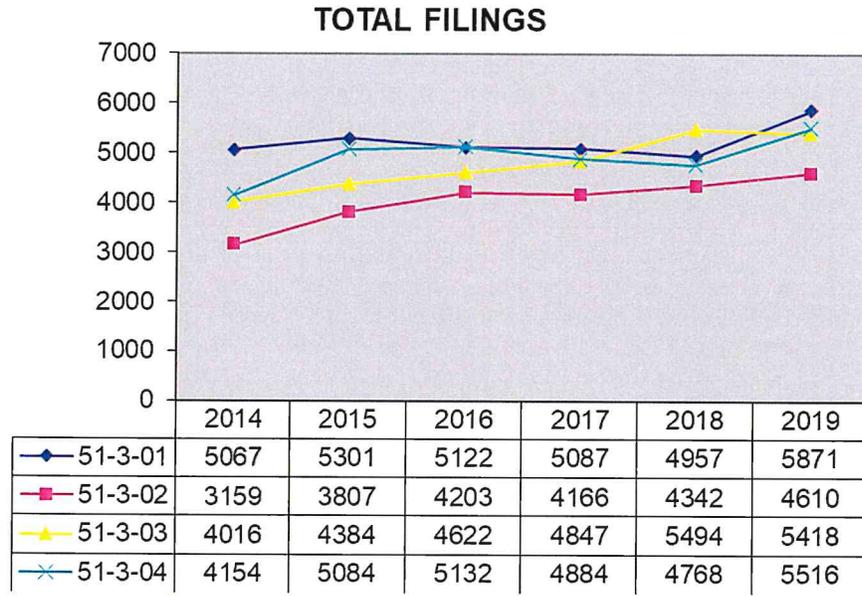
For the current reestablishment project, the AOPC has indicated we are to answer two questions: First, how many magisterial districts do we need to handle the case filings, not just now, but for the next ten years? Second, where should the boundaries of those districts be drawn so that the workload is equitably distributed among the MDJs in the county? The AOPC has established the framework and provided metrics for us to consider when answering these two questions. We are to compare the average **caseloads** of the offices, both within our judicial district and with all other Class 5 counties. When a magisterial district court falls at the lower end of this range, the president judge must evaluate this factor in formulating the realignment proposal. Additionally, no magisterial district should have a total **workload** which is 15% higher or lower than the workload of any other district in the judicial district.

Average Caseload

The AOPC is asking each county to review the average caseloads (defined as the number of filings in a given year) of each office, to compare the average caseload to each office within the county and to compare the average caseload against other counties in the same class size. Figures are based upon sum of rounded figures for: 6-year average of Criminal, Non-Traffic, Private Complaint, Traffic, Landlord/Tenant and Civil filings, plus a 3 year average of Miscellaneous filings. The average number of annual filings for all Class 5 counties from 2014-2019 is 4,119.

Total Filings	2014 [#]	2015 [#]	2016 [#]	2017	2018	2019	Class 5 County Average
51-3-01	5067	5301	5122	5087	4957	5871	27.9%
51-3-02	3159	3807	4203	4166	4342	4610	-1.3%
51-3-03	4016	4384	4622	4847	5494	5418	17.3%
51-3-04	4154	5084	5132	4884	4768	5516	20.3%
All Four MDJ Offices							16.1%

[#](Miscellaneous filing data unavailable for these years)



In Adams County, the office with the lowest average number of filings is 51-3-02. However, a second measure provided by the AOPC called “Workload” (to be discussed later in the report) indicates that 51-3-02 has the highest workload of the four offices based on the type of filings it processes. Additionally, 51-3-02 has been above the average from 2016-2019, as noted by the upward progression on the chart.

Caseload Comparison to Other Class 5 Counties

Class 5 Counties	Filings
Lebanon	4931
Adams	4777
Northumberland	4382
Lawrence	4161
Mercer	3788
Blair	3757
Lycoming	3306
Class 5 Average	4119

Class 5 Counties	Population
Lebanon	143257
Blair	122822
Lycoming	114188
Mercer	110652
Adams	103852
Northumberland	91647
Lawrence	86070

Adams County is ranked 2nd out of 7 in our class for average number of filings during the time period indicated, even though we are ranked 5th out of 7 in our class for population size. A prior table reflects that Adams County is operating at 16.1% above the average for all Class 5 counties in total number of filings.

Conclusion Based on Caseload

We come to the conclusion that elimination of an entire district court is simply not possible due to the increases in filings and projected continued population growth for Adams County during the next ten years. This is supported by the data which indicates

Adams County is 16.1% Above Average of Filings for Class 5 size counties. The average number of filings for Class 5 counties is 4,119. Additionally, there is not a recommendation at this time to add an additional District Court. However, we note with interest that in 2019, the average caseload size for all four offices is 5,354 cases. If we currently had five district courts, the average caseload size for all five offices would be 4,283 cases. This is still above the average for Class 5 counties ($n=4,119$). If this continues, it is probable that we could conclude the need for an additional District Court when completing this report in 2031, especially if population also continues to increase.

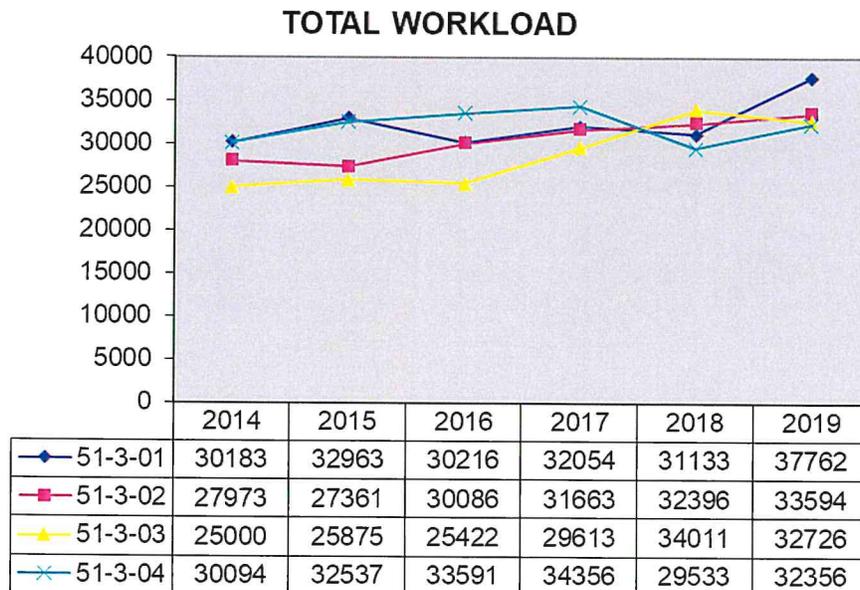
Workload

The AOPC introduced a measure in 2011 to assist counties in determining if the workload is distributed effectively. Workload is a measure between existing magisterial districts within a county and not against other counties. The workload calculus involves the assignment of a weight for different types of case filings, which recognizes that all filings are not equal and that some filings require more work than others. If there is an imbalance, realignment of the district borders can assist with this. The numbers on the table below reflect the weighted measure developed by the AOPC:

Total Workload	2014#	2015#	2016#	2017	2018	2019	Sum of Averages*
51-3-01	30183	32963	30216	32054	31133	37762	35715
51-3-02	27973	27361	30086	31663	32396	33594	34939
51-3-03	25000	25875	25422	29613	34011	32726	36285
51-3-04	30094	32537	33591	34356	29533	32356	37171
Average per AOPC							36031

#(Miscellaneous filing data unavailable for these years)

*(Figures are based upon sum of rounded figures for: 6 year average of Criminal, Non-Traffic, Private Complaint, Traffic, Landlord/Tenant and Civil filings, plus 3 year average of Miscellaneous filings)



No More than 15% Higher or Lower Workload

In order to assist counties to determine if one office is working in excess of another, the AOPC has established 15% as the maximum workload variance from the average between offices. When Adams County completed the Re-establishment Plan in 2012, it was noted that for the 10 years prior to that report, all offices met that 15% variance threshold and the difference between the lowest workload office and highest workload office was 12.2%. After making the adjustment in 2012 of moving Tyrone Township from District Court 51-3-01 to District Court 51-3-03, all offices again meet the 15% variance threshold, with the difference between the lowest workload office and the highest workload office being 6.2%. Our anticipated decrease in workload variance during the last 10 years by moving Tyrone Township turned out to be correct. Interestingly, the variance between the four MDJ Offices is minimal:

1. District Court 51-3-01: -0.9% below the overall County Workload Average
2. District Court 51-3-02: -3.0% below the overall County Workload Average
3. District Court 51-3-03: 0.7% above the overall County Workload Average
4. District Court 51-3-04: 3.2% above the overall County Workload Average

This tight pattern suggests that we have operational equity on the average between all four Magisterial District Courts.

Conclusion Based on Workload

This tight pattern suggests that we nearly have equity on the average between all four Magisterial District Courts. No office has a variance of workload greater than 15% from any other office. The widest difference between any two offices is 6.2%. This variance is low enough to discount the need to move a borough or township out of any current magisterial district.

Population

In order to consider population trends, we consulted the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD). At the time of preparing this report, ACOPD had not yet completed its updated 2030 projections using new census data and therefore, we will be using their projections generated in December 2019. Based on projection information received from the ACOPD and the census data received from the AOPC, the following chart broken down by boroughs and townships has been developed, as follows:

	Population			Projection	Population Change %	
	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2030	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2020
51-3-01						
Gettysburg Borough	7490	7620	7106	7785	1.7%	-6.7%
Straban Township	4539	4928	4851	5399	8.6%	-1.6%
Totals	12029	12548	11957	13184	4.3%	-4.7%
51-3-02						
Bonneauville Borough	1378	1800	1758	1847	30.6%	-2.3%
Littlestown Borough	3947	4434	4782	5001	12.3%	7.8%
McSherrystown Borough	2691	3038	3077	3109	12.9%	1.3%
Conewago Township	5709	7085	7875	8585	24.1%	11.2%
Germany Township	2269	2700	2844	3198	19.0%	5.3%
Mt. Joy Township	3232	3670	3789	4311	13.6%	3.2%
Mt. Pleasant Township	4420	4693	4666	5550	6.2%	-0.6%
Union Township	2989	3148	3076	3325	5.3%	-2.3%
Totals	26635	30568	31867	34926	14.8%	4.2%
51-3-03						
Abbottstown Borough	905	1011	1022	1043	11.7%	1.1%
East Berlin Borough	1365	1521	1542	1530	11.4%	1.4%
New Oxford Borough	1696	1783	1868	1804	5.1%	4.8%
York Springs Borough	574	833	683	843	45.1%	-18.0%
Berwick Township	1818	2389	2403	2677	31.4%	0.6%
Hamilton Township	2044	2530	2714	2959	23.8%	7.3%
Huntington Township	2233	2369	2395	2599	6.1%	1.1%
Latimore Township	2528	2580	2646	2813	2.1%	2.6%
Oxford Township	4876	5517	5936	7171	13.1%	7.6%
Reading Township	5106	5780	5799	6471	13.2%	0.3%
Tyrone Township	2273	2298	2268	2478	1.1%	-1.3%
Totals	25418	28611	29276	32388	12.6%	2.3%
51-3-04						
Arendtsville Borough	848	952	867	956	12.3%	-8.9%
Bendersville Borough	576	641	736	692	11.3%	14.8%
Biglerville Borough	1101	1200	1225	1227	9.0%	2.1%
Carroll Valley Borough	3291	3876	3940	4227	17.8%	1.7%
Fairfield Borough	486	507	526	521	4.3%	3.7%
Butler Township	2678	2567	2550	2912	-4.1%	0.7%
Cumberland Township	5718	6162	7033	8219	7.8%	14.1%
Franklin Township	4590	4877	4676	5303	6.3%	-4.1%
Freedom Township	844	831	825	883	-1.5%	-0.7%
Hamiltonban Township	2216	2372	2300	2538	7.0%	-3.0%
Highland Township	825	943	997	1062	14.3%	5.7%
Liberty Township	1063	1237	1376	1483	16.4%	11.2%
Menallen Township	2974	3515	3701	4246	18.2%	5.3%
Totals	27210	29680	30752	34269	9.1%	3.6%
GRAND TOTAL	91292	101407	103852	114767	11.1%	2.4%

The census data indicates an increase in population in three of the four district court areas, and an overall population increase for the County. Even in the District Court where the population has decreased (51-3-01) during the past 10 years, the average number of filings for that office in the years under review exceed the Class 5 County average by 27.9%.

Conclusion Based on Population

Population projections do not suggest a large change in any one Magisterial District. There are no significant downward shifts in population to suggest eliminating a magisterial district. There are not current figures to support a request for an additional magisterial district to be created. The 10-year projection, coupled with the increases in filings noted during the reporting period under review in this report, could suggest the addition of a magisterial court be considered in 2031, when the next reestablishment report is due. At this time, there is no recommendation for any changes based on population.

Public Comment

Guidelines from the AOPC indicate that the draft of the Magisterial District Reestablishment Report is to be provided to the public for a period of 30 days and that comments from the public are to be included in the final report. A copy of this report was posted on the County of Adams website (<http://www.adamscounty.us/>) on November 24, 2021. Knowledge of the report, along with an invitation for public comments, was featured in an article by the Gettysburg Times in their December 1, 2021 print edition. The Gettysburg Times is the largest local print newspaper in Adams County. Comments regarding the report and media inquiries related to Adams County-specific aspects of this report were to be directed to Donald Fennimore, 717-337-9846, dfennimore@adamscounty.us. Media inquiries regarding the state-wide process were to be directed to Stacey Witalec, Communications Director, AOPC, 717-231-3324. The comment period was closed on December 27, 2021. No comments were received.

Conclusions

I, Michael A. George, President Judge of the 51st Judicial District, based upon the data and factors specific to the County of Adams, recommend the following:

- 1) The Reestablishment of District Courts 51-3-01, 51-3-02, 51-3-03 and 51-3-04 as currently aligned; and
- 2) No elimination of any District Court within the 51st Judicial District.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. George
President Judge, 51st Judicial District

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. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

Judicial District Number:	51	County:	Adams	Class of County:	5
<p>1. List the existing magisterial districts in your judicial district (##-##-##): 51-3-01; 51-3-02; 51-3-03; 51-3-04</p>					
Caseload Analysis					
2. Average total caseloads:		<i>Judicial District</i>		<i>Class of County</i>	
		4,777		4,119	
3. Compare the difference between the caseload average of your judicial district to the class of county.		<i># of Cases</i>		<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Total</i>
		658		2nd	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
Proposed Actions					
5. Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment? If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment (no changes). 51-3-01; 51-3-02; 51-3-03; 51-3-04					Yes
6. Are any magisterial district proposed for realignment? If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for realignment (changes).					No
7. Are any magisterial districts proposed for elimination? If YES, list the magisterial districts proposed for elimination.					No

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?	Yes
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:	1/10/22
21. President Judge Name:	Michael A. George
Signature	<u>Michael A. George</u>

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: 51-3-01		County: Adams	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/1/2022	
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. 5,269	B. 4,777	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>
		492	1st out of 4
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>
		1150	28 %
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. 35,715	B. 36,031	
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>
		-316	0.8 %
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.			
NOTE: The workload of this MDJ office is very close to the workload average of all combined MDJ offices in the county.			

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: 51-3-02	County: Adams		
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish	2. Effective date: 1/1/2022		
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. 4,067	B. 4,777	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</i>	<i>Total</i>
	-710	4th	out of 4
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>	
	-52	-1 %	
<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 the total number of cases filed indicates this court is at the low end of our four magisterial districts, the Workload Analysis suggests relatively even amounts of work across all four magisterial districts. Additionally, -1% below the average of all Class 5 counties in the Commonwealth is not a significant measure resulting in a request for change.</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 34,939	B. 36,031	
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>	
	-1,092	-3 %	
<p>9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower</i> than 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>NOTE: The workload of this MDJ office is very close to the workload average of all combined MDJ offices in the county.</p>			

Magisterial District Information

10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:

<i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>	<i>Birthdate</i>	<i>Term Expiration Date</i>	<i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i>
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11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:

45D West Hanover Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325

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.

Bonneauville Borough, Littlestown Borough, McSherrystown Borough, Conewago Township (also, PSP provides coverage in this district)

17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.

Rt. 15/Rt. 30/Rt. 116/Rt. 97/Rt. 194

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

Bonneauville Borough, Conewago Township, Germany Township, Littlestown Borough, McSherrystown Borough, Mt. Joy Township, Mt. Pleasant Township, Union Township

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: 51-3-03		County: Adams	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/1/2022	
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. 4,831	B. 4,777	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>
		54	3rd out of 4
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>
		712	17 %
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. 36,285	B. 36,031	
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>
		254	1 %
9. If this magisterial district's average workload is fifteen (15%) percent <i>higher or lower</i> than 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.			
NOTE: The workload of this MDJ office is very close to the workload average of all combined MDJ offices in the county.			

Magisterial District Information	
10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information: Tony J. Little <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: 40 Church Road, East Berlin, PA 17316	
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. East Berlin Borough, Eastern Adams Regional, York Springs/Latimore Township, Reading Township, (also, PSP provides coverage in this district)	
17. List any major highways within this magisterial district. Rt. 15/Rt. 30/Rt. 94/Rt. 234	
18. List the current municipalities for this magisterial district (alphabetically). For a list, click HERE for Realignment Orders submitted in the past. Abbottstown Borough, Berwick Township, East Berlin Borough, Hamilton Township, Huntington Township, Latimore Township, New Oxford Borough, Oxford Township, Reading Township, Tyrone Township, York Springs Borough	
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

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: 51-3-04		County: Adams	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 1/1/2022	
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. 4,956	B. 4,777	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>
		179	2nd out of 4
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>
		837	20 %
<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 style="margin-left: 40px;">N/A</p>			
Workload Analysis			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 37,171	B. 36,031	
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>
		1,140	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>NOTE: The workload of this MDJ office is very close to the workload average of all combined MDJ offices in the county.</p>			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Mark D. Beauchat</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><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: 20px;">525 Boyds School Road, Suite 800, Gettysburg, PA 17325</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: 20px;"><small>Biglerville Borough, Carroll Valley Borough, Hamiltonban Township, Liberty Township, Cumberland Township (also, PSP provides coverage in this district)</small></p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Rt. 15/Rt. 30/Rt. 34/Rt. 234/Rt. 233/Rt. 16</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: 20px;">Arendtsville Borough, Bendersville Borough, Biglerville Borough, Butler Township, Carroll Valley Borough, Cumberland Township, Fairfield Borough, Franklin Township, Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, Liberty Township, Menallen Township</p>	
19. Are the proposed municipalities the same as above? If NO , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p>20. Additional Comments:</p> 	

**COURT ADMINISTRATION
ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
117 BALTIMORE STREET, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325**

DONALD A. FENNIMORE
DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

(717) 337-9846
FAX: (717) 337-5780

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

November 24, 2021

Adams County Magisterial District Reestablishment Report – Draft

GETTYSBURG - In July 2021, Adams County was notified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) of its requirement under 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1503 to participate in the reestablishment of magisterial districts. This event occurs every ten years and is directly related to the Federal decennial census. The purpose of this review is to assist counties and the Commonwealth in operational planning for Magisterial District Court Offices over the next ten years. As part of this report, a thirty-day period for public comment is to occur.

A copy of the draft report has been posted on the Adams County website (www.adamascounty.us) as of November 24, 2021, and will remain available for review until December 27, 2021.

Some highlights of this report include:

- A requirement is indicated for Adams County to compare the average caseload (# of filings in a year) to other counties in the Class 5 category using data provided by the AOPC from 2014 through 2019. Class 5 counties are defined as having a population of 95,000 or more but less than 145,000 inhabitants.
- Review of the data indicates that the average filings for all Magisterial District Justice (MDJ) Offices in Adams County are at 16.1% above the average for all Class 5 counties during this time period.
- A requirement is indicated for Adams County to compare the workload (based upon a measure provided by the AOPC) of each district court within Adams County to each other, with an indication that no office should have 15% higher or lower workload in comparison to any other office in the County.
- Review of the data indicates that all offices meet the 15% variance threshold, with the difference between the lowest workload office and the highest workload office being 6.2%.
- Census data provided by the Federal government indicates a 2.4% growth in population in Adams County from 2010 to 2020.

- Population growth projections from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (OPD) (developed in December 2019) suggest 10.5% population growth for Adams County by 2030.
- Population growth along with sustainable numbers of filings throughout the county does not support the elimination of any MDJ Office in Adams County.
- Workload information does not suggest the need for any movement of a current township or borough from an existing magisterial district.
- There is no recommendation to add a magisterial district to Adams County at this time. However, continued population growth along with continued increase in numbers of filings throughout the county between 2020 and 2030 may lead to the conclusion of the need for a fifth magisterial district when the next reestablishment report is developed in 2031.
- After the period of public comment is completed, the draft report will be updated and signed by President Judge Michael A. George, Adams County Court of Common Pleas, to include any report-specific public comments received.
- The deadline for the submission of the report to the AOPC is February 28, 2022.

Media contact:

Donald Fennimore, District Court Administrator

717-337-9846 (office)

dfennimore@adamscounty.us

For questions regarding the statewide process, please contact:

Stacey Witalec, Communications Director, AOPC

717-231-3324 (office)

stacey.witalec@pacourts.us



(/) (/)

You are here: Adams County (/Pages/default.aspx)

Announcements (/Lists/Announcements): Adams County Magisterial District Reestablishment Report 2022-2031: Public Review/Comment (until December 27, 2021)

Adams County Magisterial District Reestablishment Report 2022-2031: Public Review/Comment (Until December 27, 2021)

Summary

Introduction

In July 2021, Adams County was notified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) of its requirement under 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1503 to participate in the reestablishment of magisterial districts. This event occurs every ten years and is directly related to the Federal decennial census. Adams County has received from the AOPC a set of guidelines, case filing statistics, and workload statistics for Criminal, Non-Traffic, Private Criminal Complaint, Private Summary Complaint, Traffic, Civil, Landlord/Tenant and Miscellaneous filings in the four District Courts in Adams County. In addition, Population Data and Projections were received from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development. The guidelines indicate that Adams County shall submit recommendations to the AOPC regarding the reestablishment of its District Courts no later than February 28, 2022.

[Click here to Read the full Report \(/Documents/MagisterialDistrictReestablishmentReport.pdf\)](/Documents/MagisterialDistrictReestablishmentReport.pdf)

Details

Close

County of Adams
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Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-6781
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Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Monday thru Friday

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*Christmas
festival
decorating*

Report suggests 4 magisterial districts adequate for Adams

By Alex J. Hayes
Times Managing Editor

A decennial review of Adams County's magisterial districts recommends no changes but the president judge suspects that may not be the case in 2031.

The county is required to review its magisterial district courts every 10 years, in conjunction with the federal census, and provide a report to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. The most recent study states the county's workload and caseload is hefty but manageable.

"The interesting thing about this report to me is knowing the workload. It reinforced my anecdotal knowledge that the magisterial district justices are

working at a high and efficient rate," President Judge Michael George said Tuesday.

The county has four magisterial district courts — Judge Matthew Harvey's office in Gettysburg, Judge Mark Beatch's office in Cumberland Township, Judge Dan Bowman's office in Bonneauville and Judge Tony Little's office in Reading Township. Each judge is assigned to handle cases based on the municipality where the alleged offense occurs. Major cases are usually waived to the Adams County Court of Common Pleas.

Municipalities are assigned to district offices based on case workload. Workload differs

(See COURT on Page A8)

Drainage improvement planned in Straban Twp.



decorating committee, show volunteers how to arrange garland and wreaths on the parklets on Lincoln Square Tuesday. They are decorating all week in preparation for the A Gettysburg Christmas being held Dec. 3-5 and 10-12. At left, Gina Piper, left, and Stacy Harbin volunteered their time on Tuesday to decorate some of the Christmas trees along Steinwehr Avenue in preparation for holiday celebrations.

(See STRABAN on Page A8)

A similar study completed in 2012 determined District Court 51-3-01 (currently Harvey's) was carrying an uneven workload so Tyrone Township cases were moved to 51-3-03 (currently Little's). This year's study determined the workload is mostly even.

Adams County is among seven Pennsylvania counties classified as a Class 5 County, counties defined as having a population of 95,000 or more but less than 145,000 inhabitants.

Adams ranks fifth out of seven Class 5 counties based on population, with 103,852 citizens. It ranks second out of seven Class Five counties based on the average number of court filings, 4,777, between 2014 and 2019.

Adams County Office of Planning and Development projections suggest a 10.5 percent population growth by 2030. Workload and population increases could lead the county to recommending a fifth magisterial district court office in 2030.

"There will have to be a bit of a pattern before we can justify the expense of another magisterial district judge," George said.

The state-mandated report is available on the county website, www.adamscounty.us.

Court

(Continued from Page A1)

from caseload, George said. Each type of case receives a workload weight based on its severity.

"We try to keep that even so you don't have one magisterial district judge in the county handling 50 percent of the cases and the other three judges handling the other 50 percent," George said.

Citizens may provide public comments to Court Administrator Don Fennimore by emailing dfennimore@adamscounty.us before Dec. 24.

The court system routinely reviews its magisterial district workload outside of the mandated decennial formal review, Fennimore said. Routine reviews help the court system determine if it is adequately staffing the offices, Fennimore said.

"It is helpful to get a sense of population growth alongside data we have," Fennimore said. A decennial review is required for the Adams County Court of Common Pleas, George said, but the court system conducts similar reviews to ensure it is properly prepared for the future.

"If we need another judge in 20 years, we can't build another courtroom in 19.5 years," he said.

Can California legally require women on corporate boards'

By Brian Melley
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When then-California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first law requiring women on boards of publicly traded companies, he suggested it might not survive legal challenges.

"I find that to be incredibly ironic and hypocritical," Jackson said. "Any time you try to make significant change to the status quo the powers that have been institutionalized to this kind of discrimination are likely to fight back."

The law required publicly traded companies headquartered in California to have

posed similar bills. Illinois requires publicly traded companies to report the makeup of their boards.

Several European countries, including France, Germany, Norway and Spain, require corporate boards to include women.

Before the California law went into effect, women held 17% of the seats on company

woman on their boards, along with one person from a racial minority or who identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer.

There's no penalty for companies that don't meet the Nasdaq diversity criteria, but they must publicly explain why they could not comply.

The Nasdaq rule and a California law signed last

sexual misconduct.

"I don't minimize potential flaws that industry may prove fatal to its ultimate implementation," the Democratic governor said in a letter. "Nevertheless, recent events ... make it crystal clear many are not getting the message."

Judicial Watch sued August 2019 and the Pac