



Gregory T. Armstrong  
District Court  
Administrator

Carbon County Court of Common Pleas  
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February 24, 2022

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

Re: Reestablishment of 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Carbon County) Magisterial District Courts

Dear Mr. Mittleman,

This letter with attachments is submitted pursuant to the request by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas to examine the boundaries of District Courts 56-3-01, 56-3-02, 56-3-03, and 56-3-04 after the completion of the 2020 United States Census.

The Court of Common Pleas published its report to the public in the following areas:

1. Court Website: [Reestablishment.pdf \(carboncourts.com\)](https://carboncourts.com) .
2. County Website: [Public-Notice-2022-Reestablishment-of-Carbon-County-MDJ-Court-jurisdictions-1.pdf \(carboncounty.com\)](https://carboncounty.com) .
3. News organizations: Times-News of Lehighton, PA and Standard-Speaker of Hazleton, PA.
4. District Court Offices 56-3-01, 56-3-02, 56-3-03, 56-3-04.

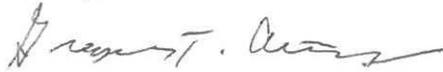
The Court received no comments from the public. At this time, this court is recommending the reestablishment of the boundaries of Carbon's four district courts as currently configured. Please find enclosed the following:

1. Memorandum dated January 18, 2022 from President Judge Roger N. Nanovic which summarizes the court's analysis of both caseloads and workloads for the four district courts. Of note, Judge Nanovic identifies the potential need in the future to add a fifth district court if current trends continue.
2. Public Notice posted on January 18, 2022.
3. Newspaper articles from the Times-News and Standard-Speaker.
4. Carbon-Judicial District Summary Worksheet-Reestablishment 2021-2022.
5. Carbon 56-3-01 Magisterial District Summary-Reestablishment-Reestablishment 2021-2022.
6. Carbon 56-3-02 Magisterial District Summary-Reestablishment-Reestablishment 2021-2022.
7. Carbon 56-3-03 Magisterial District Summary-Reestablishment-Reestablishment 2021-2022.

8. Carbon 56-3-04 Magisterial District Summary-Reestablishment 2021-2022.
9. Map of Carbon County Magisterial District Court proposed boundaries.
10. Map of Carbon County Magisterial District Court boundaries with state highways overlaid.

Feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory T. Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G".

Gregory T. Armstrong  
District Court Administrator  
56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

# Plan Memorandum

Re: Magisterial District Reestablishment 2022  
Carbon County  
56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Date: January 18, 2022

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As part of the decennial magisterial district reestablishment process for 2022, the 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (i.e., Carbon County) has prepared and evaluated a Judicial District Summary Worksheet for the County and a Magisterial District Summary Worksheet for each of the four magisterial districts within the County. Copies of these worksheets are attached to this Memorandum.

Carbon County is a sixth class county with a population, according to the most recent federal decennial census, of 64,749, which has remained relatively constant since the previous decennial count. The average total caseload for the County, as stated on the attached Judicial District Summary Worksheet, is 5,497. The average total caseload range for counties of the sixth class is 2,133 at the low end and 5,497 at the high end, with an average total caseload of 3,230. At 5,497, Carbon County has the highest caseload of all sixth class counties within the State.

Expounding upon the District's caseload, which is a numerical count of case filings, the County's average annual workload per magisterial district court - a "weighted caseload" computed by assigning a weight based on the average amount of judge time required to process each type of case - is 38,398. This also places Carbon County first among the twenty-four (24) counties in the sixth class which has a workload range varying from 15,937 to 38,398. The average annual workload for magisterial district courts in sixth class counties is 23,838.

The caseload and workload studies for the District support and justify the need for four magisterial district courts within the 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and, to some

extent, lend support for the creation of a fifth magisterial district court as the case filings in the District increase.

The four magisterial district courts which currently exist in Carbon County are Magisterial District No. 56-3-01 (Jim Thorpe), Magisterial District No. 56-3-02 (Palmerton), Magisterial District No. 56-3-03 (Lansford), and Magisterial District No. 56-3-04 (Weatherly). In the magisterial district reestablishment for 2012, a realignment for Magisterial Districts 56-3-01, 56-3-02, and 56-3-03 took place, with reestablishment of Magisterial District 56-3-04. This realignment occurred in order to equitably distribute the workload among the magisterial district judges within the County.

As depicted on the Magisterial District Summary Worksheets for each of the four magisterial districts within Carbon County, the workload within each of these districts is within 7.3% of the Judicial District's average total workload. When rounded to the nearest whole percentage, no magisterial district has a total workload which is 15% higher or lower than the workload of any other district. While the workload for District 56-3-04 is the lowest among Carbon County's magisterial districts, this workload has continued to increase since the last magisterial district reestablishment in large part due to the increased number of traffic citations resulting from trucking enforcement units set up by the Pennsylvania State Police on Interstate 80. It is also important to keep in mind that the geography and topography of Carbon County, combined with the existing roadways, cause the district court in this district to be more difficult to access from other areas in the County and would cause greater inconvenience to the public if cases from other municipalities or parts of municipalities were assigned to this district to shift workload from the other district courts in the County. See attached mapping of the four magisterial districts within the County. Even so, the average workload for District 56-3-04 at 35,674 is far in excess of the overall average workload in counties of the sixth class.

After consideration of all the data assembled and the summary of this data appearing on the attached worksheets for the County and for each magisterial district court within the County, as well as comparison with the case and work loads of other counties of the sixth class, the proposal being submitted

to the Supreme Court for the 2022 magisterial district reestablishment is that the number of magisterial district courts within the 56<sup>th</sup> District and the boundaries of these district courts remain the same, that is that each magisterial district court be reestablished.

**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.

|  |    |                          |        |                         |              |
|--|----|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Judicial District Number:</b>   | 56 | <b>County:</b>           | Carbon | <b>Class of County:</b> | 6            |
| <p>1. List the existing magisterial districts in your judicial district (##-##-##):</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">56-3-01, 56-3-02, 56-3-03, 56-3-04</p>           |    |                          |        |                         |              |
| <b>Caseload Analysis</b>   |    |                          |        |                         |              |
| 2. Average total caseloads:  |    | <i>Judicial District</i> |        | <i>Class of County</i>  |              |
|  |    | 5,497                    |        | 3,230                   |              |
| 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> |
|  |    | 2267                     |        | 1st                     | out of 24    |
| 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 style="margin-left: 40px;">56-3-01<br/>56-3-02<br/>56-3-03<br/>56-3-04</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>  |    |                          |        |                         |              |

| <b>Additional Workload Factors</b>   |      |
|--|------|
| 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?<br>If YES, briefly explain the types of programs.  | No   |
| <b>Final Checklist</b>   |      |
| 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  |
| <b>19. Additional Remarks</b>  |      |
| <p>Carbon County submitted information in the 2012 process that highlighted its unique role as the #1 6th Class County. Carbon's overall criminal caseload has increased dramatically since then. Additionally, District Court 56-3-04 has experienced rapidly increasing Traffic caseloads since 2015 due to PSP truck traffic enforcement on I-80 in Kidder Township.</p> <p>Carbon County's Average Caseload exceeds the averages for Class 2, 2A, 3, 4, and 5 counties. District Court 56-3-04 has the highest Traffic caseload of all Class 2-8 counties.</p> |      |
| <b>Verification of Submission</b>  |      |
| 20. Date submitted to AOPC:  |      |
| 21. President Judge Name: Roger N. Nanovic   |      |
| <p>Signature  P.S. 2/23/22</p>  |      |

## 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. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

|   |                             |                             |                          |              |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>   | 56-3-01                     | <b>County:</b>              | Carbon                   |              |
| 1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish   |                             | 2. Effective date: 1/1/2023 |                          |              |
| <b>Caseload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 3. Average total caseloads:   | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i>    | <i>Class of County</i>   |              |
|   | 4,719                       | 5,497                       | 3,230                    |              |
| 4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>Ranking</i>           | <i>Total</i> |
|   |                             | -778                        | 3rd                      | out of 4     |
| 5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | 1489                        | 46 %                     |              |
| 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 petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.   |                             |                             |                          |              |
| <b>Workload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 7. Average total workloads:   |                             | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i> |              |
|   |                             | 41,220                      | 38,398                   |              |
| 8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.  |                             | <i>Total Difference</i>     | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | 2,822                       | 7.3 %                    |              |
| 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 petition</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. |                             |                             |                          |              |

| <b>Magisterial District Information</b>   |                                |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:   |                                |   |  |
| Eric M. Schrantz<br><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>  | [REDACTED]<br><i>Birthdate</i> | 12/31/23<br><i>Term Expiration Date</i> | 12/31/50<br><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i> |
| 11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:<br>340 Center Avenue Jim Thorpe, PA 18229   |                                |   |  |
| 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.<br>Jim Thorpe, Lehighon, Mahoning Township, Pennsylvania State Police (Fern Ridge, Lehighon, Pocono), <span style="float: right;">+</span>  |                                |   |  |
| 17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.<br>I-476, PA Routes 209, 443, 903   |                                |   |  |
| 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.<br><br>Jim Thorpe Boro, Lehighon Boro, Mahoning Township (Packer & Jamestown Voting Districts), Penn Forest Township, Weissport Boro<br><br>Question #16 - Complete comments:<br>Jim Thorpe, Lehighon, Mahoning Township, Pennsylvania State Police (Fern Ridge, Lehighon, Pocono), Weissport, Hickory Run State Park, Norfolk Southern Police, Reading and Blue Mountain Railroad Police, <span style="float: right;">+</span> |                                |   |  |
| 19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above?<br>If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).   |                                |   | Yes  |
| <b>20. Additional Comments:</b>   |                                |   |  |
|   |                                |   |  |

## 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. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

|   |                             |                             |                          |              |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>   | 56-3-02                     | <b>County:</b>              | Carbon                   |              |
| 1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish   |                             | 2. Effective date: 1/1/2023 |                          |              |
| <b>Caseload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 3. Average total caseloads:   | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i>    | <i>Class of County</i>   |              |
|   | 4,930                       | 5,497                       | 3,230                    |              |
| 4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>Ranking</i>           | <i>Total</i> |
|   |                             | -567                        | 2nd                      | out of 4     |
| 5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | 1700                        | 53 %                     |              |
| 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 petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.   |                             |                             |                          |              |
| <b>Workload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 7. Average total workloads:   |                             | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i> |              |
|   |                             | 39,132                      | 38,398                   |              |
| 8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.  |                             | <i>Total Difference</i>     | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | 734                         | 1.9 %                    |              |
| 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 petition</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. |                             |                             |                          |              |

| Magisterial District Information   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:  |   |   |  |
| William J. Kissner<br><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>   | <br><i>Birthdate</i> | 12/31/23<br><i>Term Expiration Date</i> | 12/31/41<br><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i> |
| 11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:<br>401 Delaware Avenue 2nd Floor Palmerton, PA 18071   |   |   |  |
| 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.<br><br>St. Luke's Hospital Network will open a new hospital in this district in 2022. The effect is unknown but may drive a population increase. Additionally, Beltzville State Park saw exceptionally high enforcement efforts during the past two years due to excessive use by out-of-state residents. Future use during the summer months will likely remain strong. |   |   | Yes  |
| 16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.<br>Franklin Twp, Palmerton Boro, PSP-Lehighton & Pocono, Beltzville St Park, PA Fish & Boat & PA Game Comm   |   |   |  |
| 17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.<br>I-476, PA Routes 209, 248, 895  |   |   |  |
| 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.<br><br>Bowmanstown Boro, Franklin Twp, Lower Towamensing Twp, Palmerton Boro, Parryville Boro, Towamensing Twp   |   |   |  |
| 19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above?<br>If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).  |   |   | Yes  |
| 20. Additional Comments:   |   |   |  |
| #15 Full Comment - St. Luke's Hospital Network will open a new hospital in this district in 2022. The effect is unknown but may drive a population increase. Additionally, Beltzville State Park saw exceptionally high enforcement efforts during the past two years due to excessive use by out-of-state residents. Future use during the summer months will likely remain strong.   |   |   |  |

## 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. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

|   |                                      |                                   |                                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 56-3-03   | <b>County:</b> Carbon                |                                   |                                 |
| 1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish   | 2. Effective date: 1/1/2023          |                                   |                                 |
| <b>Caseload Analysis</b>  |                                      |                                   |                                 |
| 3. Average total caseloads:   | <i>Magisterial District</i><br>3,081 | <i>Judicial District</i><br>5,497 | <i>Class of County</i><br>3,230 |
| 4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.   | <i># of Cases</i>                    | <i>Ranking</i>                    | <i>Total</i>                    |
|   | -2416                                | 4th                               | out of 4                        |
| 5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.   | <i># of Cases</i>                    | <i>% Above/Below</i>              |                                 |
|   | -149                                 | -5 %                              |                                 |
| 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 petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.   |                                      |                                   |                                 |
| <b>Workload Analysis</b>  |                                      |                                   |                                 |
| 7. Average total workloads:   | <i>Magisterial District</i>          | <i>Judicial District</i>          |                                 |
|   | 37,567                               | 38,398                            |                                 |
| 8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.  | <i>Total Difference</i>              | <i>% Above/Below</i>              |                                 |
|   | -831                                 | -2 %                              |                                 |
| 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 petition</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. |                                      |                                   |                                 |

| <b>Magisterial District Information</b>  |                  |                             |                                  |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:  |                  |                             |                                  |
| Casimir T. Kosciolk  | [REDACTED]       | 12/31/23                    | 12/31/38                         |
| <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:  |                  |                             |                                  |
| 417 East Ridge Street Lansford, PA 18232   |                  |                             |                                  |
| 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                      |
| Lehigh Valley Health Network plans to build a small hospital in this jurisdiction. The effect is unknown.  |                  |                             |                                  |
| 16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.  |                  |                             |                                  |
| Carbon County, Lansford Borough, Mahoning Township, Nesquehoning Borough, Summit Hill Borough,   |                  |                             |                                  |
| 17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.  |                  |                             |                                  |
| PA Routes 54, 209, 443, 902, 895   |                  |                             |                                  |
| 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.  |                  |                             |                                  |
| East Penn Twp, Lansford Boro, Mahoning Twp (Mahoning & New Mahoning Voting Districts), Nesquehoning Boro, Summit Hill Boro   |                  |                             |                                  |
| 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>  |                  |                             |                                  |
| District Court 56-3-03's case filings decreased 8.6% from 2012 to 2019. However, workload increased 26.9% over the same time period due to increased criminal filings in the jurisdiction.<br>Q #16-Lansford Boro, Mahoning Twnshp, Nesquehoning Boro, Summit Hill Boro, PSP-Lehighnton&Pocono& Hazleton, Reading and Blue Mountain Railroad PD, PA Fish/Boat & Game Comm, Mauch Chunk Lake Park |                  |                             |                                  |

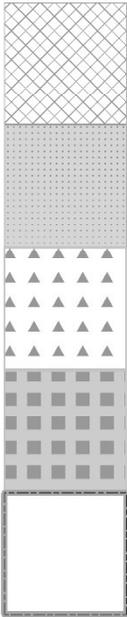
## Magisterial District Summary Worksheet - Reestablishment 2021-2022

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. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

|   |                             |                             |                          |              |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>   | 56-3-04                     | <b>County:</b>              | Carbon                   |              |
| 1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish   |                             | 2. Effective date: 1/1/2023 |                          |              |
| <b>Caseload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 3. Average total caseloads:   | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i>    | <i>Class of County</i>   |              |
|   | 9,232                       | 5,497                       | 3,230                    |              |
| 4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>Ranking</i>           | <i>Total</i> |
|   |                             | 3735                        | 1st                      | out of 4     |
| 5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.   |                             | <i># of Cases</i>           | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | 6002                        | 185 %                    |              |
| 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 petition that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.   |                             |                             |                          |              |
| <b>Workload Analysis</b>  |                             |                             |                          |              |
| 7. Average total workloads:   |                             | <i>Magisterial District</i> | <i>Judicial District</i> |              |
|   |                             | 35,674                      | 38,398                   |              |
| 8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.  |                             | <i>Total Difference</i>     | <i>% Above/Below</i>     |              |
|   |                             | -2,724                      | -7 %                     |              |
| 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 petition</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges. |                             |                             |                          |              |

| <b>Magisterial District Information</b>  |                                |                                       |  |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:  |                                |                                       |  |
| Joseph D. Homanko, Sr.<br><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>   | [REDACTED]<br><i>Birthdate</i> | 1/2/28<br><i>Term Expiration Date</i> | 12/31/37<br><i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i> |
| 11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:<br>71 W. Main Street Weatherly, PA 18225   |                                |                                       |  |
| 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.<br><br>Kidder Township Industrial Park is under construction. The likely impact will be in Traffic enforcement due to increased truck traffic through the township.                      |                                |                                       | Yes  |
| 16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.<br>Beaver Meadows Borough, Kidder Township, Weatherly Borough, PSP-Fern Ridge, PSP-Hazleton, <span style="float: right;">+</span>  |                                |                                       |  |
| 17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.<br>I-80, I-476, PA Routes 93, 534, 903, 940,   |                                |                                       |  |
| 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.<br><br>Banks Twp, Beaver Meadows Boro, East Side Boro, Kidder Twp, Lausanne Twp, Lehigh Twp, Packer Twp, Weatherly Boro  |                                |                                       |  |
| 19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above?<br>If <b>NO</b> , please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).  |                                |                                       | Yes  |
| <b>20. Additional Comments:</b>  |                                |                                       |  |
| Since 2016, PSP's trucking enforcement in Kidder Twp's portion of I-80 continues to drive increased Traffic caseloads. When excluding 2014 & 2015 data and adding 2020 & 2021 data there is a yielded average of an annual increase of 545 traffic violations/year versus the period of 2014-2019 provided in the redistricting data sets. These traffic filings are more time-consuming for the judge than indicated by traffic case weights. |                                |                                       |  |

# Carbon County 56th Judicial District Magisterial Districts



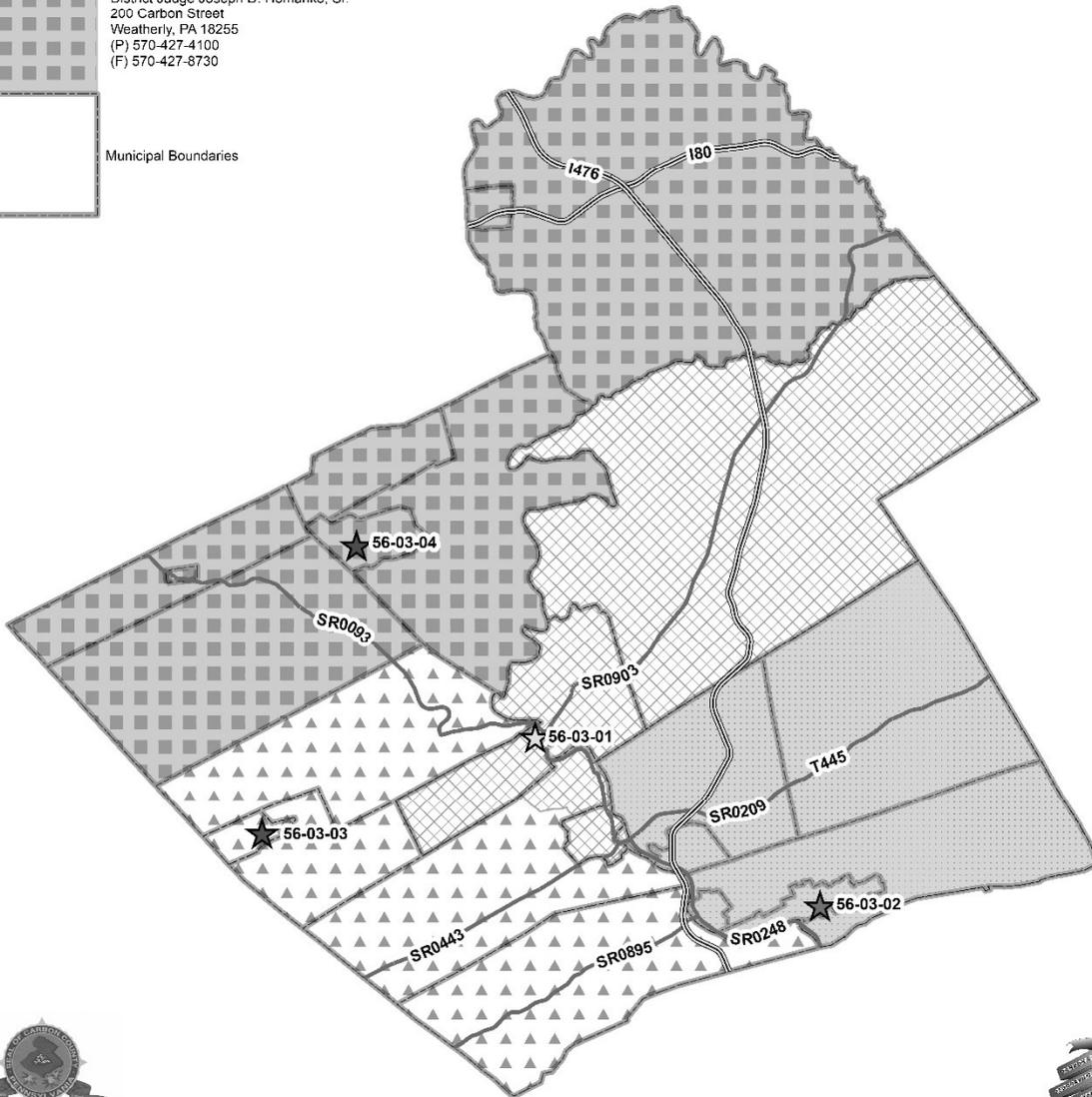
DISTRICT COURT 56-03-01  
District Judge Eric M. Schrantz  
340 Center Avenue  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229  
(P) 570-325-2751  
(F) 570-325-5538

DISTRICT COURT 56-03-02  
District Judge William J. Kissner  
401 Delaware Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Palmerton, PA 18071  
(P) 610-826-3707  
(F) 610-826-6914

DISTRICT COURT 56-03-03  
District Judge Casimir T. Kosciolk  
417 East Ridge Street  
Lansford, PA 18232  
(P) 570-645-3024  
(F) 570-645-5544

DISTRICT COURT 56-03-04  
District Judge Joseph D. Homanko, Sr.  
200 Carbon Street  
Weatherly, PA 18255  
(P) 570-427-4100  
(F) 570-427-8730

Municipal Boundaries



**PUBLIC NOTICE of**

**CARBON COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT REESTABLISHMENT**

The Carbon County Court of Common Pleas hereby notifies the public that it has completed its review of the boundaries for Magisterial District Courts 56-3-01 (Jim Thorpe), 56-3-02 (Palmerton), 56-3-03 (Lansford), and 56-3-04 (Weatherly) based upon the following factors: Final results of the 2021 U.S. Census, caseload and workload data provided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and consultation with the respective Magisterial District Judges.

Pennsylvania statute requires the Court to review the boundaries of the Magisterial District Courts every ten (10) years after the U.S. Census is completed. At this time, President Judge Roger N. Nanovic is recommending to the PA Supreme Court that the boundaries of the four (4) District Courts in Carbon County should be reestablished in their current configuration for the next ten-year period of 2023-2032. Following is a list of the respective townships and boroughs within each District Court's jurisdiction.

56-3-01 (Jim Thorpe): Carbon County, Jim Thorpe Borough, Lehighon Borough, Mahoning Township (Packer-Jamestown), Penn Forest Township, Weissport Borough.

56-3-02 (Palmerton): Bowmanstown Borough, Carbon County, Franklin Township, Lower Towamensing Township, Palmerton Borough, Parryville Borough, Towamensing Township.

56-3-03 (Lansford): Carbon County, East Penn Township, Lansford Borough, Mahoning Township (Mahoning, New Mahoning), Nesquehoning Borough, Summit Hill Borough.

56-3-04 (Weatherly): Banks Township, Beaver Meadows Borough, Carbon County, East Side Borough, Kidder Township, Lausanne Township, Lehigh Township, Packer Township, Weatherly Borough.

The proposed plan is published on the websites of the Court, [www.carboncourts.com](http://www.carboncourts.com), and the County, [www.carboncounty.net](http://www.carboncounty.net) for the next thirty (30) days to allow for public comments to be submitted to the Court. Comments may be emailed to [info@carboncourts.com](mailto:info@carboncourts.com) or mailed to: Gregory T. Armstrong, District Court Administrator, Carbon County Courthouse, P.O. Box 131, 4 Broadway, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. All comments must be submitted in writing by Thursday, February 17th, 2022.

Times-News, Lehigh PA

# District justice districts remain unchanged

Published January 19, 2022 12:09PM

**BY DEN MCLAUGHLIN [DMCLAUGHLIN@TNONLINE.COM](mailto:DMCLAUGHLIN@TNONLINE.COM)**

As per law, the Carbon County court completed a review of the boundaries for Magisterial District Courts in Jim Thorpe, Palmerton, Lansford and Weatherly.

The review was based on the final results of the 2021 U.S. Census, caseload and workload, data provided by the state Supreme County and consultation with the respective district judges.

As a result there are no changes to coverage areas for the judges from the previous year.

Following are the district justices' coverage areas:

- 56-3-01 (Jim Thorpe): Jim Thorpe, Lehigh, Mahoning Township (Packer-Jamestown), Penn Forest Township and Weissport.
- 56-3-02 (Palmerton): Bowmanstown, Franklin Township, Lower Towamensing Township, Palmerton, Parryville and Towamensing Township.
- 56-3-03 (Lansford): East Penn Township, Lansford, Mahoning Township (Mahoning, New Mahoning), Nesquehoning and Summit Hill Borough.
- 56-3-04 (Weatherly): Banks Township, Beaver Meadows, East Side Borough, Kidder Township, Lausanne Township, Lehigh Township, Packer Township and Weatherly.

## Standard-Speaker, Hazelton PA

# Carbon district courts carry high caseloads

By Kelly Monitz Staff Writer

Jan 25, 2022 Updated Jan 29, 2022



President Judge Roger Nanovic addresses the media in courtroom 1 at the Carbon County Courthouse, Jim Thorpe, in 2020. Carbon County's magisterial district courts have the highest workload among the state's other sixth-class counties, according to data the county compiled for the decennial re-establishment of the courts.

Carbon County's magisterial district courts have the highest workload among the state's other sixth-class counties, according to data the county compiled for the decennial re-establishment of the courts.

The Carbon Court of Common Pleas is taking public comment on the proposed plan to keep the county's four magisterial districts the same for the next 10 years, starting in 2023.

Carbon's caseload is the highest among the state's 24 sixth-class counties, despite the county's population remaining relatively constant at 64,749 since the last decennial count, courts said.

The average caseload for sixth-class counties is 3,230 with a count of 2,133 on the low end and 5,497 on the high end.

The workload for each district court, which is a “weighted caseload” computed by assigning a weight based on the average amount of judge time required to process each type of case, is 38,398, the courts said.

The average workload for magisterial district courts in sixth-class counties is 23,838 with the range between 15,937 and 38,398.

“This also places Carbon County first among the 24 counties in the sixth class,” the courts said.

The caseload and workload justify the need for four district courts, and lend support for the creation of a fifth, as case filings increase, the courts said.

A realignment of Jim Thorpe, Palmerton and Lansford district courts took place in 2012 to distribute the workload, and the Weatherly district court remained the same.

The Weatherly district court, which is comprised of Banks Twp., Beaver Meadows, Carbon County, East Side borough, Kidder, Lausanne, Lehigh and Packer townships and Weatherly borough, has the lowest workload.

The workload has increased since the last re-establishment, mainly due to increased state police traffic enforcement of Interstate 80, the courts said.

The geography and topography of the county and existing roads would make this court harder to access for the public than other courts should workload be shifted, the courts said.

Still, the average workload of the Weatherly district court is in excess of the the overall average workload in sixth-class counties, the courts said.

With all factors considered, Carbon is submitting for the re-establishment of existing courts and boundaries in its proposed plan.

Written comments should be directed to Greg Armstrong, district court administrator, at the Carbon County Courthouse, 4 Broadway, Jim Thorpe, by Feb. 17.

Contact the writer: [kmonitz@standardspeaker.com](mailto:kmonitz@standardspeaker.com); 570-501-3589