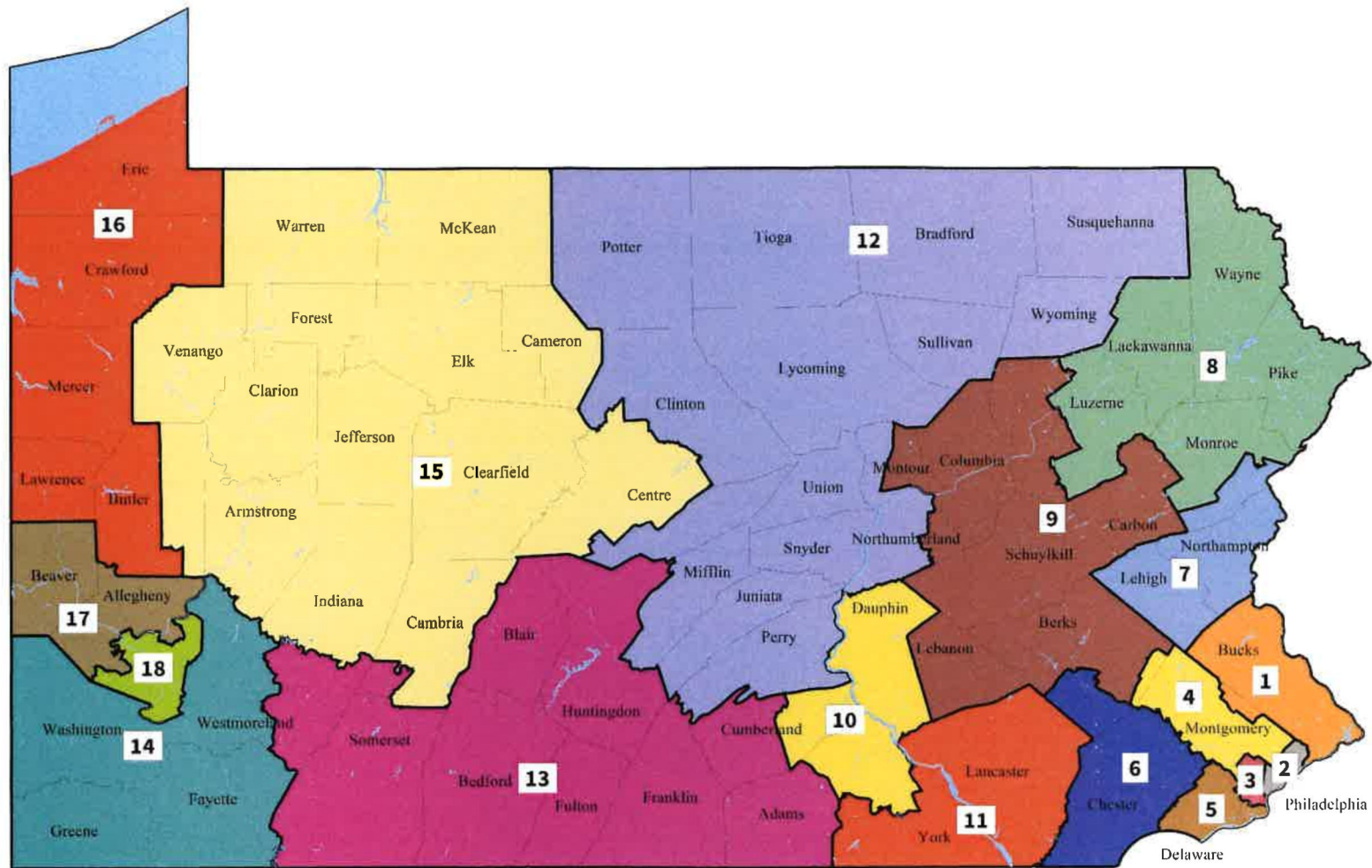


---

# SOUTHWEST

REGIONAL HEARING

---



## Southwest Regional Hearing

Written testimony (as of 8/23/21) submitted by:

**1. Patricia O.**

Westmoreland, PA

I have been a resident of North Huntingdon Township for 34 years. During that time, I have witnessed the polarized changes in Harrisburg that have contributed to my sense of being less represented in both Harrisburg and Congress.

As we all know, it is our legislators that create gerrymandering or create fair district representation. If we are to preserve our democracy and accept Lincoln's principal that government is "of the people, by the people, for the people," you, our elected representatives must make every effort to ensure every vote carries equal value and weight.

We are here today to engage in the debate of what constitutes a fair map of representation. To achieve this goal:

1. Do not use the maps from 2011 or 2018. Instead, start with a blank slate to create 17 congressional districts.

2. Maps should be drawn keeping districts compact, sharing common borders, and of equal populations. No map should be designed to benefit one party or another. When districts are so gerrymandered that it resembles Goofy kicking Donald Duck, our legislators have failed their duty. This is Un-American and diminishes our democratic principles.

3. There should be no divided precincts. Minimize splitting counties and towns, especially streets where one side of the street is in a different district than the opposite side of the street.

4. Transparency should be a part of this process. Once the maps are drawn, the citizens of Pennsylvania should have the opportunity to critique the boundaries that will affect their representation. The maps should be published in local newspapers and town hall meetings in every district should be held addressing the concerns of your constituents.

This not about turning red areas blue or blue areas red. It's about ensuring Pennsylvania voters that their vote is equal to every other vote in this state. It's about deterring polarized political power, but instead encouraging our representatives to come to the table and engage in issues that will improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. My Representative Guy Reschenthaler in the 14th Congressional district is more concerned with listening to his party than his constituents. We need less of the political wasteful posturing that now focuses on voter suppression bills or increasing the powers of the legislative branch, disrupting the balance of power.

Lastly, House Bill 22 had bipartisan support in the Pennsylvania legislature. Months were spent debating it's merit. Multiple conversations across the state with voters and their representatives resulted in a

popular support for this bill. Why was it not brought to the floor for a vote? If this disrespect of our democracy continues by our legislators, once again, the courts will draw the boundaries.

**2. Rose Ann J., Fair Districts PA**  
Uniontown, PA

I have watched the partisan redistributing in Pa after the 2010 census. The Republicans in Pa rubbed our noses in the gerrymandering of our state. I want all parties to know some of us are watching and will make our displeasure known at the ballot box. Be fair to all Pennsylvanians.

**3. Michael S.**  
Johnstown, PA

It seems political and complicating that the redistricting overlaps so many counties in the various regions. For my region, it is confusing to see Westmoreland, Beaver, and Washington included both as "southwest" and "Allegheny." I assume this is because there are districts in this county that get looped into districting in both regions. To me, this feels like "watering down" the Democratic base of most of Allegheny County with counties that are purely southwestern in nature. Instead of overlapping, be geographically pure.

**4. Ronda W.**  
Uniontown, PA

I am not in agreement with redistricting of Pennsylvania. I am in agreement of honesty. This redistricting will only help those who are trying to justify their own actions against we the people.