

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ELIMINATION OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT : No. _____
23-2-02 AND REALIGNMENT OF MAGISTERIAL :
DISTRICTS 23-2-01 AND 23-2-04 WITHIN THE :
TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE :
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :

**PETITION TO ELIMINATE AND REALIGN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS WITHIN
THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BERKS COUNTY) OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Petitioner, M. Theresa Johnson, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County, Twenty-third Judicial District of Pennsylvania, represents the following:

1. Pa.R.J.A. 605 provides “[i]n the interest of efficient administration of the judicial district, the president judge of the court of common pleas of a judicial district shall exercise general supervision and administrative authority over magisterial district courts within the judicial district.”

42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1503 states, “[t]he number, boundaries and classes of magisterial districts within each judicial district may be revised from time to time as required for the efficient administration of justice within each magisterial district.”

2. There are seventeen magisterial districts within the Twenty-third Judicial District which comprises Berks County. Berks County is one of ten counties of the 3rd Class in Pennsylvania including Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Northampton, Westmoreland, and York Counties.
3. Magisterial District 23-2-01 includes City of Reading Wards 1, 4, 5, and 18 currently. The Honorable Priscilla Campos is the Magisterial District Judge, and her term expires January 2, 2028.
4. Magisterial District 23-2-02 includes the Boroughs of West Reading and Wyomissing currently. The Honorable Eric J. Taylor was the Magisterial District Judge in this district until he was elected as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. His term as Judge began on January 5, 2026. The Magisterial District Judge position for 23-2-02 has been vacant since that date. This vacancy will not appear on the ballot in the primary or general election until 2027.
5. Magisterial District 23-2-04 includes Cumru Township and the Boroughs of Kenhorst, Mohnton, and Shillington currently. The Honorable David L. Yoch is the Magisterial District Judge, and his term expires January 4, 2032.
6. Average annual filings have decreased in more than half of the magisterial districts in our Judicial District. A comparison of the average annual filings from 2014–2019 with those from 2022–2025 shows that nine magisterial districts experienced a decrease in average annual filings, and five of those magisterial districts experienced decreases of more than

60%. Furthermore, projected filing trends through 2030 indicate a widening imbalance of annual case filings. An average percentage change was calculated using the changes in annual case filings for our magisterial districts from 2022 through 2026. 2026 case filings were projected using January – April filings. The average percentage change was then used to project annual case filings for our magisterial districts for 2027 through 2030. Assuming no changes, four magisterial districts are estimated to fall to less than 2,500 filings per year, while four others may exceed 8,000 filings per year. Currently, our Judicial District has the second-highest number of magisterial districts among 3rd Class counties. Over the past four years, 3rd Class counties have averaged 4,619 filings annually, while Berks County has averaged 4,390. Between 2014-2019, Berks County averaged 5,499 filings. That is a 20% decrease over the last twelve years.

7. To balance caseloads among the magisterial districts in this judicial district, create efficiencies in the minor court system, and better utilize judicial resources provided by the Commonwealth and the County, approval to eliminate Magisterial District 23-2-02 and realign Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 is respectfully requested. Should this petition be granted, Magisterial District 23-2-02 would be eliminated, and Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 would be modified as follows:

- a. Magisterial District 23-2-01 would include City of Reading Wards 1, 4, 5, 18, and the Borough of West Reading.

For the period 2022 through 2025, Magisterial District 23-2-01's average annual filings were 2,157. When comparing average annual caseloads among the magisterial districts in the judicial district, this district court ranked 16th of 17 magisterial districts in the average number of filings. The district court varied by 68% from the County average of 4,390 and varied by 73% from the 3rd Class County average of 4,619.

With the addition of average filings from West Reading Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-01 will move from 16th to 5th among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 5,500. The district court's variance from the revised County average of 4,645 will decrease to 17%. The district court's variance from the revised 3rd Class County average also decreases to 17%.

- b. Magisterial District 23-2-04 would include Cumru Township and the Boroughs of Kenhorst, Mohnton, Shillington, and Wyomissing.

For the period, 2022 through 2025, Magisterial District 23-2-04's average annual filings were 3,526. When comparing average annual caseloads among the magisterial districts in the judicial district, this district court ranked 11th of 17 magisterial districts in the average number of filings. The district court varied by 22% from the County average of 4,390 and varied by 27% from the 3rd Class County average of 4,619.

With the addition of average filings from Wyomissing Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-04 will move from 11th to 3rd among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 6,107. The district court's variance from the revised County average of 4,645 increases slightly to 27%. The district court's variance from the revised 3rd Class County average is 27%.

Magisterial District 23-2-04's annual caseloads may trend slightly lower than the estimated average caseload of 6,107 for the following reasons:

- When looking at the actual filings for Wyomissing Borough for the period 2022-2025:
 - Criminal cases decreased by 16% from 2022 (366) to 2025 (307).
 - Non-traffic cases remained consistent from 2022-2025, averaging 169 annually.
 - Although there was a spike in traffic cases in 2024 (2,346 traffic cases), the average for 2022, 2023, and 2025 is 1,688.

Municipality-level data is not available for landlord/tenant and civil cases filed in the magisterial district courts so the average annual filings for these case types were split evenly between Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04.

The number of miscellaneous dockets from Magisterial District 23-2-02, including extradition, indirect criminal contempt, and protection from abuse cases, were not included in the calculation of the estimated average caseloads for Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04. Including the miscellaneous dockets would have resulted in only an average of 4 additional cases to each magisterial district.

8. Maps of the magisterial districts as they currently exist and with the modified boundaries are attached as Exhibit A.
9. Average annual filings for the period 2022-2025 for Berks County magisterial districts and the 3rd Class Counties are attached as Exhibit B. The data provided was pulled from MDJS by Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's Information Technology on February 10, 2026.
10. Modified average annual filings for the period 2022-2025 for Berks County magisterial districts and the 3rd Class Counties are attached as Exhibit C. The Berks County data has been modified to reflect estimated average annual filings if Magisterial District 23-2-02 is eliminated and Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 are realigned. The 3rd Class County chart reflects Berks County's revised average annual filings.
11. Attached as Exhibit D is the public notice.
12. Exhibit E lists the public comments received during the 30-day comment period. Copies of the actual public comments are included in a separate attachment.
13. Factors cited by public comments opposing the elimination of Magisterial District 23-2-02 and the realignment of Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 can be grouped into four categories.
 - a. Access to justice.
 - i. Increased travel distances and times for court users to Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04.
 - Traveling to Magisterial District Court 23-2-01 from the West Reading Borough Hall requires only an additional 4 minutes or 1.7 miles when comparing travel time and distance to Magisterial District Court 23-2-02.
 - Traveling to Magisterial District Court 23-2-04 from the Wyomissing Borough Hall requires only an additional 5 minutes or 2.6 miles when comparing travel time and distance to Magisterial District Court 23-2-02.

- For residents in the West Reading and Wyomissing Boroughs who require it, public transportation to Magisterial District Courts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 is available.
- The SCJAP Response to this Petition states that the magisterial districts with lower caseloads that are proposed to be realigned are located within the City of Reading concluding that the magisterial districts include urban areas with poorer populations facing transportation challenges. This is incorrect.
 - Magisterial District 23-2-04 includes Cumru Township and the Boroughs of Kenhorst, Mohnton, and Shillington.
 - Bus service provided by the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA) is available in both magisterial districts.
- The SCJAP Response also states that the district courts must be accessible to school district representatives, parents, and students for truancy matters. Other than a change in the magisterial district where the truancy cases will be filed, it is not anticipated that this proposal will impact the processing of truancy cases in the realigned magisterial districts.

ii. Adding a municipality to a magisterial district will create higher annual caseloads which will strain court resources making courts less efficient and creating unnecessary delays for court users.

- With the addition of average filings from West Reading Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-01 will move from 16th to 5th among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 5,500. While this caseload will be slightly higher than the revised average of 4,645 for our County, it is a number of filings that can be effectively managed by a Magisterial District Judge. Dauphin and Lehigh Counties have average county caseloads per district court that exceed this amount.
 - In her email supporting the elimination of Magisterial District 23-2-02 and the realignment of Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04, MDJ Priscilla Campos stated: "My office has the operational capacity to absorb the additional caseload, and I am pleased that current court staff would continue their employment through reassignment within the redistricted courts. I believe it is important that this transition preserves experienced personnel and maintains continuity of service for the public."
- With the addition of average filings from Wyomissing Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-04 will move from 11th to 3rd among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 6,107. While this caseload will be higher than the revised average of 4,645 for our County, it is a number of filings that can be effectively managed by a Magisterial District Judge.
 - MDJ David Yoch did not submit a written statement in support of or in opposition to this proposal.
- To ensure the district courts will have adequate staff to efficiently process the additional caseload, employees from Magisterial District 23-2-02 will be transferred to the realigned magisterial districts.

b. Public safety implications.

- i. Adding a municipality to a magisterial district will result in longer wait times for law enforcement which reduces officer availability in their jurisdictions.

- Although criminal cases filed in Magisterial District 23-2-01 are processed in a centralized preliminary hearing court, preliminary hearings for criminal cases from West Reading Borough will be scheduled in a block at the district court location. Since that block of time will be dedicated to criminal cases from West Reading Borough only, officer wait times should decrease when compared to wait times during criminal block hearings at Magisterial District 23-2-02.
 - Criminal cases filed in Magisterial District 23-2-04 are scheduled for preliminary hearings using block hearing scheduling. One half day per week is reserved for preliminary hearings. An additional half-day block may be utilized if needed.
- c. Financial impact on local municipalities.
- i. Increased wait times will result in additional overtime for police officers.
 - In 2025, Magisterial District 23-2-02 received 6,657 new case filings.¹ If realigned to include West Reading Borough, the estimated average caseload for Magisterial District 23-2-01 is projected to be 5,500 cases. That is 18% or 1,157 cases less than 23-2-02's new case filings in 2025. It is anticipated that officers will have less wait time, which would have a positive financial impact on the local municipality.
 - Annual case filings for Magisterial District 23-2-04 will also increase if this request to eliminate and realign magisterial districts is approved. At an estimated average caseload of 6,107, this district court will have approximately 10% or 550 cases less than 23-2-02's new case filings in 2025. It is anticipated that officers will have approximately the same wait time, which would not produce a negative financial impact on the local municipality.
- d. Elimination and realignment requested outside of the decennial reestablishment process.
- i. Although a review of the number and boundaries of the magisterial districts normally occurs with the decennial magisterial district reestablishment, the recent vacancy in Magisterial District 23-2-02 prompted the earlier review. This review and proposal to eliminate and realign magisterial districts is not without precedent in Berks County. In 2010, former President Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl requested approval for the elimination of Magisterial District 23-1-04 as of January 2, 2012, the date on which the elected Magisterial District Judge's term expired. The Magisterial District Judge had advised the President Judge that he would be retiring and not seeking re-election in 2011 for another term. By Order dated February 15, 2011, the request to eliminate Magisterial District 23-1-04 and realign Magisterial Districts 23-1-05 and 23-3-09 was approved.
 - ii. Similarly in Chester County, the request to eliminate Magisterial District 15-1-05 coincided with the retirement of the Magisterial District Judge who was retiring at the end of his term in January 2022. The request to eliminate was approved and the district court was closed in December 2021. With the elimination of Magisterial District 15-1-05, the reassignment of that district

¹ The SCJAP Response incorrectly reports 2025 new case filings for Magisterial District 23-2-02. Please refer to Exhibit F for 2025 new case filings for the Berks County Magisterial District Courts.

court's caseload helped to right-size the caseload inequities of the contiguous jurisdictions of 15-1-03 and 15-3-07.

- iii. The SCJAP Response states that balancing our magisterial districts' caseloads should have occurred during the last reestablishment process and the current vacancy in Magisterial District 23-2-02 should not prompt this realignment proposal. They recommend waiting until the next reestablishment process following the 2030 census.

- Pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1503, "[t]he number, boundaries and classes of magisterial districts within each judicial district may be revised from time to time as required for the efficient administration of justice within each magisterial district."
- Reviewing magisterial district caseloads and projecting trends is a routine practice in our Judicial District.
- The MDJ vacancy in Magisterial District 23-2-02 allowed for a proposal to balance caseloads in adjacent districts, to consolidate and better utilize resources while not impacting negatively a sitting MDJ.
- If no action is taken now, a Magisterial District Judge will be elected in 2027 for Magisterial District 23-2-02 and there may not be an opportunity to eliminate the office during the decennial reestablishment process due to a new MDJ being in the office.
- Like the process during the decennial reestablishment, public notice was made regarding the request to eliminate and realign and public comments were accepted.

14. Public comments supporting the elimination of Magisterial District 23-2-02 and the realignment of Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 were received from:

a. District Attorney John T. Adams

- i. With regard to the closing of Magisterial District Court 23-2-02, D.A. Adams anticipates less strain on his office's resources.

b. Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach on behalf of the Berks County Board of Commissioners

- i. Magisterial District Court 23-2-02 is located at 401 Walnut Street, West Reading. This is not a county owned property but leased space. The building provides 2,512 square feet of office space. The lease agreement for this office space terminates on March 31, 2030. The lease agreement provides that the County of Berks may terminate the lease agreement if during the lease term the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania orders redistricting of the Magisterial District and the County can no longer utilize the leased premises for the district court. Although functional, the lease space has had recurring water leaks. The building is ADA accessible however the accessible entrance is at the back of the building. Additionally, only a small parking area is available at the back of the building requiring on-street parking for court users in a residential area. If this petition is granted and Magisterial District 23-2-02 is eliminated, Berks County will save approximately \$39,207.00 in rent and \$7,400.00 in utilities annually based on 2025 expenditures.

- The SCJAP Response states that cost savings associated with the elimination of Magisterial District 23-2-02 "are not real". However, the Response fails to account for the actual savings of annual rent and utilities. Furthermore, the Response assumes erroneously that staff assigned to

each district court provide night and weekend coverage. Should this request be approved, there would be no impact on our night and weekend coverage, which is provided by a permanent staff position and supplemented by employees who volunteer for overtime.

c. Magisterial District Judge Priscilla Campos

- i. If this request to eliminate and realign magisterial districts is approved, the addition of West Reading Borough to Magisterial District 23-2-01 is projected to increase the district court's annual case filings and balance its caseload in comparison to other magisterial districts in the Judicial District.
- ii. In part, MDJ Campos stated:
 - "Public service remains extremely important to me, and I would be honored to continue serving with the addition of West Reading Borough, especially since I have already been assisting and supporting that court over the past several months. I believe this transition represents an opportunity to continue providing accessible, professional, and respectful judicial service to the public while ensuring stability for court employees and the community as a whole."

15. Within thirty days following the submission of this Petition, interested parties may submit answers in opposition to this proposal. Answers shall be emailed to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts at reestablishment@pacourts.us with a copy to the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County at Specialcourtsadmin@berkspa.gov.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests this Honorable Court to enter an Order in the form attached hereto, eliminating Magisterial District 23-2-02 and realigning Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 as described herein.

Respectfully submitted:

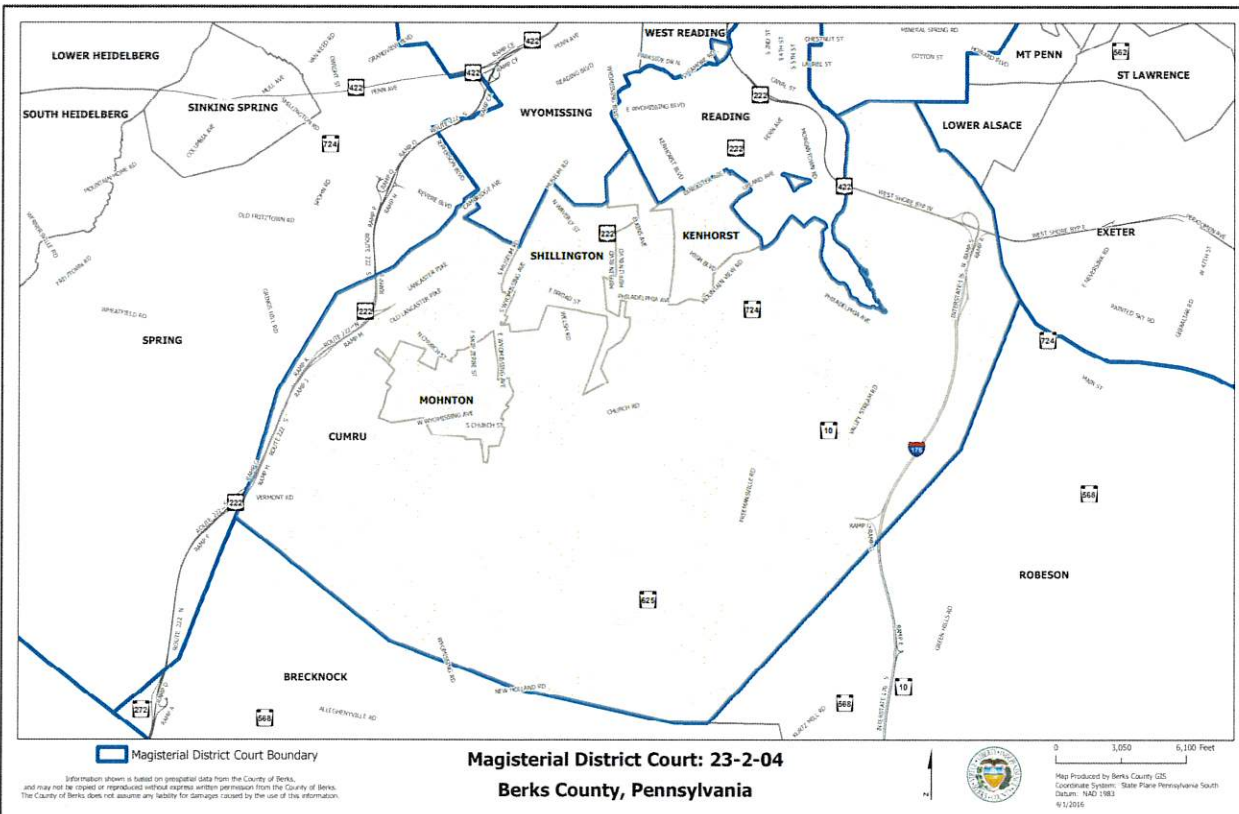
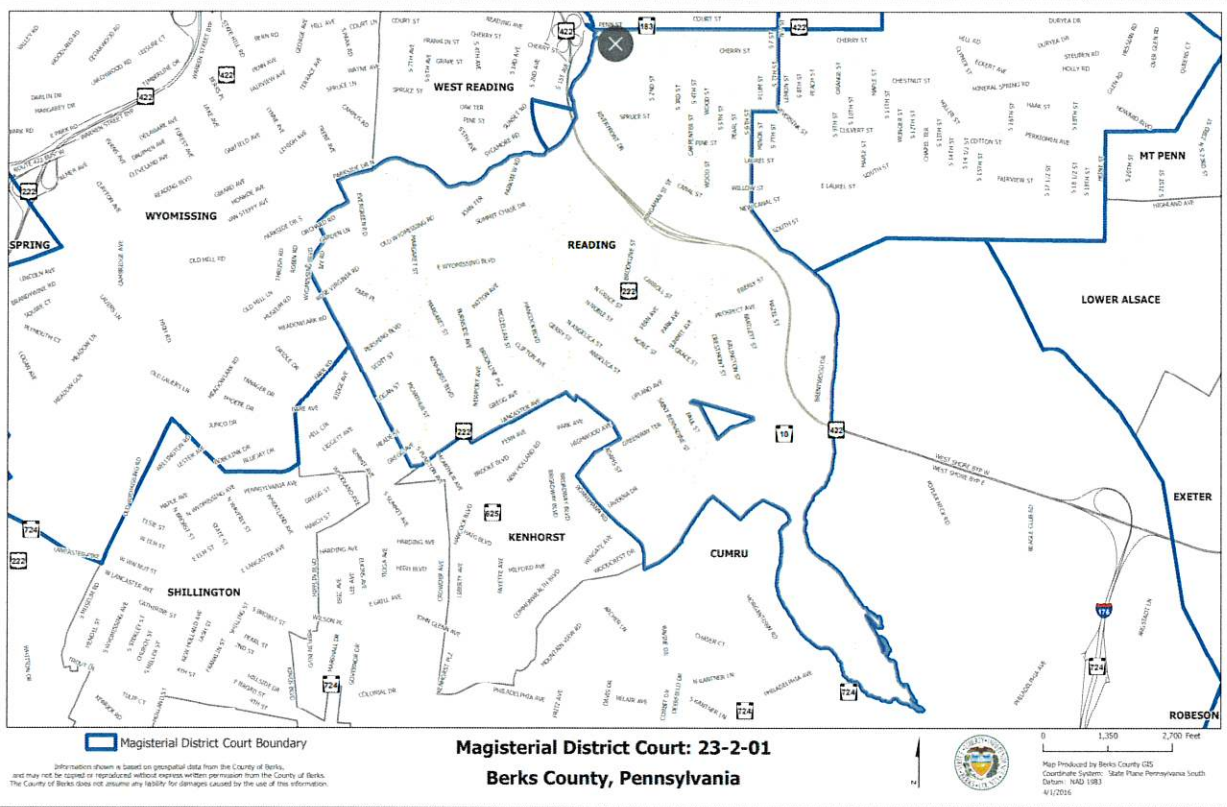


M. THERESA JOHNSON,
President Judge
Twenty-third Judicial District of Pennsylvania

EXHIBIT A

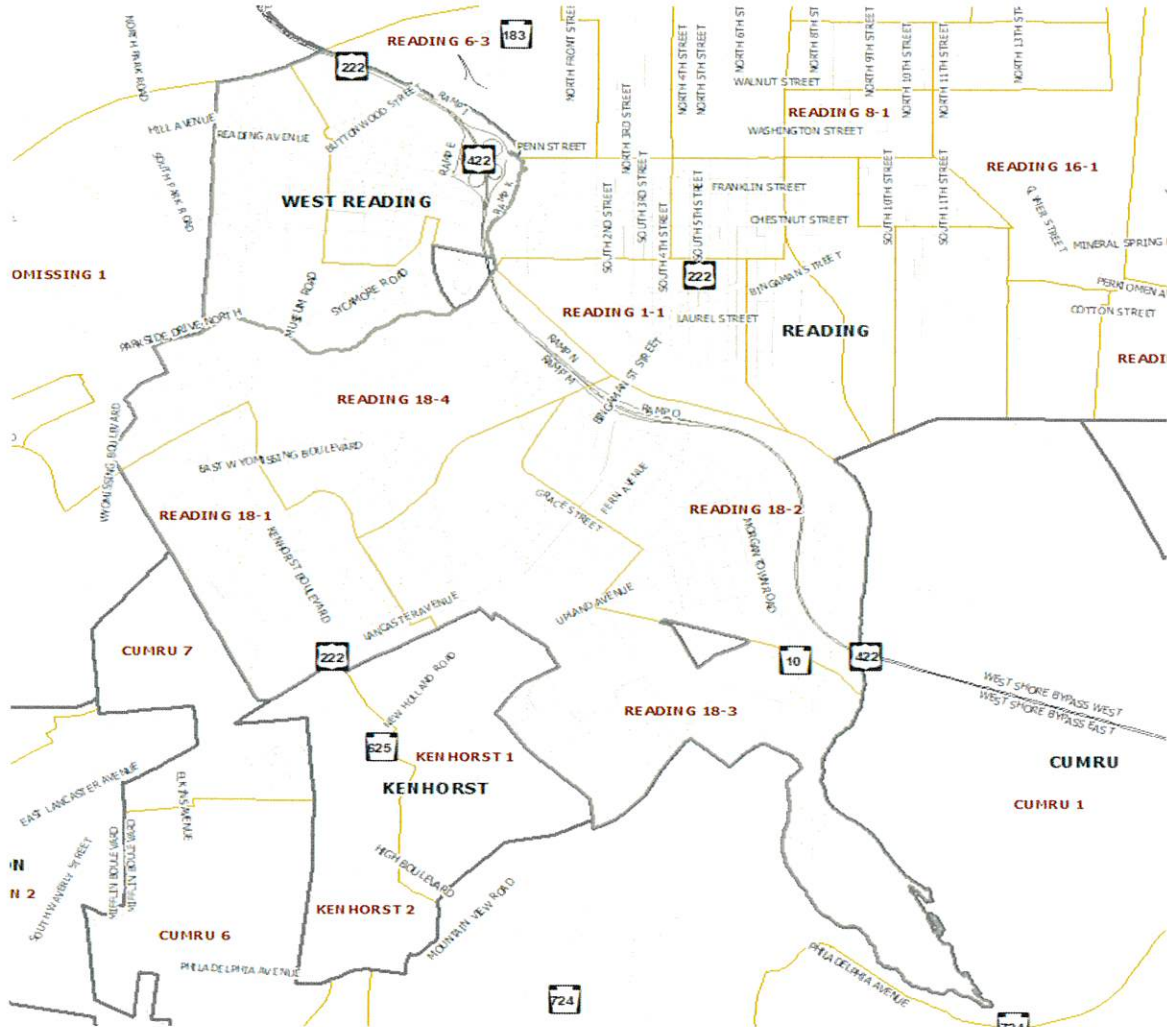
**MAPS OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
23-2-01 AND 23-2-04
CURRENT AND MODIFIED BOUNDARIES**

Current Boundaries



Modified Boundaries

Magisterial District 23-2-01:



Modified Boundaries

Magisterial District 23-2-04:

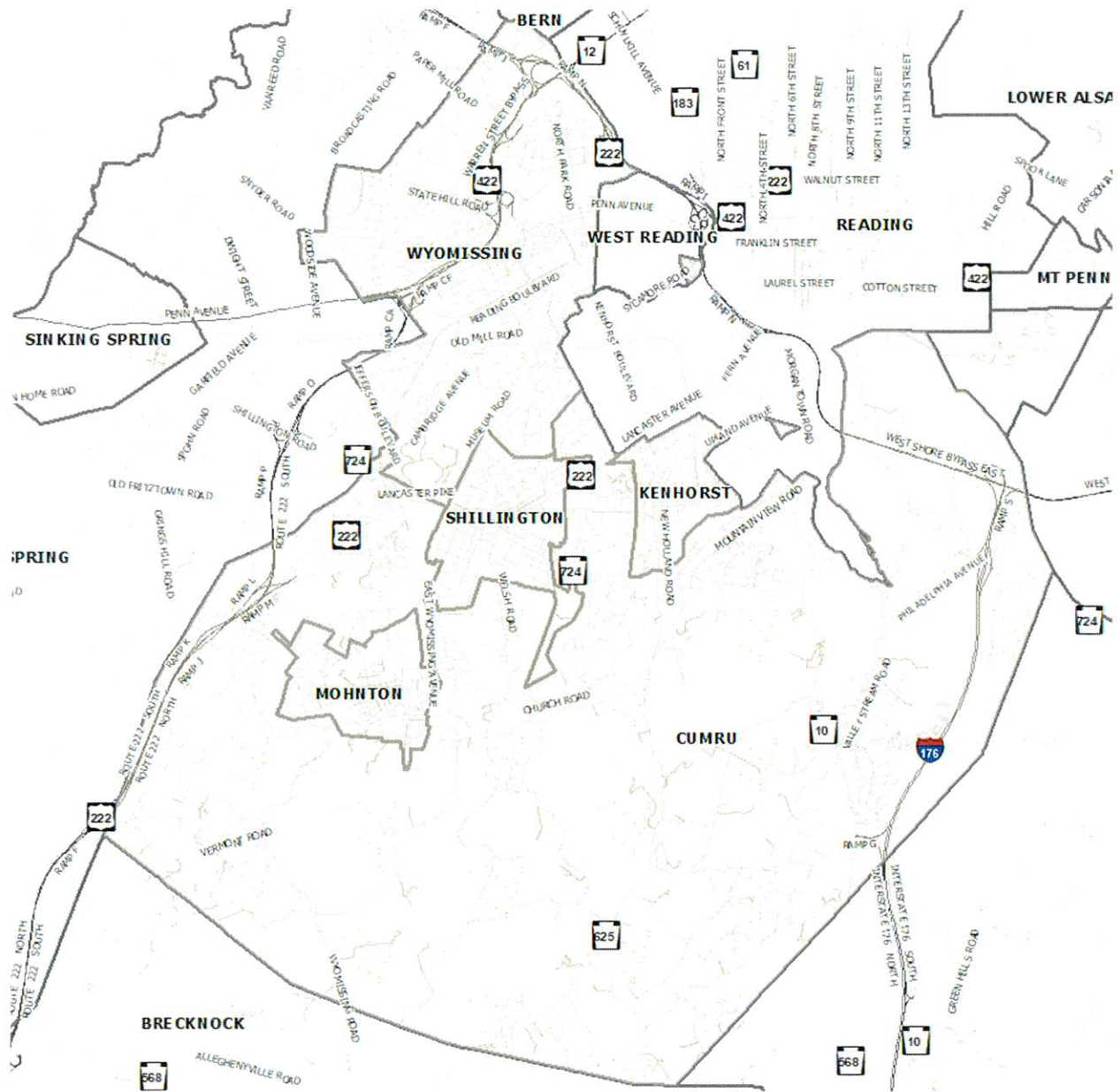


EXHIBIT B

AVERAGE ANNUAL FILINGS FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2025 FOR BERKS COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS AND 3rd CLASS COUNTIES

Berks County MDJ Office Average Annual Filings (4-Year Average using 2022-2025 data)

District Court	Criminal	Non-Traffic	Private Criminal	Private Summary	Traffic	Civil	Landlord/Tenant	Misc. Docket	Total Filings	Difference in filings from County Average	% Difference from County Average	Ranking (1 has least variance from county average)	Difference in filings from Class 3 Average	% Difference from Class 3 Average	2014-19 Average Total Filings	% Change between 2014-19 and 2022-25
23-1-01	360	398	-	43	2,697	581	396	133	4,606	216	5%	1	-13	0%	5,633	-18%
23-1-02	329	586	-	-	407	184	508	108	2,121	-2,270	70%	15	-2,498	74%	5,902	-64%
23-1-03	291	1,290	-	2	443	175	474	113	2,788	-1,602	45%	11	-1,831	49%	8,023	-65%
23-1-05	378	674	-	1	1,011	236	563	167	3,029	-1,361	37%	10	-1,590	42%	8,129	-63%
23-1-06	366	352	-	82	6,388	419	165	109	7,880	3,490	57%	16	3,261	52%	6,868	15%
23-2-01	292	341	-	2	616	166	508	234	2,157	-2,234	68%	14	-2,462	73%	5,817	-63%
23-2-02	480	319	-	1	4,700	274	147	320	6,240	1,849	35%	13	1,620	30%	5,177	21%
23-2-03	653	323	4	110	6,678	388	194	143	8,491	4,101	64%	17	3,872	59%	4,943	72%
23-2-04	366	264	-	11	2,368	305	83	130	3,526	-864	22%	7	-1,093	27%	3,885	-9%
23-3-01	267	498	-	62	3,615	197	49	107	4,795	404	9%	4	175	4%	4,069	18%
23-3-02	232	357	-	4	4,675	227	69	72	5,635	1,244	25%	8	1,015	20%	4,259	32%
23-3-03	249	360	-	38	2,889	314	97	119	4,066	-325	8%	2	-554	13%	2,988	36%
23-3-04	184	480	-	43	1,623	163	102	100	2,693	-1,697	48%	12	-1,926	53%	3,734	-28%
23-3-05	192	192	-	23	3,952	220	51	124	4,751	361	8%	3	132	3%	4,630	3%
23-3-06	317	266	-	1	3,840	198	107	106	4,834	444	10%	6	215	5%	7,785	-38%
23-3-07	185	183	-	43	3,224	173	48	101	3,956	-434	10%	5	-663	15%	3,522	12%
23-3-09	254	546	-	1	1,485	265	344	176	3,071	-1,320	35%	9	-1,549	40%	8,116	-62%
AVERAGES	317	437	0	27	2,977	264	229	139	4,390	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,499	-20.15%

For Comparison: Class 3 County Average MDJ Office Filings: (4-Year Average using 2022-2025 data)

County Name	Criminal	Non-Traffic	Private Criminal	Private Summary	Traffic	Civil	Landlord/Tenant	Misc. Docket	Total Filings	Difference in filings from County Class Average	% Difference from County Class Average	Ranking (1 has least variance from county class average)	2014-19 Average Total Filings	% Change between 2014-19 and 2022-25
Berks (17 Offices)	317	437	-	27	2,977	264	229	139	4,390	-229	5%	3	5,500	-20%
Cumberland (10 Offices)	405	389	1	62	2,794	232	223	77	4,183	-436	10%	6	5,683	-26%
Dauphin (14 Offices)*	521	547	2	64	3,565	235	480	113	5,527	908	18%	8	5,669	-3%
Erie (13 Offices)	433	682	6	41	2,215	228	220	63	3,888	-731	17%	7	3,791	3%
Lackawanna (10 Offices)	414	390	3	93	2,761	296	209	52	4,218	-401	9%	5	4,026	5%
Lehigh (14 Offices)**	415	405	-	5	5,379	304	478	85	7,071	2,452	42%	10	6,025	17%
Luzerne (16 Offices)	354	608	3	75	3,239	297	162	67	4,805	186	4%	2	4,668	3%
Northampton (14 Offices)	279	336	1	28	3,087	242	195	75	4,245	-374	8%	4	4,081	4%
Westmoreland (16 Offices)	329	294	13	90	1,989	234	104	65	3,118	-1,501	39%	9	4,462	-30%
York (19 Offices)	411	440	-	123	3,039	250	383	102	4,748	129	3%	1	5,284	-10%
2022-25 AVERAGES	388	453	3	61	3,105	258	268	84	4,619	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,919	-6%
2014-19 AVERAGES	448	578	10	99	3,195	251	254	84	4,919					

* Dauphin closed one office on January 1, 2024. The average filings from this office for the years it was open are included in the calculation.

** Lehigh closed one office on November 1, 2022, and opened another office on January 1, 2024. The average filings for each office for the years they were open are included in the calculation.

EXHIBIT C

MODIFIED AVERAGE ANNUAL FILINGS FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2025 FOR BERKS COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS AND 3rd CLASS COUNTIES

The Berks County data has been modified to reflect estimated average annual filings if Magisterial District 23-2-02 is eliminated and Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 are realigned. The 3rd Class County chart reflects Berks County's revised average annual filings.

Berks County MDJ Office Average Annual Filings (4-Year Average using 2022-2025 data)

District Court	Criminal	Non-Traffic	Private Criminal	Private Summary	Traffic	Civil	Landlord/Tenant	Misc. Docket	Total Filings	Difference in filings from County Average	% Difference from County Average	Absolute deviation from the average	Ranking (1 has least variance from county average)	Difference in filings from Class 3 Average	% Difference from Class 3 Average
23-1-01	360	398	-	43	2,697	581	396	133	4,606	-39	1%	39	1	-39	1%
23-1-02	329	586	-	-	407	184	508	108	2,121	-2,524	75%	2,524	14	-2,524	75%
23-1-03	291	1,290	-	2	443	175	474	113	2,788	-1,857	50%	1,857	12	-1,857	50%
23-1-05	378	674	-	1	1,011	236	563	167	3,029	-1,616	42%	1,616	11	-1,616	42%
23-1-06	366	352	-	82	6,388	419	165	109	7,880	3,235	52%	3,235	15	3,236	52%
23-2-01	427	489	-	3	3,462	303	582	234	5,500	854	17%	854	7	855	17%
23-2-03	653	323	4	110	6,678	388	194	143	8,491	3,846	59%	3,846	16	3,846	59%
23-2-04	710	433	3	11	4,221	442	157	130	6,107	1,461	27%	1,461	9	1,462	27%
23-3-01	267	498	-	62	3,615	197	49	107	4,795	149	3%	149	3	150	3%
23-3-02	232	357	-	4	4,675	227	69	72	5,635	989	19%	989	8	990	19%
23-3-03	249	360	-	38	2,889	314	97	119	4,066	-580	13%	580	5	-579	13%
23-3-04	184	480	-	43	1,623	163	102	100	2,693	-1,952	53%	1,952	13	-1,951	53%
23-3-05	192	192	-	23	3,952	220	51	124	4,751	106	2%	106	2	107	2%
23-3-06	317	266	-	1	3,840	198	107	106	4,834	189	4%	189	4	189	4%
23-3-07	185	183	-	43	3,224	173	48	101	3,856	-689	16%	689	6	-688	16%
23-3-09	254	546	-	1	1,485	265	344	176	3,071	-1,575	41%	1,575	10	-1,574	41%
AVERAGES	337	464	0	29	3,163	280	244	128	4,645	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

For Comparison: Class 3 County Average MDJ Office Filings: (4-Year Average using 2022-2025 data)

County Name	Criminal	Non-Traffic	Private Criminal	Private Summary	Traffic	Civil	Landlord/Tenant	Misc. Docket	Total Filings	Difference in filings from County Class	% Difference from County Class	Absolute deviation from the average	Ranking (1 has least variance from county class)	2014-19 Average Total Filings	% Change between 2014-19 and 2022-25
Berks (17 Offices)	337	464	-	29	3,163	280	244	128	4,645	0	0%	0	1	5,500	-16%
Cumberland (10 Offices)	405	389	1	62	2,794	232	223	77	4,183	-462	10%	462	6	5,683	-26%
Dauphin (14 Offices)*	521	547	2	64	3,565	235	480	113	5,527	882	17%	882	8	5,669	-3%
Erie (13 Offices)	433	682	6	41	2,215	228	220	63	3,888	-757	18%	757	7	3,791	3%
Lackawanna (10 Offices)	414	390	3	93	2,761	296	209	52	4,218	-427	10%	427	5	4,026	5%
Lehigh (14 Offices)**	415	405	-	5	5,379	304	478	85	7,071	2,426	41%	2,426	10	6,025	17%
Luzerne (16 Offices)	354	608	3	75	3,239	297	162	67	4,805	160	3%	160	3	4,668	3%
Northampton (14 Offices)	279	338	1	28	3,087	242	195	75	4,245	-400	9%	400	4	4,081	4%
Westmoreland (16 Offices)	329	294	13	90	1,989	234	104	65	3,118	-1,527	39%	1,527	9	4,462	-30%
York (19 Offices)	411	440	-	123	3,039	250	383	102	4,748	103	2%	103	2	5,284	-10%
2022-25 AVERAGES	390	456	3	61	3,123	260	270	83	4,645	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,919	-6%
2014-19 AVERAGES	448	578	10	99	3,195	251	254	84	4,919						

EXHIBIT D

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following public notice was posted at Magisterial District Courts 23-2-01, 23-2-02, and 23-2-04. It was also posted on the County of Berks website.

Court Administration - [Berks County - Court Administration](#)

Information and Resources		
Public Notice	Court Schedules	Featured Links
Berks Magisterial District Realignment 2026 Notice of Proposed Changes to Magisterial Districts within the Twenty-third Judicial District (Berks County) View	Court Schedule 2026 Civil Argument Court Dates Civil Arguments Mortgage Foreclosure Conference Schedule Judge Parisi's Schedule	→ ADA Request / Grievance Procedure → Court Transcripts → External Link Resources

Magisterial District Judge System - [Berks County - Court-Magisterial District Judges](#)

Announcements and Resources			
Public Notice: Berks Magisterial District Realignment 2026 Notice of Proposed Changes to Magisterial Districts within the Twenty-third Judicial District (Berks County) View Returned Check Fee	 Office of Court Administration Provide administrative services and technical assistance to Court of Common Pleas	 Looking for Open Positions? Visit our online job portal to learn more about employment opportunities and to submit an application.	 How To Pay Court Fines Follow the link below to learn more about how to pay your fines and cost in Berks County. Learn More 



Court of Common Pleas of Berks County

Twenty Third Judicial District of Pennsylvania
633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601
Brendan L. Harker
District Court Administrator
(610) 478-6208 ext. 3683 Fax (610) 478-6366

From: Brendan L. Harker, District Court Administrator

Date: May 7, 2026

Subject: Notice of Proposed Changes to Magisterial Districts within the Twenty-third Judicial District (Berks County) of Pennsylvania and Period for Public Comment

The Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania includes sixty judicial districts in the Commonwealth. The Twenty-third Judicial District comprises Berks County, a 3rd class county. Currently in Berks County there are seventeen magisterial districts under the supervision and administrative control of President Judge M. Theresa Johnson. Magisterial districts are comprised of boroughs, townships, and/or city wards. A magisterial district judge is elected to serve within a magisterial district for a six-year term. Magisterial district judges have jurisdiction over civil claims where the amount requested does not exceed \$12,000.00, landlord/tenant disputes, summary offenses (traffic and non-traffic offenses), and hold preliminary hearings in misdemeanor and felony cases. They grant emergency relief under the Protection From Abuse Act and the Older Adult Protective Services Act. Additionally, magisterial district judges issue arrest warrants, conduct preliminary arraignments, set and accept bail, issue search warrants, and perform marriage ceremonies.

Normally, the numbers and boundaries of the magisterial districts are reviewed after each decennial census. That review process is known as the decennial magisterial district reestablishment. However, circumstances can arise that prompt a review out of the normal sequence. A recent vacancy in Magisterial District 23-2-02 created such a circumstance and provided an opportunity for the Court to propose a change that will lead to more balanced caseloads among the magisterial districts in Berks County. President Judge Johnson will be requesting the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to approve the elimination of Magisterial District 23-2-02 and realign Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 as follows:

Magisterial District 23-2-01

Current:

- City of Reading Wards 1, 4, 5, 18

Proposed:

- City of Reading Wards 1, 4, 5, 18, and West Reading Borough

Magisterial District 23-2-04

Current:

- Kenhorst Borough
- Mohnnton Borough
- Shillington Borough
- Cumru Township

Proposed:

- Kenhorst Borough
- Mohnnton Borough
- Shillington Borough
- Wyomissing Borough
- Cumru Township

For the period 2022 through 2025, Magisterial District 23-2-01's average annual filings were 2,157. When comparing average annual caseloads among the magisterial districts in the judicial district, this district court ranked 16th of 17 magisterial districts in the average number of filings. The district court varied by 68% from the County average of 4,390 and varied by 73% from the 3rd Class County average of 4,619. With the addition of average filings from West Reading Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-01 will move from 16th to 5th among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 5,500. The district court's variance from the revised County average of 4,645 will decrease to 17%. The district court's variance from the revised 3rd Class County average also decreases to 17%.

For the same period, 2022 through 2025, Magisterial District 23-2-04's average annual filings were 3,526. When comparing average annual caseloads among the magisterial districts in the judicial district, this district court ranked 11th of 17 magisterial districts in the average number of filings. The district court varied by 22% from the County average of 4,390 and varied by 27% from the 3rd Class County average of 4,619. With the addition of average filings from Wyomissing Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-04 will move from 11th to 3rd among the magisterial districts in Berks County with an estimated average caseload of 6,107. The district court's variance from the revised County average of 4,645 increases slightly to 27%. The district court's variance from the revised 3rd Class County average is 27%.

Please note that because municipality-level data is not available for landlord/tenant and civil cases filed in the magisterial district courts, the average annual filings for these case types from Magisterial District 23-2-02 were split evenly between Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04.

A thirty (30) day period for public comment on this proposed change is required prior to submission of a petition to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Public comments concerning the proposed changes to the magisterial districts will be accepted through June 6, 2026. Comments may be sent by mail or email to:

Special Courts Administration
First Floor, Courthouse
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601

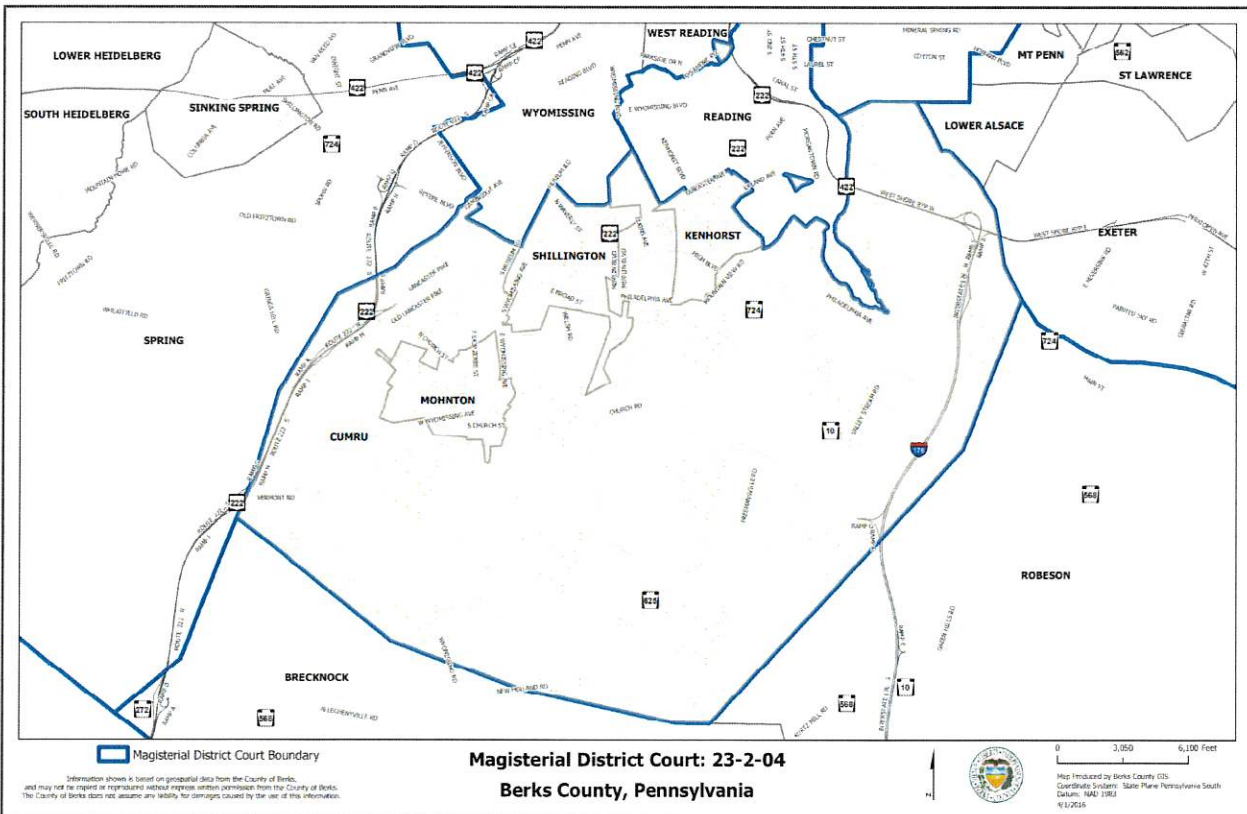
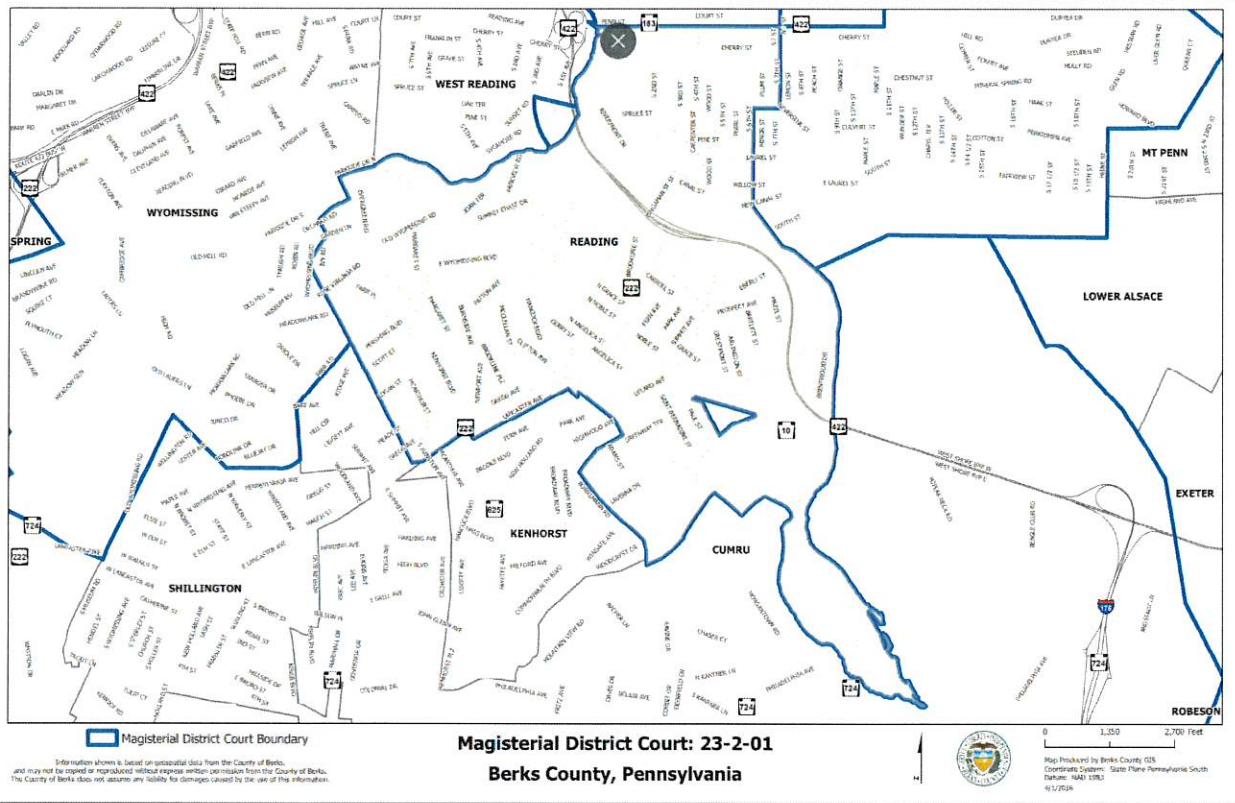
or

Specialcourtsadmin@berkspa.gov

Thank you for your interest and input regarding this important proposal.

Enclosures: Current Boundaries Map
Proposed Boundaries Map

Current Boundaries



Magisterial District 23-2-01:

Modified Boundaries

Magisterial District 23-2-04:

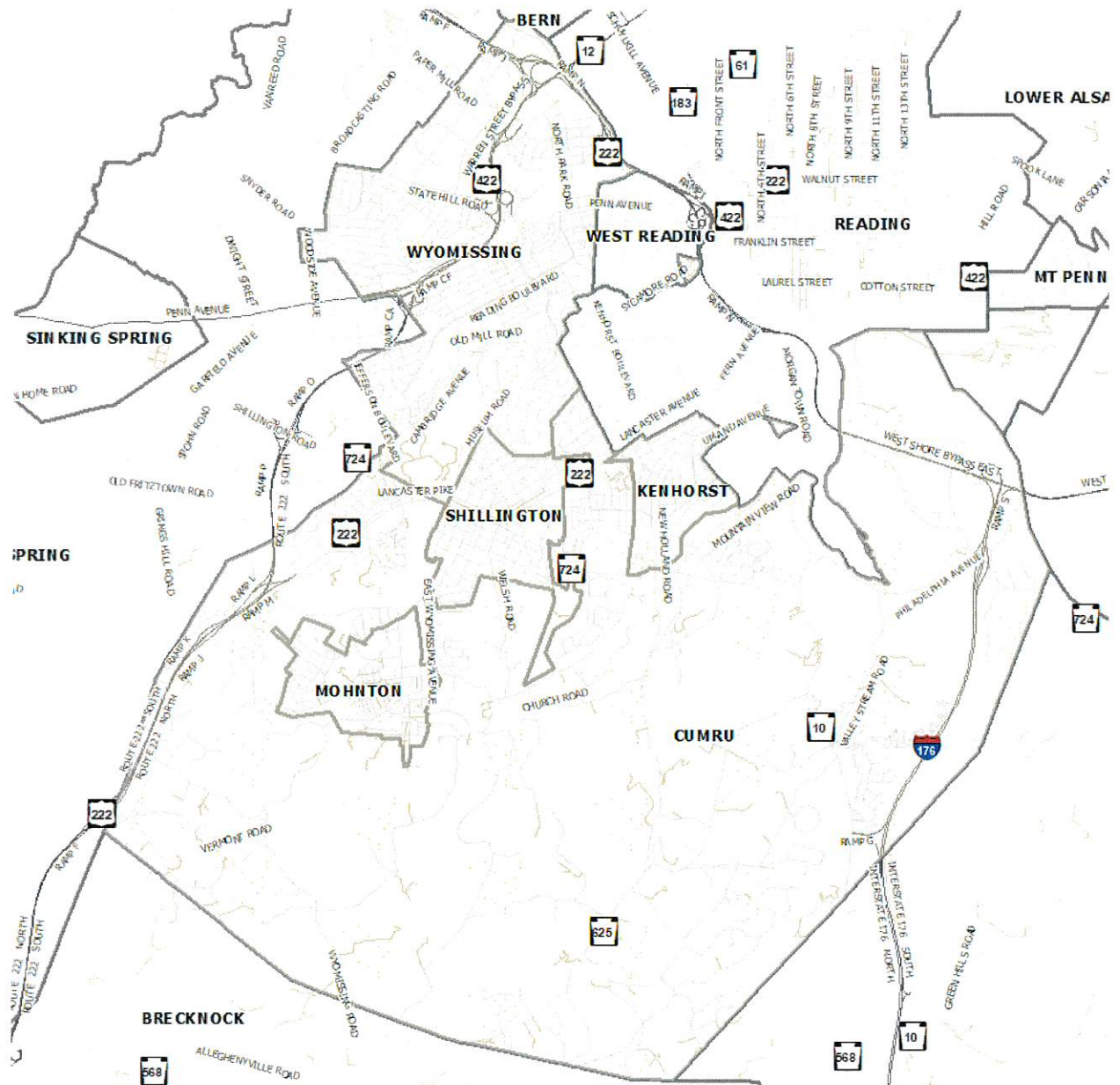


EXHIBIT E

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Letter dated May 14, 2026 from District Attorney John T. Adams
2. Email dated May 20, 2026 from Debbie Sullivan, Berkshire Village Apartments
3. Letter dated May 21, 2026 from Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, Berks County Board of Commissioners
4. Letter dated May 26, 2026 from John G. Phillips, Chief of Police, Borough of Wyomissing
5. Email dated May 27, 2026 from Magisterial District Judge Priscilla Campos, Magisterial District 23-2-01
6. Letter from the Berks Special Court Judges Association
7. Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania (SCJAP) Response to the Petition for the Reestablishment of Magisterial Districts within the 23rd Judicial District (Berks County) dated June 3, 2026
8. Letter dated June 1, 2026 from Borough of West Reading Elected Officials, Chief of Police, and Administration
9. Letter dated June 2, 2026 from Christopher S. Fortin, President, West Reading Police Officers Association
10. Email dated June 5, 2026 from Stacey E. Shirk, Kitay Law Offices
11. Email dated June 5, 2026 from Michele Eberhart
12. Anonymous submission - Concerns Regarding the Merging of Court 23-2-02 into Courts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04

EXHIBIT F

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE STATISTICAL REPORT 2025

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE STATISTICAL REPORT**New Case Filings****2025**

District Court	Traffic	Non-Traffic	Private Criminal	Civil	Landlord/Tenant	Criminal	Total
23-1-01	2438	482	0	900	360	388	4568
23-1-02	403	718	0	275	461	321	2178
23-1-03	578	1463	0	230	420	345	3036
23-1-05	891	593	0	336	586	392	2798
23-1-06	3069	368	0	485	187	313	4422
23-2-01	750	342	0	214	464	296	2066
23-2-02	5319	355	0	364	180	439	6657
23-2-03	8325	457	0	536	203	561	10082
23-2-04	2456	263	0	445	100	333	3597
23-3-01	2938	509	0	289	45	235	4016
23-3-02	4908	377	0	276	105	208	5874
23-3-03	2886	421	0	386	114	228	4035
23-3-04	1795	556	0	196	103	153	2803
23-3-05	3960	201	0	329	52	215	4757
23-3-06	3266	229	0	273	103	288	4159
23-3-07	3211	244	0	219	37	202	3913
23-3-09	3,462	588	0	383	299	258	4990
Total Filings	50,655	8,166	0	6,136	3,819	5,175	73,951

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MODIFICATION OF THE : No.
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE :
TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF :
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
: :
: :

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2026, upon consideration of the Request of the President Judge of Berks County to eliminate Magisterial District 23-2-02 and reconfigure Magisterial Districts 23-2-01 and 23-2-04 of the Twenty-third Judicial District (Berks County) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is hereby **ORDERED AND DECREED** that the Request is granted. The Order is effective _____, 2026. The vacancy for Magisterial District 23-2-02 shall not appear on the ballot for the primary or general election in 2027.

Said Magisterial Districts shall be as follows:

Magisterial District 23-2-01:	City of Reading Wards 1, 4, 5, 18, and
Magisterial District Judge Priscilla Campos	the Borough of West Reading
Magisterial District 23-2-04:	Cumru Township, and the Boroughs of
Magisterial District Judge David L. Yoch	Kenhorst, Mohnton, Shillington, and
	Wyomissing