

Legislative UPDATE

News on Redistricting



From State Senator Dominic Pileggi

SPRING 2011

What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process by which the boundaries of seats in the General Assembly and Congress are redrawn each decade to maintain equal representation on the basis of population.

Article 1, Section 2, of the United States Constitution requires that a Census be taken every 10 years for

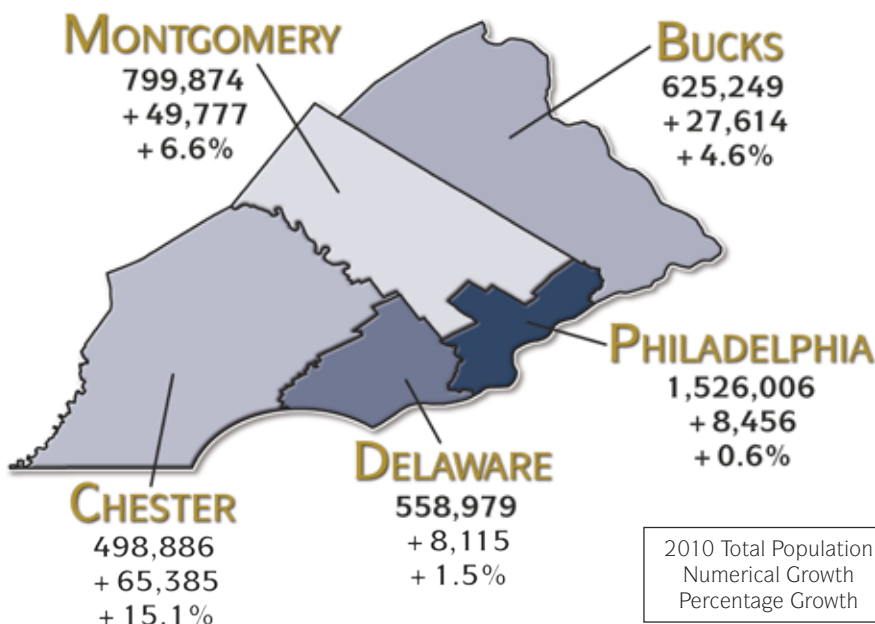
the purpose of apportioning members of the United States House of Representatives to each state. The Census results determine how many members of Congress each state has.

After the 2000 Census, Pennsylvania had 19 members in the U.S. House of Representatives. Although our population grew by 3.4 percent

from 12,281,054 to 12,702,379 between 2000 and 2010, other states grew faster. As a result, Pennsylvania will lose one Congressional seat in the 2012 election cycle, and will have 18 members in Congress.

More information on the Census is available at www.census.gov.

Population Growth From 2000 to 2010 in Southeast PA Counties



The entire southeastern region of Pennsylvania has grown over the past decade. The trend has been strongest in Chester County, where the population increased by more than 65,000 people (15.1 percent) between 2000 and 2010.

ELECTRONIC UPDATES

If you would prefer to receive updates electronically, rather than via postal mail, please send an email to dpileggi@pasen.gov. We will remove you from the mailing list.

General Assembly Districts

The Constitution of Pennsylvania requires that the districts for the state Senate and the state House of Representatives be redrawn each decade following the Census. Current Senate districts can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/aMyz4>.

Article 2, Section 16, requires the Commonwealth to be divided into 50 senatorial and 203 representative districts.

Article 2, Section 17, creates a Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC) to redistrict both chambers of the General Assembly.

The LRC consists of five members: the four caucus floor leaders, or deputies appointed by each of them, and a chairman to be selected by those members or, if they cannot reach agreement, by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has appointed

President Judge Emeritus Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., of Pennsylvania's Superior Court, to chair the 2011 LRC. Judge McEwen served as the District Attorney of Delaware County from 1967 to 1976. He was first elected to the Superior Court in 1981.

I also serve on the LRC, along with Senator Jay Costa, Representative Mike Turzai, and Representative Frank Dermody.

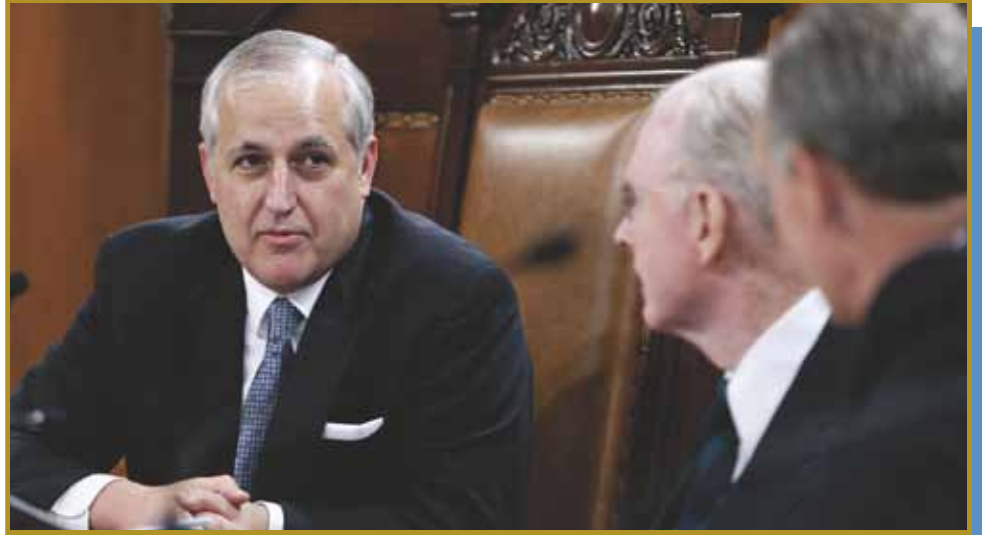
Congressional Districts

Congressional redistricting is not handled by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

The boundaries of Congressional seats in Pennsylvania are redrawn by legislative action – in other words, a bill which proceeds through both chambers of the General Assembly and is signed into law by the Governor.

The current boundaries of Congressional seats in Pennsylvania are spelled out in Act 34 of 2002.

The size of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation peaked at 36 following the 1910 Census. We have lost at least one seat following every subsequent Census.



Senator Pileggi talks to Judge Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., Chairman of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission, prior to the Commission's public meeting on May 11. Redistricting updates are available on Senator Pileggi's website at www.SenatorPileggi.com/redistricting.htm.

What Redistricting Means For You

At the end of this year's redistricting process, you may live in the same Senate district, state House district and Congressional district – or you may be in new districts.

As an example, the 9th Senatorial District, which I represent, includes communities in Delaware County and Chester County. The population in the 9th District has grown significantly – it is now more than 23,000 people larger than the ideal Senate seat of 254,048. (The ideal size of a state House district is now 62,573; the

ideal size of a Congressional district is 705,688.)

Although courts have allowed some flexibility for seats in the General Assembly, 23,000 people is about 9 percent over ideal – and does not meet constitutional standards. Therefore, the 9th District must lose some population.

The five Senate districts which border the 9th District have a combined population that is 97,803 above ideal – an average of almost 20,000 per district. As a result, changes will be needed in those districts as well.

Making those changes in a way that is fair and meets all of the legal standards will be challenging. As a member of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission, I am committed to making this year's process as open and transparent as possible. I am urging the Commission to establish a comprehensive website. In the meantime, redistricting updates can be found on my website, www.SenatorPileggi.com/redistricting.htm.

Redistricting Updates

As the redistricting process moves forward, I will provide updates on my web site, on Facebook, and on Twitter:

 SenatorPileggi.com  facebook.com/SenatorPileggi

 twitter.com/SenatorPileggi

Share Your Thoughts

I am very interested in hearing from residents of the 9th Senatorial District regarding redistricting for the General Assembly and Congress. My contact information can be found below.

Senator Dominic Pileggi

9th District

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