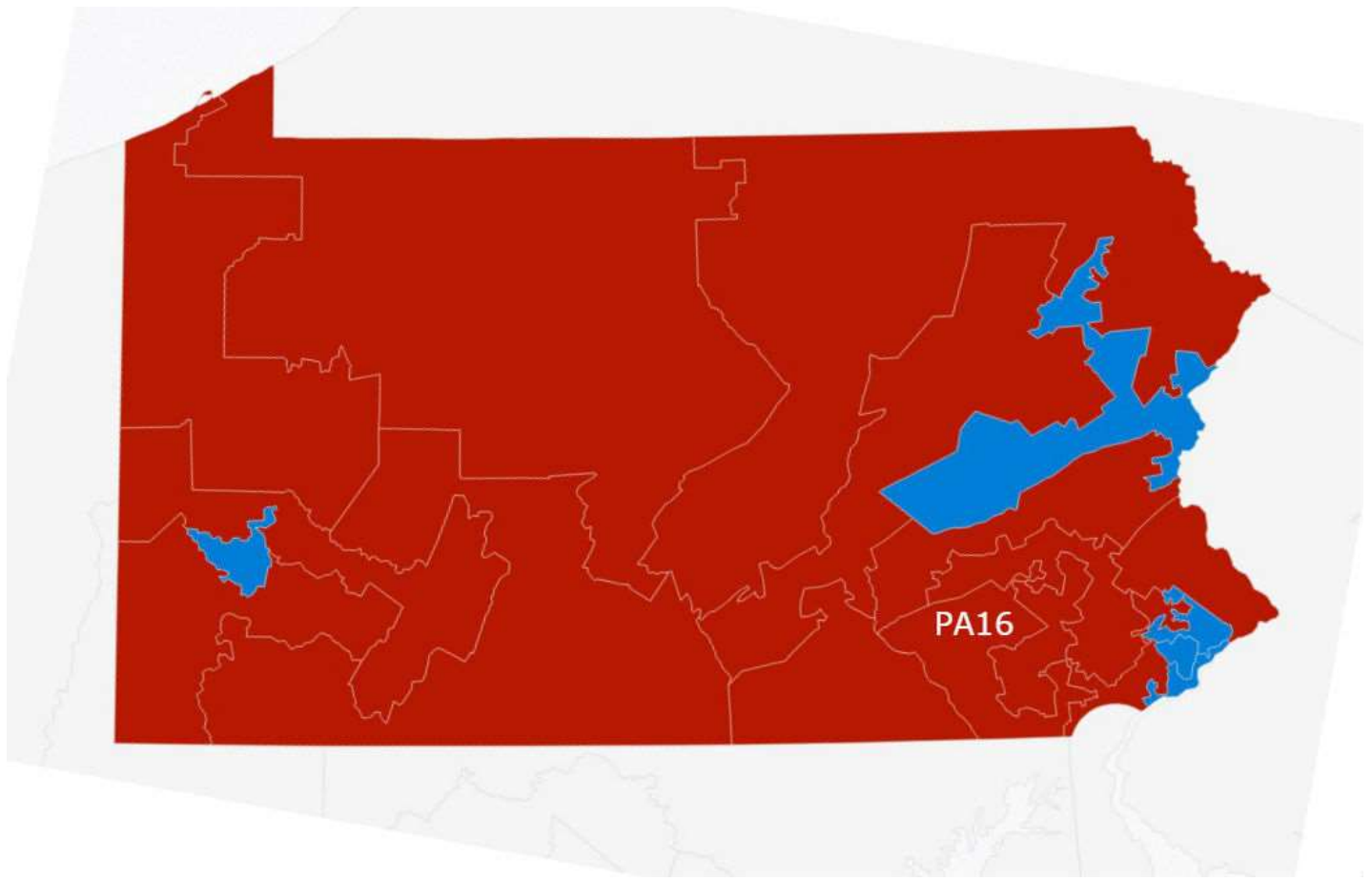


https://lanasteronline.com/news/local/how-will-the-lancaster-based-th-district-lines-candidates-be/article_73140004-008a-11e8-9717-c302e42d0835.html

How will the Lancaster-based 16th district lines, candidates be affected when congressional district map is thrown out, redrawn?



SAM JANESCH | Staff Writer Jan 24, 2018



In 2016, Republicans won 13 of Pennsylvania's U.S. House districts, including two uncontested ones; Democrats won 5, including one uncontested. The 16th District, labeled, includes the majority of Lancaster County.

POLITICO

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's **bombshell decision** to throw out the state congressional district map just before election season will have wide-ranging implications this year — including in the Lancaster-based district represented by U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker.

For one, Smucker may soon represent some different communities, causing confusion among constituents.

And the five candidates trying to unseat him in the 16th Congressional District — and who have been **fundraising and courting voters for months** — will have to adjust their campaign playbooks.



PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania court throws out congressional boundaries

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

Another impact could include Lancaster County returning to previous decades when it fell within one congressional district instead of being split in two.

“Smucker could represent more of the county, if not all of the county,” said Kyle Kopko, an Elizabethtown College political science professor.

Kopko, an election law and redistricting expert, said much still remains unknown in the wake of the court’s ruling that Pennsylvania’s congressional districts “clearly, plainly and palpably” violate the state constitution.

The case was brought by voters who alleged state lawmakers had unfairly gerrymandered congressional district boundaries in 2011 to produce a map favorable to Republicans. The GOP holds 13 seats to the Democrat’s five even though registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans statewide.

The ruling Monday gave legislators and the governor a strict deadline to institute a new map of the 18 districts in time for the May primary and congressional midterm elections later this year.

A detailed majority opinion has not yet been released, and the Republican leaders in the Legislature are attempting to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Drawing new districts

In the court’s brief order Monday, it instructed lawmakers to draw new districts with some previous ideas in mind. They should be “compact and contiguous,” equal in population and not unnecessarily dividing counties, cities, towns, boroughs, townships or wards.

Without more instruction than that, Kopko guessed the most likely scenario for the 16th Congressional District — which covers most of Lancaster County — would be for it to look more like it did between 2002-11 under former U.S. Rep. Joe Pitts.

That would mean expanding it to include all of Lancaster County, drop the city of Reading in Berks County, and pick up more of western Chester County, he said.

That might even make the historically Republican district more GOP-heavy, he said. The current makeup is about 45 percent Republican, 39 percent Democrat and 16 percent independent or third party.

Changes to the 7th District, which has covered seven eastern Lancaster County municipalities since 2012, are harder to predict. Represented by Republican U.S. Rep. Pat Meehan since 2010, it was won by Democrat Hillary Clinton in her 2016 presidential bid and is likely to be redrawn in favor of Democrats.

A New York Times report Monday said the 7th “is likely to turn into a strongly Democratic district anchored in Delaware County.”

Stephen Medvic, a political science professor at Franklin & Marshall College, said the 16th, 7th and 6th — represented by Republican Rep. Ryan Costello — might be viewed together. A couple of them might become more Democratic, but not all can be.

“This is fascinating for the 16th because it could become safer for Smucker, or it could become a lot more competitive,” Medvic said.

District history

Most of Lancaster County has been part of what’s been called the 16th Congressional District since the early 1970s — when there were 25 districts in the state, compared to the current 18.

2012-PRESENT



16th Congressional District boundaries between 2012 and 2021.

With redistricting occurring every decade, two of the last five maps have included all of Lancaster County within one district. In the 1980s a portion of the the county's northeast was carved out into another district, and in the 1990s, the northwest was carved out.

During the last change in 2012, then-U.S. Rep. Joe Pitts said he fought to keep the entire county in his district and also called the process "very political."

In that year, his Democratic challenger, Aryanna Strader, was gerrymandered out of the district she was running for, even though she lived three-quarters of a mile from Pitts' home within the former, and redrawn, district lines.

Smucker's office did not return a request for comment about whether he would suggest having the entire county within one district. He joined Meehan and eight of the other Pennsylvania Republican congressmen in a joint statement opposing the Supreme Court's decision.

"Today's congressional maps were drafted and approved by both Republicans and Democrats," they said in the statement. "It also comes on the eve of a midterm election. An orderly electoral process is an essential function of our democracy."

2018 candidates

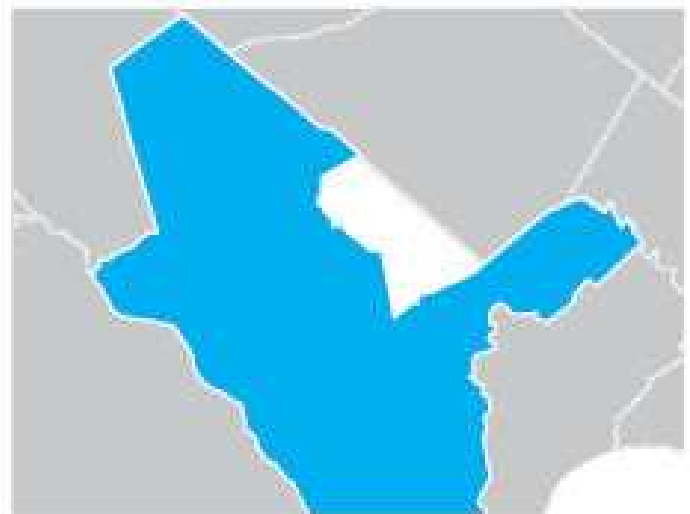
In some parts of the state, where districts cover wide stretches of territory, some incumbents and candidates running against them will likely find themselves living outside the districts they're running to represent.

1972-1981



16th Congressional District boundaries between 1972 and 1981.

1982-1991



16th Congressional District boundaries between 1982 and 1991.

Even though Pennsylvania law allows candidates to run in districts where they don't live, it might make re-election campaigns difficult, Kopko said.

In the 16th, one of the factors now is that it won't necessarily need to reach Kennett Square, Chester County, where Pitts lived for his two-decades of service.

Smucker, the current representative, lives in West Lampeter Township and will also not have the issue of getting drawn out of his own district if Lancaster remains mostly intact, Kopko said.

Neither will some of the candidates running against him — such as Lancaster city Democrats Christina Hartman, Jess King and Richard Griffiths Smith Jr.

Hartman and King, who have built the largest campaign operations so far, both applauded the court decision in statements and on social media.

Hartman called it a “win for citizens and a win for Democracy” and, in a fundraising email, said it means she will have to introduce herself “to an entirely new group of potential voters.”

King wrote on Twitter that the decision was a “big win” and, “It's time for our government to represent who we are as a people.”

Another candidate, Democrat Gary Wegman, is a Reading resident and could find himself living outside the district. Bill Neff, a Republican who lives in York County but works in Manheim Township, is also seeking to run against Smucker.

1992-2001



16th Congressional District boundaries between 1992 and 2001.

2002-2011



16th Congressional District boundaries between 2002 and 2011.

In mid-February, candidates are scheduled to begin a three-week period gathering signatures to get on their party's primary ballot. The petition-signing period and May 15 primary dates could get pushed back under the court order.

Lancaster Republicans call Meehan's decision not to seek re-election 'right move,' and his behavior 'disturbing'



Democrats Jess King, Christina Hartman outraise incumbent Republican Lloyd Smucker in final months of 2017



Proposed GOP redistricting puts all of Lancaster County and part of Berks County into 16th congressional district

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