

# COUNTY of BLAIR



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## Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Reestablishment 2022

Blair County operates six (6) magisterial district courts within the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. After evaluation, the Court proposes to reestablish (no change) those six (6) magisterial district courts.

The attached proposal will be submitted to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania following a 30 day publication and comment period, which begins February 1, 2022 and ends March 2, 2022.

The proposal is detailed on a Judicial District Summary worksheet and individual Magisterial District Summary worksheets which were supplied by the AOPC as part of a package to be used by all of the Commonwealth's judicial districts that operate Magisterial District Courts.

Public comments may be submitted to District Court Administrator, Nicole Smith, at:

Blair County Court Administration  
423 Allegheny Street, Suite 239  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

[reestablishment@blairco.org](mailto:reestablishment@blairco.org)

All public comments must be in writing and include the full name and address of the sender. Public comments specific to the proposed plan(s) will be included with the final submission to AOPC and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for approval.

The public comment period will expire at the close of business on March 2, 2022.

## 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. Hover the fields for tips and instructions. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>	24-3-02	<b>County:</b>	Blair
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4,510	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		753	1st out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		391	9 %
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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 4,510	B. 3,757	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		753	20 %
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 plan</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.			
<p>This Judicial District has a high number of civil filings because it includes commercial business areas, specifically two malls; the Logan Valley Mall and the Logan Towne Center. The Logan Valley Mall is a failing mall, and is predicted to lose or go out of business in the next 10 years, thus reducing or eliminating the number of filings currently generated by that business. Additionally, the Logan Towne Center is seeing less traffic and business as people increasingly shop online. There are very new, young officers in the Logan Township Police Department who have in recent years been extremely active in traffic enforcement; we expect this to decrease over the next 10 years. Finally, the recently elected young MDJ perceives no inequity and has no objection to the current and projected volume of cases.</p>			



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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 24-1-03		<b>County:</b> Blair	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 4,206	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>		<i>Ranking Total</i>
	449		2nd out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>		<i>% Above/Below</i>
	87		2 %
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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 4,206	B. 3,757	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.	<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>		<i>% Above/Below</i>
	449		12 %
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 plan</i> ) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.			

<b>Magisterial District Information</b>	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daniel DeAntonio</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Magisterial District Judge Name                      Birthdate                      Term Expiration Date                      Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">615 4th Street Altoona PA 16602</p>	
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
<p>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? <b>If YES</b>, please summarize your response below.</p>	
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Altoona Police Department, UPMC Police Department, Penn State Altoona</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City of Altoona Wards 1,2,7,8,10,11,13</p>	
<p>19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If <b>NO</b>, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).</p>	Yes
<p><b>20. Additional Comments:</b></p>	

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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. Hover the fields for tips and instructions. Save and upload the completed form to SharePoint.

<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 24-1-02		<b>County:</b> Blair	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,875	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		118	3rd out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-244	-6 %
<p>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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p>This Judicial District is seeing a large surge in commercial development, including the construction of a large number of condominium and apartment rental units. Other commercial construction such as stores, restaurants, and offices to serve the new residents of those units is also taking place. There is a projected increase in landlord-tenant filings in this district as well as a projected increase in criminal cases and civil cases associated with restaurants and stores and other businesses.</p>			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>		<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>
	A. 3,875	B. 3,757	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		118	3 %
<p>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 plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p>			

Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p>Benjamin Jones</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name</i>                      <i>Birthdate</i>                      <i>Term Expiration Date</i>                      <i>Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p>2601 5th Avenue Altoona, PA 16602</p>	
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
<p>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.</p> <p><small>This Judicial District is seeing a large surge in commercial development, including the construction of a large number of condominium and apartment rental units. Other commercial construction such as stores, restaurants, and offices to serve the new residents of those units is also taking place. There is a projected increase in landlord-tenant filings in this district as well as a projected increase in criminal cases and civil cases associated with restaurants and stores and other businesses.</small></p>	Yes
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p>Altoona Area Police Dept, Altoona School District Police Department</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>City of Altoona Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, and 14.</p>	
<p>19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If <b>NO</b>, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).</p>	Yes
<p><b>20. Additional Comments:</b></p>	

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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>	24-3-01	<b>County:</b>	Blair
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,708	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		-49	4th out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-411	-10 %
<p>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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Blair County possesses a unique geographic layout comprised of varying socio-economic factors. The alignment of the Appalachian Mountains creates a distinct north-south travel pattern in Blair County, and the population is concentrated along this axis. MDJ District 24-3-01 covers the northern part of the county, specifically Tyrone Township and Borough, Bellwood Borough and Antis and Snyder Townships. The Tyrone Police Department, the Bellwood Police Department, and the Pennsylvania State Police service these areas. It would be burdensome in terms of travel time and expense to the people in the district and the police departments to have to travel south for M.D.J services. This MDJ District has the greatest number of alternate programs for its citizens, such as veterans diversionary court, truancy court, and an anticipated drug diversion court.</p>			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:		<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>
		A. 3,708	B. 3,757
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-49	-1 %
<p>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 plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p>			



Magisterial District Information	
<p>10. Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Information:</p> <p>Fred Miller</p> <p><i>Magisterial District Judge Name                      Birthdate                      Term Expiration Date                      Mandatory Retirement Date</i></p>	
<p>11. Magisterial District Court Information - Physical Location:</p> <p>5628 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd. Tyrone, PA 16686</p>	
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 YES, please summarize your response below.	No/Not Sure
<p>16. List any police departments located within this magisterial district.</p> <p>Tyrone Police Department, Tyrone Area School District, Bellwood Police Department</p>	
<p>17. List any major highways within this magisterial district.</p> <p>Interstate 99</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Antis Township, Bellwood Borough, Tyrone Township, Snyder Township, Tyrone Borough</p>	
19. Are the <b>proposed</b> municipalities the same as above? If NO, please list all proposed municipalities (alphabetically).	Yes
<p><b>20. Additional Comments:</b></p>	

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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b>	24-3-04	<b>County:</b>	Blair
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,142	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>		<i>Ranking Total</i>
	-615		5th out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.	<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>		<i>% Above/Below</i>
	-977		-23 %
<p>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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">Criminal case filings have increased in this district, from approx 250 in 2017 to 345 in 2019, and over 330 in 2020 and 2021. None of these cases were from county-wide drug sweeps or from extraterritorial filings by the Pennsylvania State Police. this magisterial district is located in a largely rural and farming district, and the citizens and police departments in this district, if changed, would have to travel great distances for service because of the peculiarity of Blair county geography, which orients everything on a north-south axis. There are 25 miles from the eastern end of the district to the western end of the district. If these boundaries were extended, it would be burdensome to the constituents. This district is the extreme southern end of the county. It is served by the Freedom Township, Greenfield Township, Martinsburg, Roaring Spring and North Woodbury Township police departments. These are extremely small rural departments. It is also home to Old Order Mennonite community. The character of this district is very different than the more urban districts of Altoona, Tyrone, or Hollidaysburg. This MDJ office is located at the Blair County Airport which provides increased security. The next closest MDJ office is 25 minute drive. To consolidate those offices would mean a 50 minute drive one way on a difficult country road for some citizens of the district.</p>			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 3,142	B. 3,757	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.	<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>		<i>% Above/Below</i>
	-615		16 %
<p>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 plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">The plan does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges because of the unique geographical and demographic features of this district. This MDJ court includes 5 different police departments and the unique concerns of rural residents and residents of the Old Order Mennonite community. The district also has an aging population and several nursing homes; the population would not be served well by having to travel great distances if this court was eliminated or reconfigured.</p>			



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<b>Magisterial District Court Number:</b> 24-3-03		<b>County:</b> Blair	
1. Proposed plan for this magisterial district: Reestablish		2. Effective date: 4/1/2022	
<b>Caseload Analysis</b>			
3. Average total caseloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	<i>Avg for Class of County</i>
	A. 3,102	B. 3,757	C. 4,119
4. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your judicial district caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3B)</i>	<i>Ranking Total</i>
		-655	6th out of 6
5. Compare the difference between the caseload average of this magisterial district to your class of county caseload average.		<i>Difference (3A - 3C)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-1017	-24 %
<p>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 plan that explains why you are departing from caseload equity.</p> <p>Residential, rental unit, and manufacturing construction is fast increasing in Blair Township and Frankstown Township, which is projected to cause an increase in filings in this district. Blair Township, Hollidaysburg Borough, Duncansville Borough and Williamsburg Borough police departments are located in this district, as well as is the Pennsylvania State Police barracks. This MDJ office is located in Hollidaysburg, the county seat, and is located on the street between the courthouse and the jail, which is convenient for the police departments it serves. This MDJ office has all filings from the prison, which have been depressed during Covid, and its criminal and traffic filings have increased in 2022 and are projected to increase. It would be very difficult and burdensome for the constituents of this district if they were combined with another district because of the far-flung nature of the geography and population loci, which would result in unduly difficult travel to court.</p>			
<b>Workload Analysis</b>			
7. Average total workloads:	<i>Avg for Magisterial District</i>	<i>Avg for Judicial District</i>	
	A. 3,102	B. 3,757	
8. Compare the difference between the average total workloads of this magisterial district to the judicial district.		<i>Difference (7A - 7B)</i>	<i>% Above/Below</i>
		-655	-17 %
<p>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 plan</i>) why this does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges.</p> <p>Reestablishment of this district does not result in an unwarranted inequity among the judges because it would greatly inconvenience the police departments and citizens of her district if this district is absorbed by another because of the geographical distance they would have to drive for MDJ services. Also, this Magisterial District Judge has unquantifiable demands on her time in dealing with five separate police agencies and their schedules and idiosyncrasies. This Magisterial District Judge has also traditionally been involved with the Blair County truancy court and is considering drug diversionary programs. Finally, because of the location of her court between the jail and the courthouse, this MDJ is called upon for extra service not measurable by statistical standards. Therefore her overall service is not inequitable compared to her fellow MDJs. Finally, no MDJ has voiced any complaint of inequity to this Court.</p>			

