



## *Court of Common Pleas of Berks County*

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**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- Mohnton Borough
- Shillington Borough
- Cumru Township

### **Proposed:**

- Kenhorst Borough
- Mohnton 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Class County average of 4,619. With the addition of average filings from West Reading Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-01 will move from 16<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Class County average of 4,619. With the addition of average filings from Wyomissing Borough, Magisterial District 23-2-04 will move from 11<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

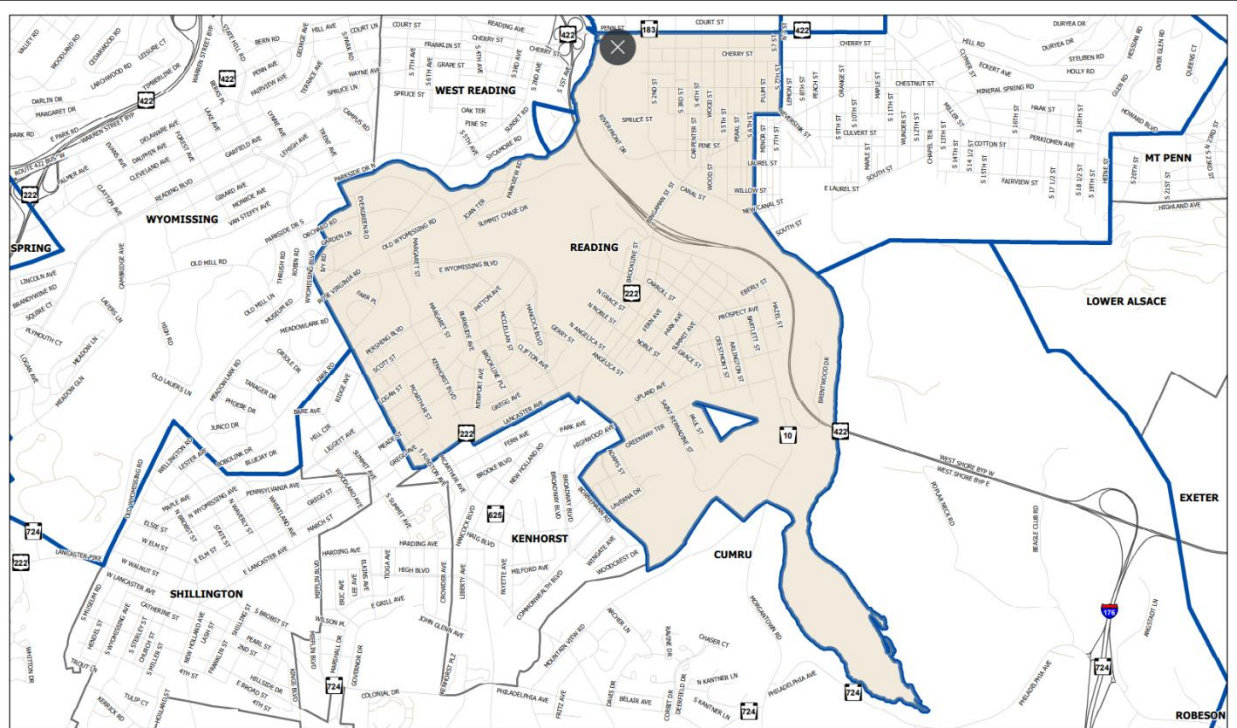
or

[Specialcourtsadmin@berkspa.gov](mailto:Specialcourtsadmin@berkspa.gov)

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

Enclosures: Current Boundaries Map  
Proposed Boundaries Map

# Current Boundaries



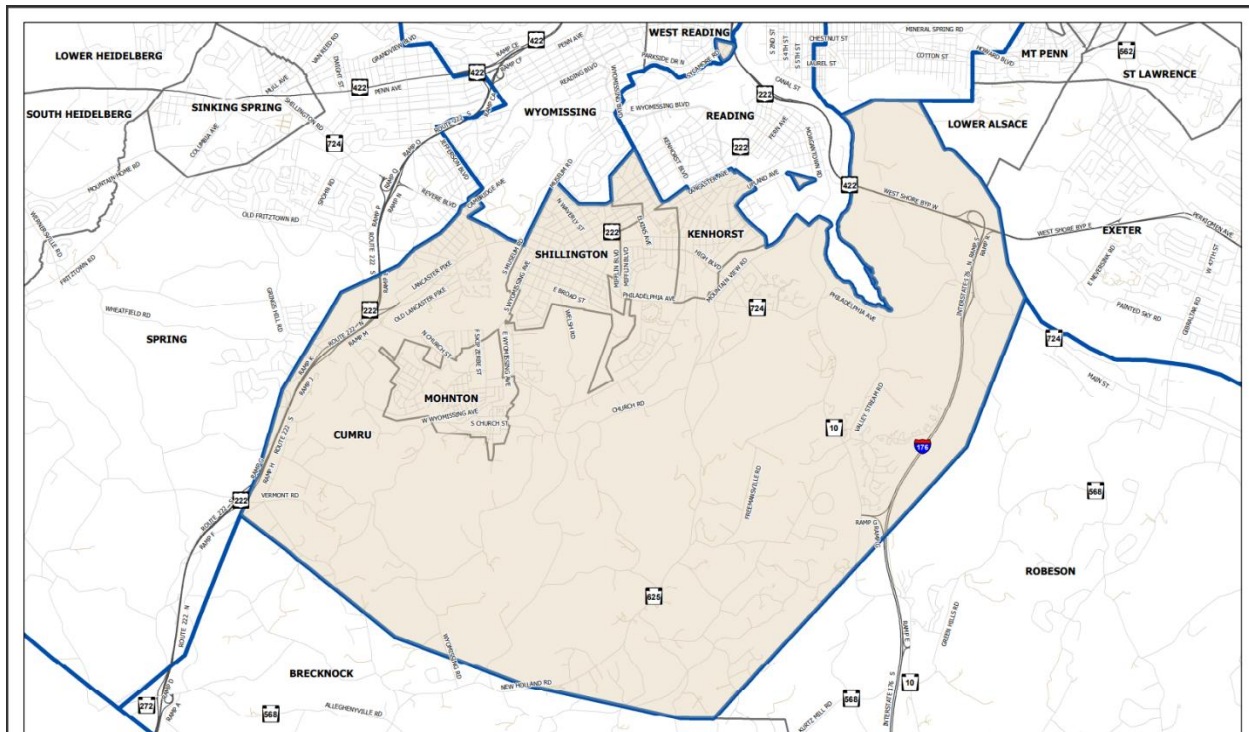
Magisterial District Court Boundary

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**Magisterial District Court: 23-2-01**  
**Berks County, Pennsylvania**



Map Produced by Berks County GIS  
 Coordinate System: State Plane Pennsylvania South  
 Datum: NAD 1983  
 4/1/2016



Magisterial District Court Boundary

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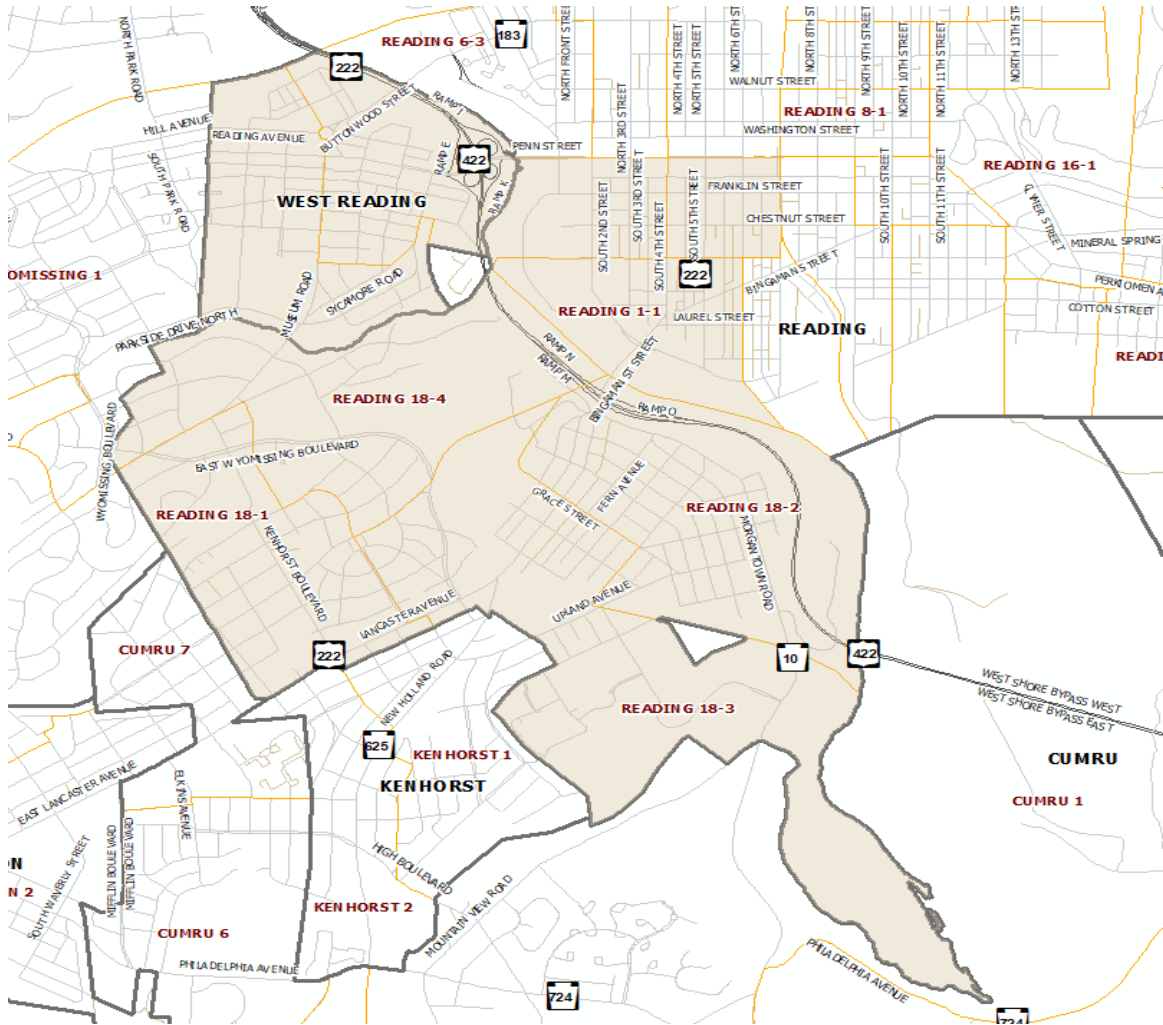
**Magisterial District Court: 23-2-04**  
**Berks County, Pennsylvania**



Map Produced by Berks County GIS  
 Coordinate System: State Plane Pennsylvania South  
 Datum: NAD 1983  
 4/1/2016

# Modified Boundaries

Magisterial District 23-2-01:



Modified Boundaries

Magisterial District 23-2-04:

