

▼ FRANKLIN COUNTY

# Philly man runs through town for redistricting awareness

By **ROSCOE BARNES III**  
Staff writer

Pennsylvania State Sen. Richard Alloway said Wednesday he supports a Philadelphia man who is running 1,000 miles around the state to bring attention to political redistricting.

Paul J. Mathison of The PennUltimate Run began his run Friday at the War Memorial on South Wayne Avenue in Radnor Township, about 13 miles west of Philadelphia. He reached Chambersburg Tuesday evening, and visited Alloway's office Wednesday morning.

The Chambersburg Republican was in Harrisburg at the time. He commented on Mathison's run by phone.

## For more information

Information on Mathison's PennUltimate Run is available at <http://www.pjmathison.com/pennultimaterun>. It can be tracked on the website, on Twitter and on Facebook.

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"My understanding when I met him last year is that he wanted to bring attention to the whole reapportion[ment] process, which focuses on finding the fairest process possible which I strongly support," he said. We don't want this reapportionment to become an attempt at trying

to throw Republicans or Democrats out of office when we redraw these districts.

The leaders who are working on the project are trying to come up with [a] commission that is as nonpartisan as possible, Alloway said.

As for Mathison, he said, "I wish him well. He's got good stamina."

Mathison, who is running without a support crew while pushing a stroller, said he simply wants to place a spotlight on 2011 congressional and

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**On the run:** Paul Mathison makes a pass through downtown Chambersburg Wednesday to raise awareness about legislative redistricting.

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# Run

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legislative redistricting. He also wants to inspire Pennsylvania citizens to push the Legislature and governor to conduct this effort in an open and transparent manner and produce compact districts.

“There are two phases to getting things done,” he said. “First, you raise awareness and educate the public. This is key whether you’re dealing with a medical issue or human rights issue. Second, you place the spotlight on the individuals doing the redistricting. When people watch what we’re doing,

we tend to do a better job of it.”

Mathison credits state Rep. Eugene DePasquale, D-York, with arranging a meeting he had in 2010 with Alloway. The fact that DePasquale is a Democrat and Alloway is a Republican shows a “good bipartisanship on this issue,” he said.

While in Chambersburg Wednesday, Mathison spent time meeting with people downtown. He conducted media interviews with local and national news organizations.

After chatting and meeting with people, he took to the road again, moving along U.S. 30 west toward McConnellsburg.

He had been averaging 26 miles a day.

That’s expected to change because of the mountains in Fulton County. His distance average will likely drop to 22 miles a day, he said.

“People have been preparing me for them,” he said. “I had a taste of one Tuesday, but this is a bigger deal. You just have to put your head down and keep trudging away.”

Another issue that concerns Mathison is knowing where he will find shelter for the night. He’s always on the lookout for a cheap motel, or assistance from some of the military service clubs.

As he was approaching Chambersburg Tuesday, he struggled to find a place.

He eventually stayed at Travelodge.

Mathison pushes a stroller he calls “Babe,” because of the brand name, BabyJogger.com. Inside the stroller he has camping gear, an ultra light tent, solar panel, sleeping bag and clothing for various conditions. He also has “large amounts” of food, extra batteries and charger, a detailed map of Pennsylvania, a bicycle lock and tools.

Naming the stroller “Babe,” was like Tom Hank’s character naming a volleyball “Wilson” in the movie, “Castaway,” Mathison said: “There’s also a little bit of ‘Forrest Gump’ going on, too.”

So far, several dozen people have joined

Mathison on his journey. They run or walk with him a few hundred yards at a time, he said. As he moves on, he said he will rely on the kindness of strangers.

He plans to make his way to Shanksville, where a plane crashed on Sept. 11, 2001. He also plans to run through Breezewood and Pittsburgh.

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