

# WEEKEND EDITION



Saturday  
April 23, 2011

SERVING THE GROVE CITY, LAKEVIEW, MERCER, HARRISVILLE AND SLIPPERY ROCK AREAS

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## Man races around state to raise awareness of legislative redistricting

*Follow his progress around Pa. via website*

By Katelyn Struthers  
*Allied News Staff Writer*

On April 1, a suburban Philadelphia man began a one-lap 1,000-mile run around Pennsylvania to raise awareness about political redistricting – and that’s no April fool’s joke.

The PennUltimate Run began to inspire reform in this once-a-decade process.

April 1 was chosen as it was the deadline for the U.S. Census Bureau to release all the data required for nationwide redistricting or reformatting legislative districts based on population.

Redistricting is a forerunner to progress on many fronts, including reducing and right-sizing of government, increasing trust in the political

process, adding enhanced and cost-effective services, and getting better qualified candidates running for public office, supporters say.

After the opening ceremony at The War Memorial 13-miles west of Philadelphia, Paul Mathison began at 9 a.m. running west on Route 30 toward Pittsburgh. Then he’ll head off to Erie, Scranton, the Liberty Bell and back to the Radnor area.

“What better way is there to draw attention to an urgent – albeit esoteric – topic like this than demonstrating its scale and breadth through The Run?” said Mathison.

Mathison, the lead runner and chief architect of The Run, is the 51-year old president of PJMathison.

PJMathison is a professional services firm he founded in 1990 as a government affairs and management consultant to institutional clients.

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Katelyn Struthers / Allied News

**Paul Mathison started April 16 in Butler and jogged to the Grove City area, stopping at Microtel Inn & Suites, Springfield Township. Mathison is running a 1,000-mile lap around the state to raise awareness about political redistricting.**

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# Race

## Man races for political redistricting

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Several state lawmakers have contacted [The] PennUltimate Run to express support and inquire about participating in some aspect of the effort.

In Pennsylvania, under [current law,] the redistricting process is controlled by state legislators, which allows elected officials to draw their own districts. Mathison views this as a conflict of interest that harms voters.

“In fact, right now in other parts of the world, people are struggling for the right to free and fair elections. Here in Pennsylvania, the birthplace of American democracy, we too are faced with a similar struggle during the redistricting process,” Mathison said.

He will take an estimated 2 million steps to raise awareness of the issue.

Meanwhile, Mathison pushes a jogging stroller carrying first aid

supplies, camping supplies, extra shows and food.

Mathison jogged through Grove City on April 16, stopping for an overnight stay at Microtel Inn & Suites, Springfield Township. A box of supplies awaits him in Erie so he can replenish his supplies halfway through [The Run].

At the beginning of the race, Mathison got a boost pushing the 70-pound stroller from Radnor Middle School students who helped kick off the event.

The partially pre-mapped out route will include daily jogs with overnight stops. Mathison has encountered periods of heavy traffic, mountain terrain, extreme weather, and isolation throughout his journey.

He prepared for [The Run] by increasing daily exercises to approximately 12 hours. He is a lifelong runner, and during the event is making daily runs of around 25 miles. He has been able to find hotels along his path but is equipped with a tent and sleeping bag should a night under the stars be necessary.

Mathison – also a cancer survivor – [does not] have the aid of an in-

Run support team or vehicle, should he need it.

“Strengthening our political system is arguably the most important action we can take to assure success, much less survival, in today’s globally competitive society where labor, capital and citizens are free to locate virtually anywhere,” said the graduate of Purdue University and University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, where he earned an MBA.

Although [The Run] is not a charity event, other runners are welcomed. There’s no need to worry about registering, simply join in at any point. Mathison will symbolically offer a crimson relay baton, donated by Radnor High School track team, to those would help fulfill [The Run’s] goal.

For more information, visit [www.pjmathison.com/pennultimaterun](http://www.pjmathison.com/pennultimaterun). Details are available via the website about Pennsylvania redistricting, frequently asked questions, ways to support [The Run], Facebook and Twitter news feeds, an approximate route map, and a GPS tracking tool.