

## Redistricting in Pennsylvania

### Reform efforts

A coalescing effort between the League of Women Voters and Common Cause assailed Pennsylvania's current system as outdated and opaque. Its members also pointed to the outcome of the 2001 process, when nearly every district in the state was drawn with some decidedly biased lines.[41]

### The PennUltimate Run

Advocates got creative early on, announcing a 1,000 mile run around the state, kicking off Friday, April 1, 2011, to highlight the need for a reformed process.[42][43]

Paul J. Mathison began his trek at 9 am on the appointed day at the War Memorial in Wayne, expecting to take about 50 days to sprint around the state. His route went from Wayne to Radnor to Pittsburgh, turning north toward Erie, crossing the state to Scranton, heading south toward Liberty Bell, and then returning to Radnor to finish.[44]

While lamenting that it was too late for the steps necessary to turn redistricting over the citizens in 2011, "The Run" sought to raise enough awareness about corruption and gerrymandering to push through an independent redistricting commission for 2021. Bolstering the public statement made by running the state, The PennUltimate also released a Blue Paper outlining to reasons to strip the legislature of redistricting power.[45]

In explaining what he meant by a "Blue Paper", Mathison introduced it as, "...a compilation of white papers that have been presented ad infinitum on an issue to a point where people begin to turn blue in the face."

A government consultant by day, Mathison described his endeavor as, " an inspirational sort of thing, and not as an angry, burn-'em-at-the-stake type of endeavor...I am non-party affiliated. I'm ecumenical." [46]

Mathison hit the halfway point of his run on April 21, 2011 and told a CNN reporter that he had been stopped by police three times after people who saw him running in cold weather assumed his stroller, which contained his supplies for the run, had a child in it,[47] The weather for most of the run had in fact been bad enough that Mathison, who packed camping supplies, had taken to checking into hotels. He had also taken to stopping in at legislators' offices and introducing himself as he ran.[48]

On May 9, 2011, Mathison completed his run, ending up in Philadelphia.[49] In all, he jogged 1,022 miles across the state.[50]

[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting\\_in\\_Pennsylvania](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_Pennsylvania)