



BOROUGH OF AMBLER

COMMITTEE MEETING

March 7, 2017

7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
PUBLIC UTILITIES
FINANCE & PLANNING
PARKS & RECREATION
SALARY & PERSONNEL**

Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Mr. Curtis, Chairperson
Mrs. Mc Cormick
Mr. Sheward

OLD BUSINESS

1. **BO-RIT COMMENT PERIOD**

The EPA's public comment period to address proposed remediation to be performed at the BoRit site closed March 3, 2017. Ambler Borough has submitted a comment letter to the EPA. **(attached)**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **PUBLIC WORKS & CODE REPORT**

The Code Enforcement and Public Works reports are **attached**.

2. **NFPC WORKSHOPS**

The US Army Corps of Engineers will be hosting workshops given by the National Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee to promote the use of nonstructural flood risk adaptive measures for reducing flood risk to residential commercial and public property. Workshops are scheduled for June 22nd (6:30-9:30 p.m.) and June 24th (1:00-4:00 p.m.) at the Daniel Dowling Legion Post, 351 Maple Street. Representatives from the Army Corps, FEMA, PEMA, EPA and Montgomery County will be in attendance to answer questions.

2. **EUCLID AVENUE SIGNAGE**

Borough resident Cecilly Rudalavage has made a request to address Council on signage at Euclid Avenue.

Borough Of Ambler

131 Rosemary Avenue
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002

PHONE 215-646-1000
FAX 215-641-1355 ADMINISTRATION
FAX 215-641-1921 WATER DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE: www.boroughofambler.com



March 1, 2017

US EPA Region III
1650 Arch St. (Mailcode 3HS21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Attn: Jill Lowe, RPM

Dear Ms. Lowe,

The Borough of Ambler is appreciative of the efforts the EPA has made over the past 10 years to remediate the Bo-Rit site. The asbestos issue at the Bo-Rit Site has been an obstacle in the growth and development of the Borough and a burden on taxpayers as this potentially valuable land is unusable in its current state. The health and safety of Borough residents and adjoining municipalities is our primary concern, since there has been significant focus on studies and numerous discussions on the effects this has had on the health and safety of our residents.

The EPA is pressuring municipalities to clean up the water quality in our watershed, specifically the Wissahickon Creek. It is disconcerting, therefore, that potential exists for contaminants to escape from the Bo-Rit site, as was noted in the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) review of the Bo-Rit Site proposed Remedial Action Plan. The EPA failed to adequately address the potential consequences of the many contaminants present remaining at the site. Specifically, dioxin, arsenic, and metals such as cobalt, lead, mercury, chromium and others remain at the site, at concentrations exceeding unidentified soil screening levels. The actual concentrations of these aforesaid contaminants have not been reported by EPA, and Borough of Ambler respectfully requests this information.

Wissahickon Creek is a drinking water supply source for the City of Philadelphia. The Remedial Action Plan includes only a permeable soil cap over the asbestos piles, making the potential for leaching of these contaminants into the shallow groundwater and Wissahickon Creek high. It appears clear to Ambler Borough that further evaluation of the impact of these contaminants on Wissahickon Creek water quality is

justified and warranted, and that further controls on the release of these contaminants is necessary.

The impact of contaminants leaching from the Bo-Rit site into the Wissahickon Creek should be evaluated in context with current and potential Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) and MS4 related requirements applied to both Ambler Borough and every other municipality that discharges into the Wissahickon. Onerous requirements have been imposed upon Ambler Borough's Waste Water Treatment Plant that also services the surrounding municipalities of Lower Gwynedd, Whitpain, Upper Dublin and Whitmarsh to comply with standards associated with sediment and nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) TMDLs.

Of far greater concern to Ambler Borough is the leaching of toxic contaminants from the Bo-Rit site that have a direct impact on the health and quality of life of our citizens, and the Borough would inquire as to how this will be addressed by EPA to ensure the health and safety of our residents. We believe EPA should redirect its resources to control this far more serious issue. Citizens have no assurance that the water is safe for both humans and wildlife. The plan review presently states the chemicals and metals in the Wissahickon Creek sediment could affect the health of people exposed to contaminated sediment during swimming or fishing activities, and it is important to note people do swim in the Wissahickon and the State of Pennsylvania stocks trout into the Wissahickon Creek, resulting in people coming into direct contact with this "unsafe" water.

The overall site conditions are also a concern. Although there is a sizable cap, the steepness of the slopes will erode as it has over time, and we believe history will repeat itself. Erosion can also occur in these areas in as short a period of time as overnight, as was experienced in 2011 with back-to-back storms Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. It was stated that FEMA flood maps have been recently updated and a request was made to change the 100-year flood EPA used as a design flood to the 500-year flood, and this request was not granted. The DEP and EPA require all dams and waterways to be reinforced to withstand Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). This standard should be applied as well at the Bo-Rit site since the potential for another storm is extremely likely. Ambler Borough seeks an explanation as to why this standard was not applied to the Bo-Rit site. A request was made to have the existing capped areas, and particularly the waste cells, identified by a figure in the final plan. We additionally request having additional monitoring, including testing of the wells on site and water within the reservoir and water leaving the reservoir, so that we may have verification and documentation that the constructed remediation is performing effectively.

Ambler's Borough Council has, for over 30 years, requested, encouraged and supported the full and complete removal of the site's contamination. Council's position has not wavered. In retrospect, if removal had been accomplished when initially requested the cost would likely have been less than what has been spent over the past 10 years. We can only ponder what the eventual costs will be in another 20 years if and when the cap

fails or in the event the Wissahickon Creek's water quality is permanently impacted. The continued presence of the pile assures us that the cap will wash away over time, and we will be here once again in the near future. We can only inquire at what point we recognize that the cost of keeping the contamination in place may outweigh the cost of treating it on site.

Regards,

Salvatore Pasceri
Borough Council President

Mary Aversa
Borough Manager

Public Utilities Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Mr. Zaccone, Chairperson
Mr. Curtis
Mr. Pasceri

OLD BUSINESS

1. TMDL AGREEMENT

Staff is reviewing the proposed TMDL Agreement with the Solicitor and the Engineer and will prepare a response.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WWTP ENGINEER REPORT

The WWTP Engineer's report will be provided.

2. WWTP UTILITY TRUCK PURCHASE

WWTP Supervisor would like authorization to purchase a 2017 Ford Cab (Super Duty F-550 DRW XL 4WD Reg Cab 145"), Body (Warner S108-M-DW-U-5K Galanneal steel service body), and Liftgate (Theiman TT15ET-AL) through COSTARS with total contract pricing of \$109,222.00. **(attached)**

3. WATER DEPT. VALVE REPLACEMENT & EXERCISING NOTIFICATION

Pursuant to the requirement of the PA Public Utilities Commission, Borough Solicitor has submitted notification to the PA PUC of valves replaced and/or exercised in 2016 along with a notification of valves scheduled to be replaced and/or exercised in 2017. **(attached)**

Borough Of Ambler

131 ROSEMARY AVENUE
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WEBSITE: www.boroughofambler.com



February 1, 2017

Joseph Bresnan, Esq.
Dischell, Bartle & Dooley, P.C.
1800 Pennbrook Parkway, #200
Lansdale, PA 19446

Dear Joe:

Pursuant to the requirement of the PA PUC for Ambler Borough Water Department to replace two valves in our distribution system during the calendar year 2016, please be advised that **four emergency valve replacements** were made this past year. Due to these efforts, we have deferred previously-listed scheduled valve replacements until 2017. The following four valves were replaced in 2016:

Butler Avenue at Lindenwold

Insertion Valve
Size: 10 inch
Date: 5/5/16
Municipality: Ambler Borough

Cavendish Drive at E. Butler Avenue

Resilient Gate Valve
Size: 6 inch
Date: 8/31/16
Municipality: Upper Dublin Township

N. Maple Street at W. Butler Avenue

Insertion Valve
Size: 4 inch
Date: 9/26/16
Municipality: Ambler Borough

Alene Road at cul-de-sac

Resilient Gate Valve
Size: 6 inch
Date: 10/12/16
Municipality – Lower Gwynedd

Finance & Planning Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Mr. Sheward, Chairperson
Mr. DeRuosi
Ms. Tomlinson

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOROUGH HALL GYM RENOVATIONS

Staff is obtaining quotes for targeted renovations in the Borough Hall Gym. Quotes have been received for (1) painting of the gym ceiling and walls, (2) electrical upgrade of ceiling lighting fixtures from fluorescent to LED "rail" high bay fixtures; and (3) replacement of 2 pairs of double exterior exit doors, panic bars, keying and thresholds. Quotes also have been obtained for frame, door, threshold and lock replacement and panic bar installation at the former school kitchen/loading 'dock' area. Painting and electric quotes **attached**.

NEW BUSINESS

1. BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Borough Engineer's report is **attached**.

2. BOROUGH EMPLOYEE PENSION REPORT

Scott Repke and Joe Duda will make their annual presentation at the March Council Meeting relative to Borough pensions.

2. CDBG GRANT APPLICATION – PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Staff is determining whether to prepare a Community Development Block Grant application specifically for public restroom renovation at the gym wing due to mobility and accessibility issues that pose an architectural barrier to residents. Should staff determine to proceed, a resolution authorizing grant application will be forthcoming.

3. FAIR DISTRICTS PA (FDPA) REDISTRICTING REFORM INITIATIVE

Borough resident Olivia Castello has made a request to present to Council information on Gerrymandering in Pennsylvania and the FDPA's Redistricting Reform Initiative along with a proposed draft resolution in support of FDPA's initiative. (**attached**)

4. **MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROCESSING/DISPENSARIES-ZONING ORDINANCE**
Attached is a draft of the proposed language regarding zoning for medical marijuana processing facilities.

5. **TEMPORARY SIGNS AMENDMENT – ZONING ORDINANCE**
Attached is a draft ordinance amending the sign ordinance for clarification on temporary signs.

AMBLER BOROUGH

Project No. **Project Name**

Status

2017-01105-01 Ambler Borough 2017 Road Paving-
Engineering

Borough Engineer

2001-1010 TEA-21 - Ambler Streetscape 2002

2003-0122-01 Ambler-2013 NPDES MS4 Permit

2006-08054 Pedestrian Sidewalk Upgrade Program

2011-01116-01 Glen Mawr Homes-Edgewood SD

2013-02020 Ambler Crossings

2014-04103 Wissahickon Act 167 Plan (Ambler)

2014-11055 2015 Ambler Road Program

2014-12015 St. Mary's Villa Residential
Redevelopment- TIS

2016-05051 Ambler Borough 2016 Paving Program

2017-01010 2017 Ambler Borough General Services

2017-01032 N. Maple Ave Culvert Assessment

2017-01105 Ambler Borough 2017 Road Paving

Sewer Engineer

2011-01116-02 Glen Mawr SD Lot 14 - 400 Edgewood

2011-01116-03 Glen Mawr SD Lot 15 - 402 Edgewood

2013-02020-01 Ambler Crossings - Sewer

2015-03058 2015 CDBG Application

2017-01041 Ambler Chapter 94 Report

2017-01050 Ambler Borough General Sewer Services

Construction underway.

Revised TMDL Strategy provided to Ambler 12/16/15 for submission to PADEP. Progress Report submitted to PADEP 5/12/2016. Final Progress report for 2013 permit and NOI for 2018 permit due 9/16/17.

Plan revision underway for resubmission to DVRPC.

Review of Lot 15, Edgewood Dr provided 5/5/16.

Borough Council granted conditional use approval and prelim/final land development approval at the 10/15/13 public meeting. Review of revised plans underway.

Act 167 Plan approved by MontCo and PADEP. New storm water ordinance required to be adopted by 1/16/16. Ordinance provided 12/4/15.

Project completed. Final completion report provided to Ambler on 4/29/16. Ambler to submit to PennDOT Municipal Services (Liquid Fuels). Maintenance period expires 6/1/2017.

Meetings with PennDOT, Developer & Ambler held 3/2/15 & 9/15/15. TIS review provided 6/1/15, 8/11/16.

Construction complete. Maintenance period expires 5/12/18

Culvert assessment underway

Bid document preparation underway. Survey for curb ramp design underway.

Sewer tie-in completed 12/1/16

Sewer tie-in completed 12/1/9/16

Plan review #3 issued 10/16/13. Borough Council granted conditional use approval and prelim/final land development approval at the 10/15/13 public meeting. Site meeting held with developer on 6/17/16.

All work complete. Proceeding with project closeout.

Preparing report to PADEP

On-going

GILMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

AMBLER BOROUGH

Project No. Project Name

Status

Water Engineer

2013-02020-02	Ambler Crossings - Water	Phase 1 Water Main Extension completed on 11/23/16.
2016-04009	Maple Ave Water Main Replacement	Field survey completed. Awaiting further direction from Water Superintendent.
2016-07041	Whitemarsh NPDES Permit	Application for NPDES permit renewal submitted to DEP 12/23/16.
2016-07065	Broad Axe Cricket Wireless Decommission	Work being completed.
2016-08049	DCED PA Small Water & Sewer Program Grant Application	Grant application completed and submitted to DCED on 10/26/16.
2017-01049	Ambler Borough General Water Services	On-going
2017-01110	Wells 12 & 14 PWS Application	Preparation of Minor Permit Amendment underway.
2017-01134	SOC Sampling	Preparation fo SOC waiver renewal underway

Mary Aversa

From: olivia.given@gmail.com on behalf of Olivia Castello <olivia.castello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Mary Aversa
Subject: Re: Item for Ambler Borough Council meeting agenda
Attachments: FDPA Gerrymander infographic.pdf; FDPA Electoral Integrity Project report.pdf; FDPA Economic Impacts of Partisan Redistricting.pdf; FDPA Mission Statement.pdf; FDPA Summary of SB 22.pdf; FDPA Sample Resolution in Support.docx

Hi Mary -

Thanks again for putting this topic on the agenda for March 7. Again, the topic I wish to bring before the council is: gerrymandering in PA and Fair Districts PA's redistricting reform initiative. I will be asking the council to consider passing a resolution in support of FDPA's initiative.

I will be there along with Mark Schafer, another organizer from the Montgomery county chapter of FDPA. If it is OK to present a few slides, I can bring a short presentation on a USB drive or I can bring my laptop. Just let me know what works best with your set up. About how many minutes would I be allowed for the presentation?

I am attaching several informational documents that you could pass along to the council members this week in advance of the meeting. I can also bring paper handouts. How many copies of each should I bring?

Here is a description of what is attached:

FDPA Gerrymander Infographic -- one-page infographic giving some of the basic facts relevant to PA's gerrymandering problem

FDPA Electoral Integrity... -- a recent Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article excerpt about gerrymandering/Fair Districts PA

FDPA Economic Impacts... -- two-page sheet on how gerrymandering and divided government hurt small businesses

FDPA Mission... -- Fair Districts PA's mission statement

FDPA Summary... -- A summary of SB22 redistricting reform legislation that has been introduced in the PA state senate

FDPA Sample Resolution... -- A sample resolution in support of Fair Districts PA's initiative, these resolutions have been customized and adopted by several other municipalities in our state

If they would like more information before the meeting they could look at the FDPA slideset, which gives even more details: <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/redistricting-101->

I'm looking forward to the meeting on March 7. Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Best,
Olivia Castello
408 Tennis Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002
917-282-6967

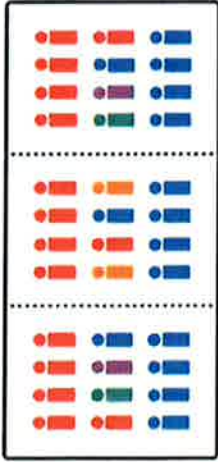
On Wed, Feb 8, 2017 at 9:22 AM, Mary Aversa <maversa@borough.ambler.pa.us> wrote:

What is Gerrymandering?

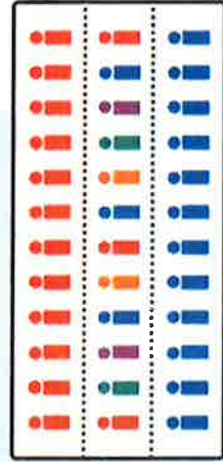
Gerrymandering is the redrawing of district boundaries to benefit one political party.

How Does Gerrymandering Work?

FAIR AND COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS LIKE THIS:



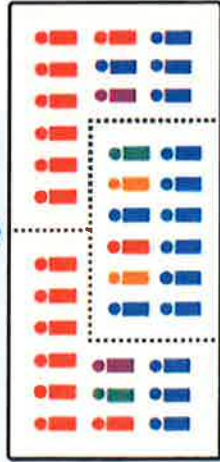
ARE REDRAWN TO BENEFIT ONE PARTY LIKE THIS:



"SWEETHEART" GERRYMANDER OR "PARTISAN HANDSHAKE": Incumbent protection by both sides

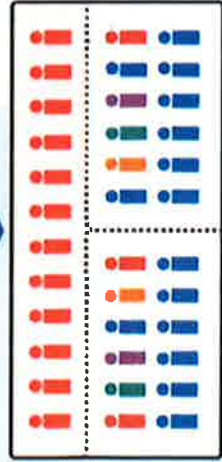
OR

CRACKED: splitting a population and spreading its members among several districts where they become an irrelevant minority



OR

PACKED: concentrating voters of one party or group in as few districts as possible to reduce their influence in the remaining districts



Who Does It & Why?

- Party in power controls redistricting every 10 years
- Both **Republicans and Democrats** gerrymander districts to ensure their party wins elections

How Does It Impact Congress?

- Shifts focus to **winning and control** rather than effective governance
- Increased **gridlock**; compromise impossible with extremes governing
- Moderate voices and ideas are **devalued**

How Does It Impact Voters?

- **Frustration**; voters feel legislators don't listen to their concerns but are unable to vote them out
- **Fewer choices** in primary elections
- Often **no choice in general elections**

Why Pennsylvania?

- Pennsylvania is a **swing state**
- PA has **no limits** on PAC donations, lobbyists' donations or funds raised by outside groups

Fair Districts PA is Working to End Gerrymandering

FAIR DISTRICTS PA PRIORITIES:

- Independent redistricting commission
- Transparent process with public participation
- Strict timeline for completion (2020)
- Other causes of districting unfairness

Join the Fight for Fair Representation!



NETWORK! Join others in fighting for fair voting practices in PA.



EDUCATE! Inform family and friends of the stifling effects of gerrymandering.



ADVOCATE! Encourage legislators to sponsor redistricting reform.

www.FairDistrictsPA.com



FAIR DISTRICTS PA
Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

Researchers say Pennsylvania's electoral system among worst in country



TOM FONTAINE | Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2016, 6:18 p.m.



TRIBUNE REVIEW

Pennsylvania's electoral system has as much integrity as systems in Cuba, Bulgaria and Hungary, according to a recent analysis.

The Electoral Integrity Project, affiliated with Harvard University and the University of Sydney in Australia, evaluated states' electoral systems based on interviews with more than 700 political scientists.

Researchers scored states on the perceived integrity of 11 aspects of the electoral process, from how congressional and legislative districts are drawn to how votes are cast and counted.

Pennsylvania's overall score of 56 out of 100 tied for fifth-worst among U.S. states, ahead of only Oklahoma, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Arizona.

It also tied the scores of Cuba, Bulgaria and Hungary in the Electoral Integrity Project's global research, which used the same criteria.

"What jumps out (with Pennsylvania's results) is gerrymandering," said Harvard political scientist Pippa Norris, referring to the state's score of 11 out of 100 for the way it draws legislative and congressional district boundaries. Only Wisconsin and North Carolina scored worse.

Legislative redistricting is done by a five-person panel that includes the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and House, along with a fifth person appointed by the four leaders. Critics argue it gives legislative leaders too much clout over rank-and-file members.

"It's one of the factors that keeps rank-and-file legislators in line with what leadership wants them to do. They are always mindful of the possibility of retaliation," said Bob Warner, spokesman for the Pennsylvania chapter of the government watchdog group Common Cause.

Warner said rank-and-file members who step out of line could see their districts redrawn to make it more difficult for them to win reelection.

Congressional redistricting proposals must be approved by the full Senate and House and signed by the governor. In Pennsylvania's past two redistricting processes, Republicans controlled the Senate, House and governor's mansion — effectively giving the GOP control over the drawing of congressional districts. The next redistricting will occur after the 2020 Census.

Norris said many districts are gerrymandered to favor one party or another in such a way that incumbents become virtually unbeatable, often resulting in less competition. That makes elected officials less accountable and less responsive to constituents and contributes to gridlock in Washington, she said.

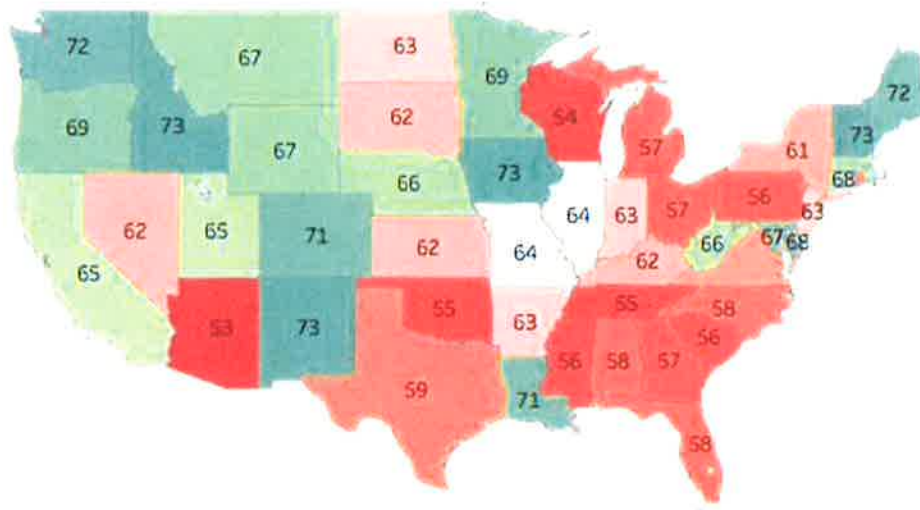
In November, all but two of Pennsylvania's 18 congressional races were decided by 10 percentage points or more. Three incumbents had no opponents, including U.S. Reps. Mike Kelly, R-Butler, and Tim Murphy, R-Upper St. Clair.

Fair Districts PA, a group led by Common Cause and the League of Women Voters, is working to place the redistricting process in the hands of an independent commission. The state constitution would have to be amended to change the process, requiring lawmakers to pass related bills in two consecutive legislative sessions and voters to support such a change through a public referendum.

A related effort stalled during the past legislative session.

"It's a long shot, but there is much more attention being focused on the problem than there was 10 years ago," Warner said, noting that state Sen. Lisa Boscola, D-Lehigh Valley, plans to introduce a redistricting reform bill in January. A sponsor has yet to be lined up in the state House.

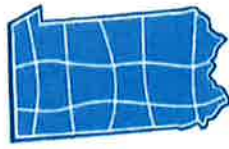
The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity 100-point Index, PEI, US, 2016. Higher scores mean better electoral laws, procedures, and safeguards, according to local experts. *The Electoral Integrity Project PEI-US 2016* (1.0) www.electoralintegrityproject.com <http://www.vox.com/the-big-idea/2016/12/24/14074762/electoral-integrity-states>



A ranking of states, from best to worst, according to perceptions of electoral integrity by experts. *Source: The Electoral Integrity Project PEI-US 2016 (1.0) www.electoralintegrityproject.com.*

State	Electoral integrity	Electoral laws	Electoral procedures	Electoral boundaries	Voter registration	Party representation	Media coverage	Campaign finance	Transparency	Voter access	Ballots	Electoral integrity	Rank
Vermont	75	85	85	82	80	81	80	80	70	85	80	81	1
Idaho	73	74	76	81	80	82	80	81	73	84	80	81	2
New Hampshire	73	55	76	88	84	83	84	80	74	82	78	82	3
Utah	73	84	84	73	80	81	84	80	71	80	80	83	4
New Mexico	73	56	80	84	83	83	88	74	71	88	84	83	5
Maine	72	66	85	82	82	82	83	80	75	85	80	87	6
Washington	72	80	83	83	82	85	85	82	78	86	87	86	7
Hawaii	72	67	84	83	78	80	83	86	73	79	84	73	8
Louisiana	71	51	84	82	85	84	83	88	70	80	75	83	9
Colorado	71	84	87	82	82	73	85	82	78	83	87	86	10
Maryland	70	84	83	88	83	81	78	80	76	83	83	84	11
Oregon	68	84	76	85	73	78	82	85	80	88	83	85	12
Minnesota	68	82	79	85	84	80	81	84	76	82	84	82	13
Delaware	68	80	83	83	80	79	81	80	78	82	82	80	14
Connecticut	68	81	78	83	83	75	80	81	80	82	84	80	15
Montana	67	83	78	83	80	73	80	81	80	82	84	80	16
Massachusetts	67	81	87	78	84	79	80	86	72	80	84	80	17
Wyoming	67	83	85	86	81	84	80	80	74	80	84	79	18
DC	67	81	79	81	81	74	80	80	72	78	84	78	19
West Virginia	66	80	84	84	82	80	80	84	70	80	84	80	20
Alaska	66	80	83	83	83	80	80	80	84	80	84	80	21
Nebraska	66	85	83	86	83	84	80	80	80	80	84	80	22
Kentucky	66	85	83	85	87	73	80	84	80	80	84	80	23
Utah	65	84	83	87	83	80	83	84	80	84	84	80	24
Louisiana	64	87	80	88	81	74	83	87	73	80	83	80	25
Missouri	64	81	73	82	80	78	83	87	80	80	84	80	26
New Jersey	63	80	83	83	87	73	81	85	86	80	82	84	27
Arkansas	63	82	81	87	81	77	81	88	81	80	80	80	28
Idaho	63	88	79	88	88	85	88	85	87	80	80	80	29
North Dakota	63	80	80	82	80	73	84	80	72	80	80	80	30
Kentucky	62	83	77	85	88	80	85	87	81	77	72	73	31
South Carolina	62	88	78	87	80	87	80	81	72	72	74	80	32
Texas	61	85	77	88	84	78	83	87	84	73	87	80	33
Nevada	62	83	80	85	87	88	82	82	73	76	84	78	34
New York	61	87	86	83	80	88	82	88	85	78	81	73	35
Virginia	60	81	75	86	88	70	88	88	84	80	86	78	36
Texas	59	82	70	88	88	70	84	83	84	75	83	87	37
Hawaii	58	85	73	83	83	70	88	85	88	78	82	85	38
North Carolina	58	78	73	87	80	74	89	82	88	73	80	78	39
Alabama	58	84	80	87	80	82	80	81	82	76	71	80	40
Michigan	57	82	78	83	81	74	81	89	84	71	81	85	41
Ohio	57	86	73	86	88	73	88	88	88	77	81	83	42
Georgia	57	87	73	88	80	85	85	89	85	75	83	81	43
Rhode Island	57	89	73	82	86	89	88	83	82	74	88	80	44
Pennsylvania	56	89	73	83	83	72	88	88	85	73	88	80	45
South Carolina	56	85	78	83	84	84	83	83	81	73	84	83	46
Mississippi	55	86	72	87	88	71	88	88	81	74	80	81	47
Oklahoma	55	81	88	83	83	85	82	87	83	73	88	84	48
Tennessee	55	82	73	88	87	85	85	87	83	78	81	80	49
Wisconsin	54	87	80	88	84	72	88	88	85	85	87	84	50
Arizona	53	78	85	83	87	81	87	84	84	89	81	84	51
Total	84	87	78	83	85	75	83	83	69	79	85	73	

For a comparison and links to other evaluations of US democracy: It's even worse than the news about North Carolina: American elections rank last among all Western democracies <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2017/01/08>



FAIR DISTRICTS PA

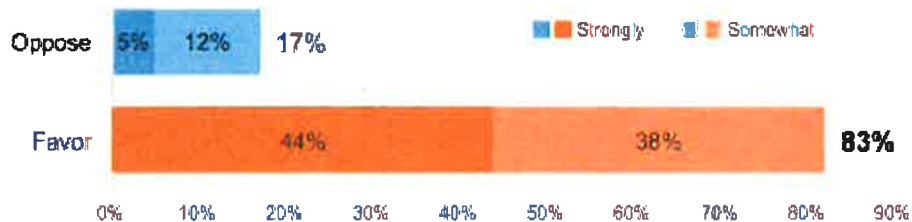
Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

Functional Government Is Essential to a Positive Economic Climate

Small Businesses Harmed by Outside Influence:

A 2014 poll of small businesses found that 83% of their owners would like to see a change in the way district boundaries are drawn. They would support a non-partisan independent citizens commission to draw district lines with neutral criteria so that one party or politician is not favored over others.¹

Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose the following steps to improve our democracy and the way elections are conducted: Instead of having elected officials draw the district boundaries, they would be drawn by a non-partisan independent citizens' commission of informed voters. This constitutional amendment would also require that districts be drawn using neutral criteria so that one political party or politician is not favored over others.



Divided Government Detrimental to Economic Growth:

A September 2016 report from the Harvard Business School, [Problems Unsolved and a Nation Divided](#), identified government dysfunction as a key contributor to a stagnant economy.

"So much of what happens in our government seems more focused on the parties and scoring political points, rather than taking steps that will benefit the average citizen. Yet, while results for the citizens are next to nonexistent, the parties themselves and other actors involved in the political system are thriving in terms of funding, media coverage, and attention. This disconnect between political system success and citizen satisfaction points to a failure in how the political system is designed and operates."²

¹ [Opinion Poll Small Business Owners Support Reforming U.S. Elections](#) October 30, 2014

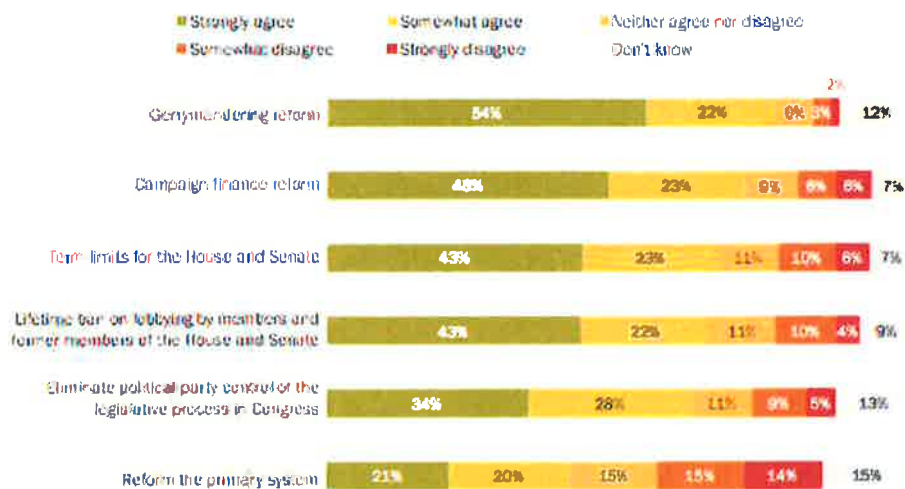
² [Problems Unsolved and a Nation Divided](#), Harvard Business School, September 2016

<http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/Documents/problems-unsolved-and-a-nation-divided.pdf> 53

Alumni considered partisan redistricting a primary target for reform, with 54% strongly agreeing and another 22% somewhat agreeing with the need for gerrymandering reform. The report concluded:

“... dysfunction in America’s political system is now the most important single problem facing America. . . . The political system is not only a crucial priority for citizens but has also become the greatest priority for business. Many in business have been wary of politics or made our political dysfunction worse through self interested efforts to influence government. When business becomes a special interest, it undermines competitiveness and the environment for all business, not to mention public support for business. Corporate leaders must rethink how they engage with government and play a positive role in restoring shared prosperity. The impact of politics on our economy and our society can no longer be ignored. Changing the trajectory of the political system has become a major national priority in this phase of our democracy, if not the major priority. The system will not fix itself. Nor is hoping for better candidates a solution. Whichever candidates we elect will be trapped in a system that stands in the way of constructive progress.”¹

FIGURE 9: SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS TO REFORM POLITICS (ALUMNI)



The LA Chamber of Commerce was a key contributor to the successful push for an independent redistricting commission in California, which has paved the way for more competitive, accountable elections. In other states, state and local chambers have recognized the importance of local and state governments that are more interested in problem-solving than partisan posturing and have formed alliances in support of gerrymandering reform.²

¹ [Problems Unsolved and a Nation Divided](#), Harvard Business School, Sept. 2016 58

² [L.A. Area Chamber Helps Usher in Historic Redistricting Reform in California](#), Chamber-authored Proposition 11 Passes by Nearly 200,000 Votes, Dec. 9, 2008
[Local Small Businesses Demand an End to North Carolina Gerrymandering](#), Oct. 4, 2016



FAIR DISTRICTS PA

Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

Fair Districts PA Mission Statement

Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan, statewide coalition of individuals and organizations who believe free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy. Our mission is to ensure the redistricting process in Pennsylvania is transparent, impartial and fair. We oppose gerrymandering – the partisan manipulation of electoral districts for political gain – and support assigning the redistricting power to an independent citizens commission.

Our Goal:

To secure the adoption of an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution replacing the current partisan system of redistricting with an independent, impartial Citizens Redistricting Commission before release of the 2020 U.S. Census.

OBJECTIVE 1

Secure the introduction and passage of acceptable amending legislation in both chambers of the Pennsylvania Legislature in the 2017-18 and 2019-20 sessions.

OBJECTIVE 2

Conduct a successful statewide campaign to pass the required referendum approving the amending legislation.

Our Standards for Reform:

- Adhere to the provisions of the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions
- Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and “one person, one vote” standard
- Prohibit drawing district lines to favor or disfavor any political party, individual or community of interest
- Respect political subdivision boundaries and natural geographic barriers
- Ensure that the results of redistricting fall within accepted measures of fairness
- Require that redistricting commission members and their immediate families not be legislators, government or political party officials or their staff and consultants
- Make the redistricting process transparent and provide meaningful opportunities for public participation

All actions, programs and policies of Fair Districts PA will be consistent with the principles and strategies adopted January 12, 2016, by the founding members and organizations.

Fair Districts PA, 226 Forster Street, Harrisburg PA 17102 ♦ (717) 234-1576

For more information, email info@FairDistrictsPA.com or visit our website at www.FairDistrictsPA.com

Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fairdistrictspa) and Twitter (@FairDistrictsPA)



FAIR DISTRICTS PA

Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

Summary of Redistricting Reform Legislation, Senate Bill 22

A bipartisan pair of state senators are introducing legislation to put an independent citizens commission in charge of both legislative and congressional redistricting. Sen. Lisa Boscola (D, Northampton and Lehigh counties) and Mario Scavello (R, Monroe and Northampton counties) are the prime sponsors of the new reform proposal, Senate Bill 22. Modeled on a similar plan in California, it attempts to combine and improve on two redistricting reform bills that died in committee last session.

The new bill would begin the process of changing the state constitution to create a new 11-member redistricting commission, composed of citizen volunteers who meet qualifications developed by the Pennsylvania Secretary of State. Using those predetermined criteria, the Secretary of State would create three pools of qualified candidates, with one pool representing each of the major parties and a third composed of third-party or unaffiliated voters. No current or recent elected officials, candidates, political party officials, their aides or spouses would be eligible to serve. Legislative leaders from both houses and parties would be able to strike a designated number of candidates from each pool.

Redistricting commissioners would be chosen at random from the three pools of eligible candidates, with four from each major party and three from the unaffiliated or third-party voters, to reflect the state's racial, gender and geographical diversity.

The commission would establish transparent procedures and adhere to a strict timetable for its work, providing meaningful opportunity for public input prior to drawing plans and again before adopting final plans. All information used in creating plans would be available on a publicly accessible website. Data disclosing the party affiliations of voting blocs and the locations of any individuals would not be considered.

Approval of a final plan would require votes from at least one member from each group, with a required super-majority of seven. Once approved by the commission, the new district maps would not be subject to approval by the General Assembly or the governor. Citizens aggrieved by a final plan could appeal it directly to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

No other nation allows the conflict of interest created by politicians drawing lines that directly govern their own elections. The proposed amendment provides multiple safeguards for a more fair, less partisan process and would reduce the ability of either party to manipulate district lines to its own advantage.

Fair Districts PA and allied organizations are deeply concerned with the proposal to reduce the size of the state House without an additional amendment to ensure a more impartial, independent and transparent redistricting process.

A review draft of the proposed legislation will be available soon.

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A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of this [county/city/township/geographic area], and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in the gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions and communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, and allow for public input, and will fully comply with the constitutional requirement that “no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward” be divided “unless absolutely necessary,” and

WHEREAS, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that [this][name of Board/Council/Organization/Chamber] does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

Borough Of Ambler

131 ROSEMARY AVENUE
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002-4476

PHONE 215-646-1000
FAX 215-641-1355 ADMINISTRATION
FAX 215-641-1921 WATER DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE: www.boroughofambler.com



February 28, 2017

Mary Aversa, Borough Manager
Borough of Ambler
122 East Butler Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

Re: Proposed Draft Ordinance
Medical Marijuana Growing/Processing

Dear Mrs. Aversa:

Please be advised that the Ambler Borough Planning Commission at its February 28, 2017, meeting voted unanimously to pass the proposed Montgomery County Planning Commission January 24, 2017, draft language Memo regarding compliance with Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Act for permitting medical marijuana growing/processing facilities and dispensaries in Borough Zoning Districts to our Borough Solicitor who will provide a draft Ordinance to the Planning Commission for review at a future meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Chairman, Robert Lagreca.

Very truly yours,

Carol Ann DiPietro
Secretary
Ambler Borough Planning Commission



March 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinance DRAFT

TO: Glenn Kucher, Borough Code Enforcement Officer
Joseph Bresnan, Esq., Borough Solicitor

FROM: Lauren Van Dyk, Community Planner

§27-202 Definitions

DISPENSARY – A person who holds a permit issued by the Department to dispense medical marijuana. The term does not include a health care medical marijuana organization as defined under Sections 1901-1908 of the Act.

GROWER/PROCESSOR – A person who holds a permit from the Department under the Act to grow and process medical marijuana. This term does not include a health care medical marijuana organization as defined under Sections 1901-1908 of the Act.

GROWING/PROCESSING FACILITY – Any building or structure used to dispense medical marijuana by a licensed dispensary and that meets all requirements of the Act.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA – Marijuana for certified medical use as set forth in the Act.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ORGANIZATION or FACILITY – A dispensary or a growing/processing facility. The term does not include a health care medical marijuana organization under Sections 1901-1908 of the Act or a clinical registrant under Sections 2001-2003 of the Act.

GROWING/PROCESSING FACILITIES

§27-1502.1 I-Industrial District Permitted Uses.

F. Medical marijuana growing/processing facility.

§27-1504 I-Industrial Development Regulations.

H. Medical marijuana growing/processing facilities.

1. All applicable standards in Part IX, Title 28 of the Pennsylvania Code shall apply to any medical marijuana facility.
2. The growing/processing facility shall not be located in a trailer, cargo container, mobile or modular unit, mobile home, recreational vehicle or other motor vehicle.
3. A facility shall have an enclosed secure area out of public sight for the loading and unloading of medical marijuana into and from a transport vehicle (temporary regulations §1151.23.c).

Off-street parking for medical marijuana growing/processing facilities shall comply with Part 21 Off-Street Parking and Loading. Parking space requirement for industrial uses: *1 space per 500 square feet of gross floor area or per employee on the largest shift, whichever is greater; plus 1 unloading area/dock for each building complex.*

DISPENSARIES

§27-1302.1 C-Commercial District Permitted Uses

- K. Medical marijuana dispensary.

§27-1306 C-Commercial Development Regulations

- A. Medical marijuana dispensaries.
 1. All applicable standards in Part IX, Title 28 of the Pennsylvania Code shall apply to any medical marijuana facility.
 2. Signage shall comply with Part 20 contained herein.

Off-street parking for medical marijuana dispensaries shall comply with Part 21 Off-Street Parking and Loading. Parking space requirement for retail uses: *1 space per 250 square feet of gross sales floor area plus 1 space per employee on the largest shift.*

THE BOROUGH OF AMBLER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA
ORDINANCE NUMBER _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF AMBLER AMENDING THE SIGN ORDINANCE, TITLE 27 OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES, BY AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF TEMPORARY SIGN, CREATING UNIFORM
REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TEMPORARY SIGNS AND REMOVING TIME LIMITS ON THE DISPLAY OF
TEMPORARY SIGNS; LEAVING THE REMAINDER OF THE ORDINANCE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Ambler has enacted a chapter of the codified zoning ordinance that regulates all manner of signs throughout the Borough, and

WHEREAS, as the result of a decision of the United States Supreme Court, *Gilbert v Arizona*, all manner of temporary signs must be treated equally and without regard to the content of the sign, and the Borough wishes its ordinance to be in conformity of the law,

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDAINED as follows:

1. 27-2003 of the Borough Codified Ordinances, "Definitions" is amended as follows: The existing definition of "Temporary Sign" is deleted and in its place the following shall be inserted:
"A non-commercial sign that provides notice of an event such as a yard sale or other civic function; election signs advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or ballot question; signs advertising the auction or sale of real estate or personal property; or any other non-commercial sign expressing a view or opinion that is not obscene or otherwise impermissible. The definition shall also include non-temporary commercial signage such as real estate and development signs and signs for events beyond normal day to day business operations such as grand opening or going out of business. Such signs must be stationary, not placed in rights of way nor extend into rights of way, shall not obscure clear views at intersections or curves, shall not be illuminated, shall not be higher than four feet in height nor greater than twelve square feet of aggregate surface area. There shall not be more than two such signs on one property. These regulations control all manner of temporary sign even if not expressly named herein, and these regulations are controlling over any other dimensional regulations elsewhere in the sign ordinance.
2. 27-2005, "Exempt Signs", is hereby amended as follows: The following paragraphs are deleted:
"B", Real estate signs
"C", Political signs
"E", Civic Event signs.
"I", Temporary signs, sub-paragraphs (1) through (5) inclusive. In its place, Paragraph "I" will say only, "Temporary Signs" and will have no text thereafter.
3. 27-2006, "Signs in Residential Districts" is amended as follows: Paragraph "D", Real Estate signs, is deleted. Paragraph "E", Development signs, is deleted.
4. 27-2007, "Signs in the Non-Residential Zoning Districts DC, C, O, OC, RSC, IN" is amended as follows: Paragraph "B", Real Estate and Development Signs, is deleted.

The remainder of the sign ordinance remains in full force and effect, unaffected by the within amendments. This ordinance is effective on the earliest date set forth in section 3301.3(b) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code.

SO ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2017

Salvatore Pasceri, Council President

ATTEST: _____
Mary Aversa, Secretary

Parks & Recreation Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Mr. DeRuosi, Chairperson
Mrs. Deininger
Mrs. Hertz

OLD BUSINESS

1. **BOROUGH AVENUE 'POCKET PARK' PROPERTY @ PARK & BUTLER**
A public survey has been prepared to receive input from Borough Residents on the Pocket Park. The 'survey monkey' survey will be posted on the Borough website.
2. **AMBLER JUNIOR BASEBALL**
The Committee is discussing fundraising efforts with Ambler Junior Baseball.
3. **EMERALD ASH BORER TREATMENT**
Trees will be tagged mid-March to identify which ash trees should be removed and which will receive treatment later this spring.
4. **SKATE PARK LIGHTS**
A request is being reviewed to consider allowing skate park lights to be on during the Winter months until 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Residents have requested the following additions to be made to Wahl Playground:
(sample photos **attached**)
 - Horizontal rock climbing wall (2). One higher wall installed on Rosemary side of the gym to be utilized by older children; 1 lower wall installed on the Poplar side of the side to be utilized by younger children.
 - Games painted on cement walkway (i.e., hopscotch, jump marks, mirror me)
 - Rope bridge extended between the trees on the Rosemary side of the building.
 - Mailbox where community sidewalk chalk can be housed.
 - Extending split rail fencing along Rosemary Avenue



Salary & Personnel Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Ms. Nancy Deininger, Chairperson
Mrs. Mc Cormick
Ms. Tomlinson
Mrs. Hertz

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY**

Letters of interest are requested from candidates to fill the Planning Commission vacancy (term expires 12/31/18). At present, five seats are held by residents of Ward #1 and three seats are held by residents of Ward #3.

2. **COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Vacancies exist on the Environmental Advisory Council, Community Ambulance Association of Ambler, and Appeals Board. Interested candidates are asked to send a letter of interest and resume to the Borough Manager.

Public Comment Procedure:

As a reminder, it will not be the practice of Council to answer questions and/or engage in dialogue with the speaker during the Public Comments section of the meeting. Comments regarding any and all employee issues will not be entertained. Council may address items or questions raised at the next scheduled Committee/Council meeting, but reserves the right to determine agenda items. Council requests that those in attendance refrain from engaging the speaker during public comments. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ambler Borough Council