

No voter preference data was used in drawing the nine region map presented to the Central Bucks School District Advisory Committee on August 16th. The reasons for not using the data are as follows:

1. School board races occur in odd year elections with low general election turnout – usually 20% to 25%, if that, of registered voters. Even-year elections see voter turnout of over 50%, often 65% or more. These are two vastly different election environments; using even year data can lead to questionable conclusions about the election performance of school board regions.
2. Voter registration is not necessarily indicative of how someone votes. Elections are being driven more by individual candidates or issues than by party organization and strength.
3. There is no analysis I am aware of that determines how voter registration correlates with voter performance in the Central Bucks School District. Or, how the impact of no party, or other party voters affect a local election.
4. The ability of School Board candidates to cross file and run as both a Republican and Democrat complicates any analysis of voter performance.
5. Voter preference data should not be the predominant factor that draws a map at the expense of the other redistricting criteria I discussed on August 16th. If a map can be drawn that balances the constitutional factors of equal population, compactness, and contiguity, as well as other criteria recognized by the courts, then that map deserves strong consideration without the distorting predominance of election data.