

# HUGE NEWS -- PA Redistricting Plan Dumped!

January 27, 2012

Big News broke this week on Wednesday when the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court issued a courageous, bipartisan Order that dumped the new Legislative Reapportionment Plan, calling it "contrary to law." The court ordered the current (2001) PA House and PA Senate districts to "be used in all forthcoming elections to the General Assembly until the next constitutionally mandated reapportionment shall be approved."

This ruling came as petitioning was already underway for potential major party candidates to qualify for the 2012 Primary Election ballot. Several important petitioning dates were altered by the Supreme Court's Order. Petitions for PA House and PA Senate will now be circulated from January 26, until Thursday, February 16. Signatures collected January 24 and 25 will be considered valid as to timeliness, subject to any other statutory challenge.

It is possible that the Legislative Reapportionment Commission could come up with a new plan that would satisfy the State Supreme Court's objections in time for the 2012 Primary. But given that petitioning is now well underway under the old plan, and the Supreme Court justices have not yet issued their official Opinion offering guidance to the Commission (and the Justices are now off to a legal convention in Puerto Rico), this is increasingly unlikely.

This change does not affect federal candidates, statewide candidates, or candidates to become Delegates to the 2012 political conventions.

(SOURCE: *votePA.us*)