Redistricting should not be used as a political tool to gain partisan advantage. This is gerrymandering, and it disenfranchises voters and gives unfair political advantage to one political party over another. It is fundamentally dishonest. Also note that in a recent poll showed that 90% Pennsylvanians are against partisan gerrymandering.

House and Senate members were not elected to fight for partisan political advantage. They were elected to represent all voters in their districts, not just the members of their party. If a member of the House or Senate cannot function in a non-partisan manner during redistricting, the House or Senate member should recuse themselves from the redistricting process. There's no place for partisanship and gerrymandering in state government.

District maps should be developed with no concern for party affiliation, potential election outcomes, or the addresses of incumbents. There should be no manipulation of maps of any kind to affect an election outcome -- that is gerrymandering.

Maps should have compact districts with population deviation as low as possible. For a congressional map, population deviation of one percent or less is easily achievable. I know this because I've done it with my map. The map should also not split cities or towns unnecessarily, although some county splits are unavoidable.

Fair maps can be drawn quickly and easily, especially if House and Senate members do not allow partisan interests to interfere with the mapping process. I was able to create a fair and non-gerrymandered congressional map in just a few hours.

I also recommend that the General Assembly produce a preliminary map and publish it for public feedback before voting on a final map. This map should be accompanied by text explaining the decisions and priorities represented by the map.

My non-partisan, non-gerrymandered map, which was created in 3 ½ hours:
https://davesredistricting.org/join/57426320-025f-4792-b1f5-243c82a4a8cd

Mike Walsh
Gulph Mills, PA