

# Ad-Hoc Committee for School Board Election Plan Options

Recommendations to the Board

12-11-12

# Agenda

- Committee Purpose
- Background
- Committee Approach
- Election Plan Model Recommendation
- Region Equalization Recommendation
- Transition Plan
- Summary of Recommendations

# Committee Purpose

The Ad-Hoc Committee for School Board Election Plan Options was chartered on Sept.11, 2012 by the School Board to:

- Explore and recommend one of the election plan options prescribed in Section 3-303(b)(3) of the Public School Code of 1949.
  - Recommendation may include a change in the current 3-region boundaries to equalize the population
- Present recommendation no later than the December 11, 2012 Board meeting

Members:

- Region 1: John Crossley
- Region 2: Barbara Hartford
- Region 3: Donna Usavage (chair)

# Background – Historical Information

- Boyertown Area School District implemented the 3-region election plan model at its formation more than 40 years ago
- The boundaries of the regions were altered to equalize population in 1996.
- Census data shows that the population in Region 3 has been growing quickly while growth is stagnant in other areas, which has created an inequity in population among the regions.
- Various population growth projection models predict that this trend will continue.
- School Board Policy 9110 requires that the School Board uses decennial census data to equalize population across regions to the extent possible.

# Background – Section 3-303(b)(3) of the School Code of 1949

Three election plan formats prescribed:

- At-large – All 9 members elected district-wide
- Regional – The district is divided into 3 or 9 regions, with population being as nearly equal as possible in each region.
- Combination (or hybrid) – The district is divided into 3 regions with either 3 or 6 members elected at large.

# Committee Approach

## Steps:

1. Establish prioritized list of criteria defining a good election plan model
2. Evaluate and select an election plan model
3. If selected election plan model contains regions, evaluate and recommend best approach to equalization
4. Determine transition plan
5. Make recommendation to the Board

Community input considered key to the process!

# Prioritized list of election plan criteria

## Most important

Encourages community unity

Voters feel they are being represented equally

## Very important

Can vote for whom you wish

Good socio-economic representation (diverse pool of candidates)

Candidates feel they represent the entire district

## Important

Convenience to polling places for voters

Candidates known by all voters

Clear/simple for voters

Constituents feel that candidates represent entire district

Community feels close constituency relationship

Candidates not discouraged from running

Does not encourage candidates from just one geographic area or county

Promotes election of candidates that understand diverse community viewpoints

Minimizes maintenance of election model

Change to election model does not impact current Board members

Community participated in brainstorming and prioritization

# Evaluation of Election Plan Models

## Considerations:

- Prioritized list of election plan criteria
- PSBA data on PA school district election plan models

Each table of community members tasked with making a recommendation.

Some tables represented only one coming-in opinion.

Some tables represented opposing views.

**ALL tables recommended the hybrid model!**

## **Committee recommendation = hybrid model**

- Preliminary recommendation = 3 at-large reps + 2 reps per region.
- Secondary recommendation = 6 at-large reps + 1 rep per region  
(to be used if the transition to the prelim recommendation is unworkable)

Encourages community unity (a “most important” criteria) – observed

Can vote for whom you wish (a “very important” criteria) –  
all voters have input to the election of 5 Board members (a majority)



# Voting Region Equalization

## Considerations:

- 2000 US Census Data applied to current 3-region model
- 2010 US Census Data applied to current and proposed regions
- PEL study population projections applied to current and proposed regions
- Geography and region characteristics (e.g. rural, suburban, town)
- Prioritized list of election plan criteria
- Section 3-303(b)(3) of the School Code of 1949

## 4 proposals considered

- All proposals reduced population variation across regions
- All proposals reversed the inequity between regions 1 and 3
  - This reversed inequity will be counteracted by the population growth trends
- Proposals C & D not viable – create non-contiguous regions
- Proposal D not preferred – impacts a current Board member
- Proposal B not preferred – splits a borough

Community participated in evaluation of proposals  
Community invited to submit proposals

# 2000 Population by Region

REGION 1

| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|
| Bally           | 1        | 1,062              |
| Bechtelsville   | 1        | 931                |
| Colebrookdale   | 1        | 5,270              |
| Colebrookdale   | 2        |                    |
| Earl            | 1        | 3,050              |
| Earl            | 2        |                    |
| Washington      | 1        | 3,354              |
| TOTAL           |          | 13,667             |
| TARGET VARIANCE |          | 151                |
| % of TOTAL      |          | 33.71%             |

REGION II

| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Boyertown            | 1        | 3,940              |
| Boyertown            | 2        |                    |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1        | 3,327              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2        |                    |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2        | 7,010              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3        |                    |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4        |                    |
| TOTAL                |          | 14,277             |
| TARGET VARIANCE      |          | 761                |
| % of TOTAL           |          | 35.21%             |

REGION III

| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1        | 2,094              |
| New Hanover          | 1        | 7,369              |
| New Hanover          | 2        |                    |
| New Hanover          | 3        |                    |
| Upper Frederick      | 1        | 3,141              |

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| TOTAL           | 12,604 |
| TARGET VARIANCE | (912)  |
| % of TOTAL      | 31.08% |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 40,548 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 13,516 |

**2000 VOTING REGION POPULATION**

# 2010 Population by Region

## REGION 1

| Crossley        | Earl          | 1                  |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Haas            | Colebrookdale | 2                  |
| Parsons         | Colebrookdale | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT      | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Bally           | 1             | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville   | 1             | 942                |
| Colebrookdale   | 1             | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale   | 2             | 1,938              |
| Earl            | 1             | 1,446              |
| Earl            | 2             | 1,749              |
| Washington      | 1             | 3,810              |
| TOTAL           |               | 14,115             |
| TARGET VARIANCE |               | (1,263)            |
| % of TOTAL      |               | 30.60%             |

## REGION II

| Dierolf              | Douglass, Berks | 2                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elsier               | Douglass, Mont  | 4                  |
| Hartford             | Douglass, Mont  | 3                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
| Boyertown            | 2               | 1,967              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1               | 1,551              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2               | 1,755              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
| TOTAL                |                 | 15,410             |
| TARGET VARIANCE      |                 | 32                 |
| % of TOTAL           |                 | 33.40%             |

## REGION III

| Christman            | New Hanover     | 3                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Semmens              | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| Usavage              | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
| New Hanover          | 1               | 2,282              |
| New Hanover          | 2               | 4,636              |
| New Hanover          | 3               | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick      | 1               | 3,523              |
| TOTAL                |                 | 16,608             |
| TARGET VARIANCE      |                 | 1,230              |
| % of TOTAL           |                 | 36.00%             |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

**2010 VOTING REGION POPULATION (Current)**  
**(Based on 2010 Census)**

# Current Regions



# Region Equalization Proposal A

Step 3



REGION 1

| Crossley             | Earl            | 1                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Haas                 | Colebrookdale   | 2                  |
| Parsons              | Colebrookdale   | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Bally                | 1               | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville        | 1               | 942                |
| Colebrookdale        | 1               | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale        | 2               | 1,938              |
| Earl                 | 1               | 1,446              |
| Earl                 | 2               | 1,749              |
| Washington           | 1               | 3,810              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
|                      | TOTAL           | 16,261             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 883                |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 35.25%             |

REGION II

| Dierolf              | Douglass, Berks | 2                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elsier               | Douglass, Mont  | 4                  |
| Hartford             | Douglass, Mont  | 3                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
| Boyertown            | 2               | 1,967              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1               | 1,551              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2               | 1,755              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
|                      | TOTAL           | 15,410             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 32                 |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 33.40%             |

REGION III

| Christman       | New Hanover     | 3                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Semmens         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| Usavage         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| New Hanover     | 1               | 2,282              |
| New Hanover     | 2               | 4,636              |
| New Hanover     | 3               | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick | 1               | 3,523              |
|                 | TOTAL           | 14,462             |
|                 | TARGET VARIANCE | (916)              |
|                 | % of TOTAL      | 31.35%             |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

## PROPOSAL A

Move Douglass Montco District 1 from Region 3 to Region 1



# Proposal A

Step 3



# Region Equalization Proposal B

Step 3



## REGION 1

| Crossley      | Earl            | 1                  |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Haas          | Colebrookdale   | 2                  |
| Parsons       | Colebrookdale   | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY  | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Bally         | 1               | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville | 1               | 942                |
| Colebrookdale | 1               | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale | 2               | 1,938              |
| Earl          | 1               | 1,446              |
| Earl          | 2               | 1,749              |
| Washington    | 1               | 3,810              |
| Boyertown     | 2               | 1,967              |
|               | TOTAL           | 16,082             |
|               | TARGET VARIANCE | 704                |
|               | % of TOTAL      | 34.86%             |

## REGION II

| Dierolf              | Douglass, Berks | 2                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elsier               | Douglass, Mont  | 4                  |
| Hartford             | Douglass, Mont  | 3                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
|                      |                 |                    |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1               | 1,551              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2               | 1,755              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
|                      | TOTAL           | 15,589             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 211                |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 33.79%             |

## REGION III

| Christman       | New Hanover     | 3                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Semmens         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| Usavage         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| New Hanover     | 1               | 2,282              |
| New Hanover     | 2               | 4,636              |
| New Hanover     | 3               | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick | 1               | 3,523              |
|                 | TOTAL           | 14,462             |
|                 | TARGET VARIANCE | (916)              |
|                 | % of TOTAL      | 31.35%             |

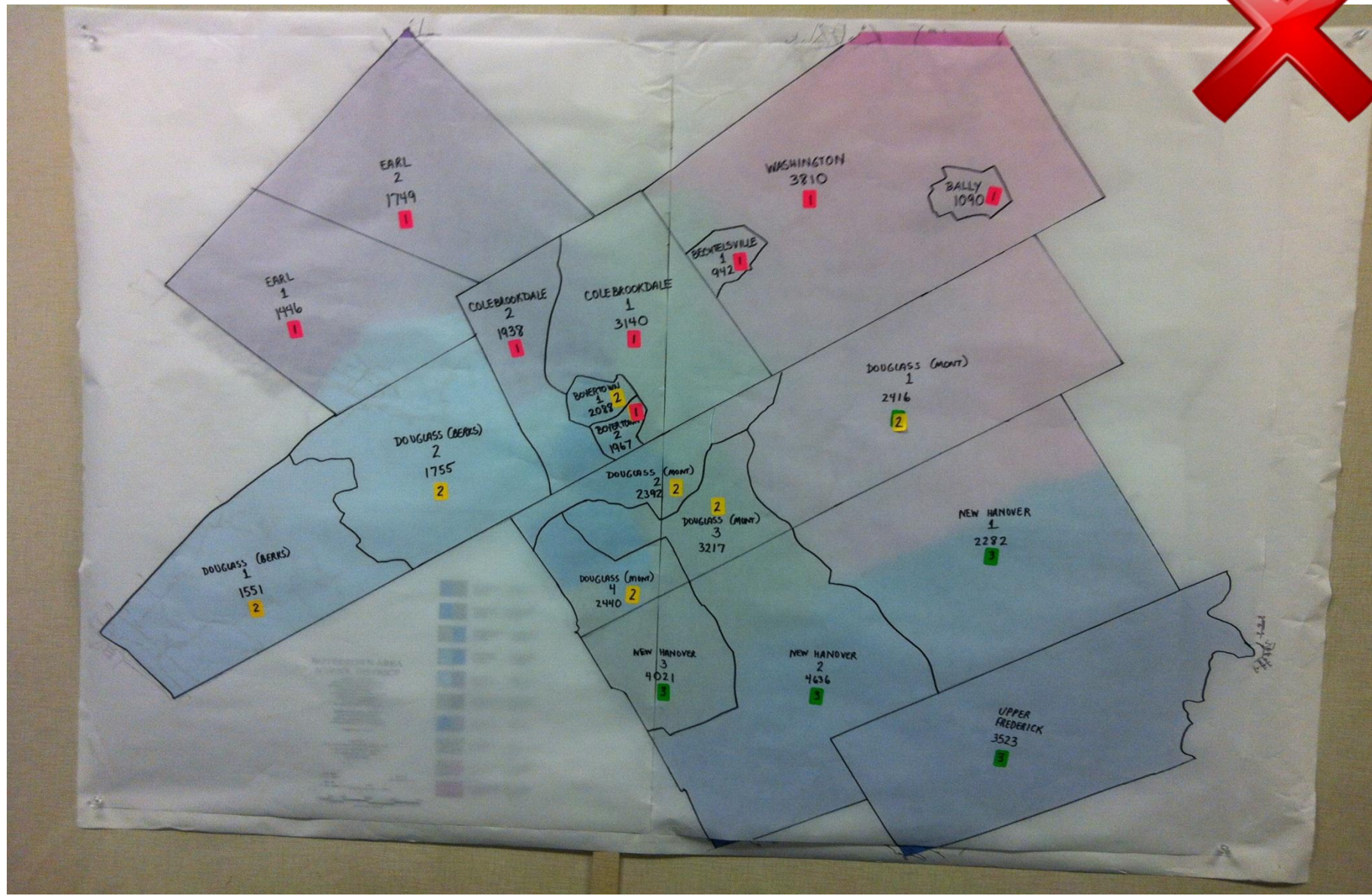
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|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

## PROPOSAL B

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Boyertown voting precinct 2 from Region 2 to Region 1



# Proposal B





# Region Equalization Proposal C

Step 3



## REGION 1

| Crossley        | Earl          | 1                  |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Haas            | Colebrookdale | 2                  |
| Parsons         | Colebrookdale | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT      | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Bally           | 1             | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville   | 1             | 942                |
| Colebrookdale   | 1             | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale   | 2             | 1,938              |
| Earl            | 1             | 1,446              |
| Earl            | 2             | 1,749              |
| Washington      | 1             | 3,810              |
| Douglass, Berks | 1             | 1,551              |
| TOTAL           |               | 15,666             |
| TARGET VARIANCE |               | 288                |
| % of TOTAL      |               | 33.96%             |

## REGION II

| Dierolf              | Douglass, Berks | 2                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elsier               | Douglass, Mont  | 4                  |
| Hartford             | Douglass, Mont  | 3                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
| Boyertown            | 2               | 1,967              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2               | 1,755              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
| TOTAL                |                 | 16,005             |
| TARGET VARIANCE      |                 | 627                |
| % of TOTAL           |                 | 34.69%             |

## REGION III

| Christman       | New Hanover     | 3                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Semmens         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| Usavage         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| New Hanover     | 1               | 2,282              |
| New Hanover     | 2               | 4,636              |
| New Hanover     | 3               | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick | 1               | 3,523              |
| TOTAL           |                 | 14,462             |
| TARGET VARIANCE |                 | (916)              |
| % of TOTAL      |                 | 31.35%             |

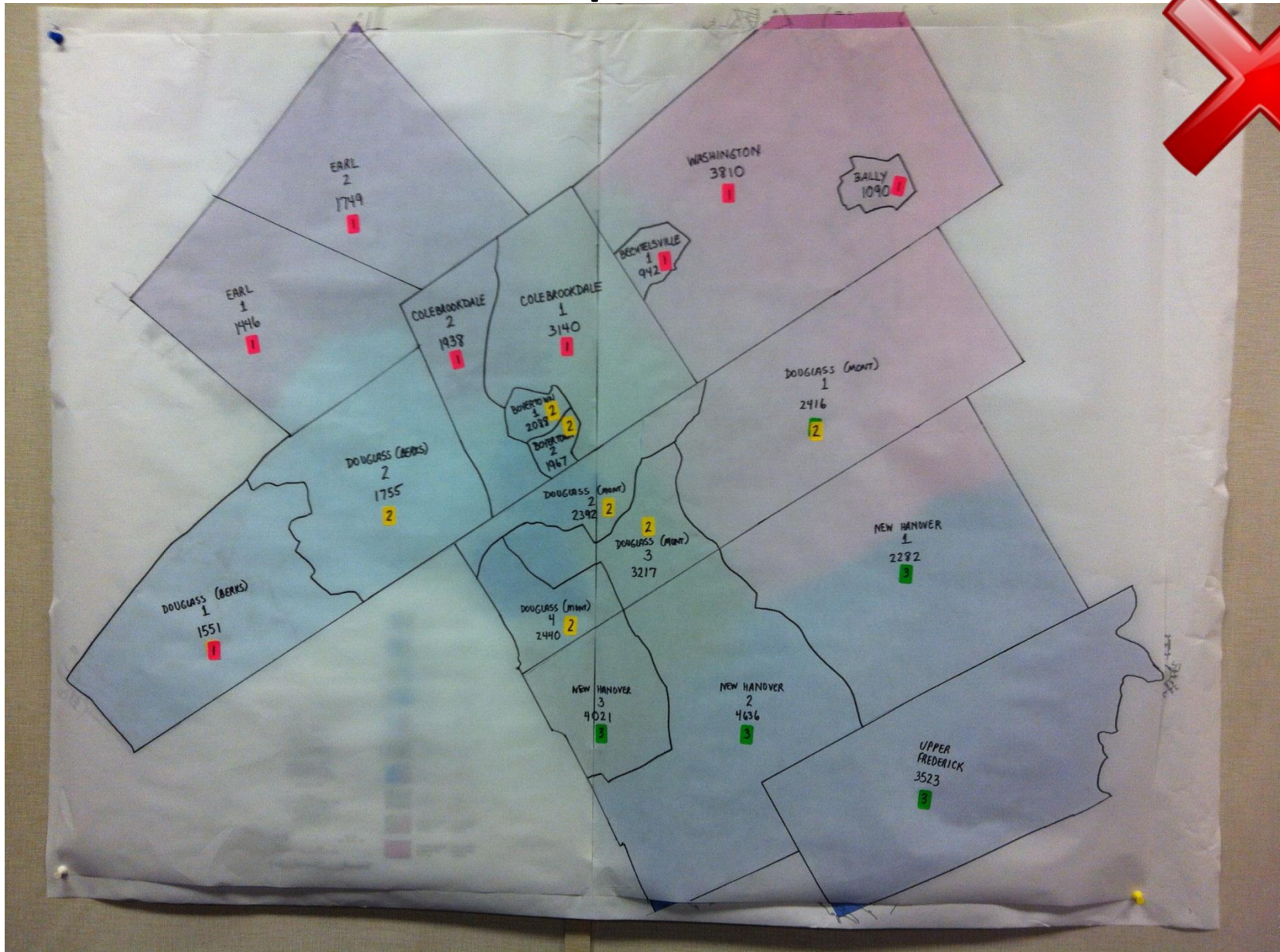
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|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

## PROPOSAL C

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Douglass Berks voting precinct 1 from Region 2 to Region 1

# Proposal C

Step 3



# Region Equalization Proposal D

Step 3



## REGION 1

Crossley Earl 1  
Haas Colebrookdale 2  
Parsons Colebrookdale 1  
Dierolf Douglass, Berks 2

| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Bally           | 1               | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville   | 1               | 942                |
| Colebrookdale   | 1               | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale   | 2               | 1,938              |
| Earl            | 1               | 1,446              |
| Earl            | 2               | 1,749              |
| Washington      | 1               | 3,810              |
| Douglass, Berks | 2               | 1,755              |
|                 |                 |                    |
|                 | TOTAL           | 15,870             |
|                 | TARGET VARIANCE | 492                |
|                 | % of TOTAL      | 34.40%             |

## REGION II

Elsier Douglass, Mont 4  
Hartford Douglass, Mont 3

| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
| Boyertown            | 2               | 1,967              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1               | 1,551              |
|                      |                 |                    |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
|                      |                 |                    |
|                      | TOTAL           | 15,801             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 423                |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 34.25%             |

## REGION III

Christman New Hanover 3  
Semmens Upper Frederick 1  
Usavage Upper Frederick 1

| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|
|                 |          |                    |
| New Hanover     | 1        | 2,282              |
| New Hanover     | 2        | 4,636              |
| New Hanover     | 3        | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick | 1        | 3,523              |

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| TOTAL           | 14,462 |
| TARGET VARIANCE | (916)  |
| % of TOTAL      | 31.35% |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

## PROPOSAL D

move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 2  
and  
move Douglass Berks voting precinct 2 from Region 2 to Region 1



# Proposal D

Step 3



# Committee Recommendation on <sup>Step 3</sup> Region Equalization

## **Committee recommendation = Proposal A**

- **Move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 1**

### Rationale:

- Equalizes population across regions to the extent possible (per School Code)
- Equalization likely to improve even more due to population trends
- Only one precinct impacted (limited disruption)
- Precinct moved to a region with similar characteristics (rural)
- Does not impact current Board members (no disruption)

Voters feel they are being represented equally  
(a “most important” criteria)

# Transition Plan

## Considerations:

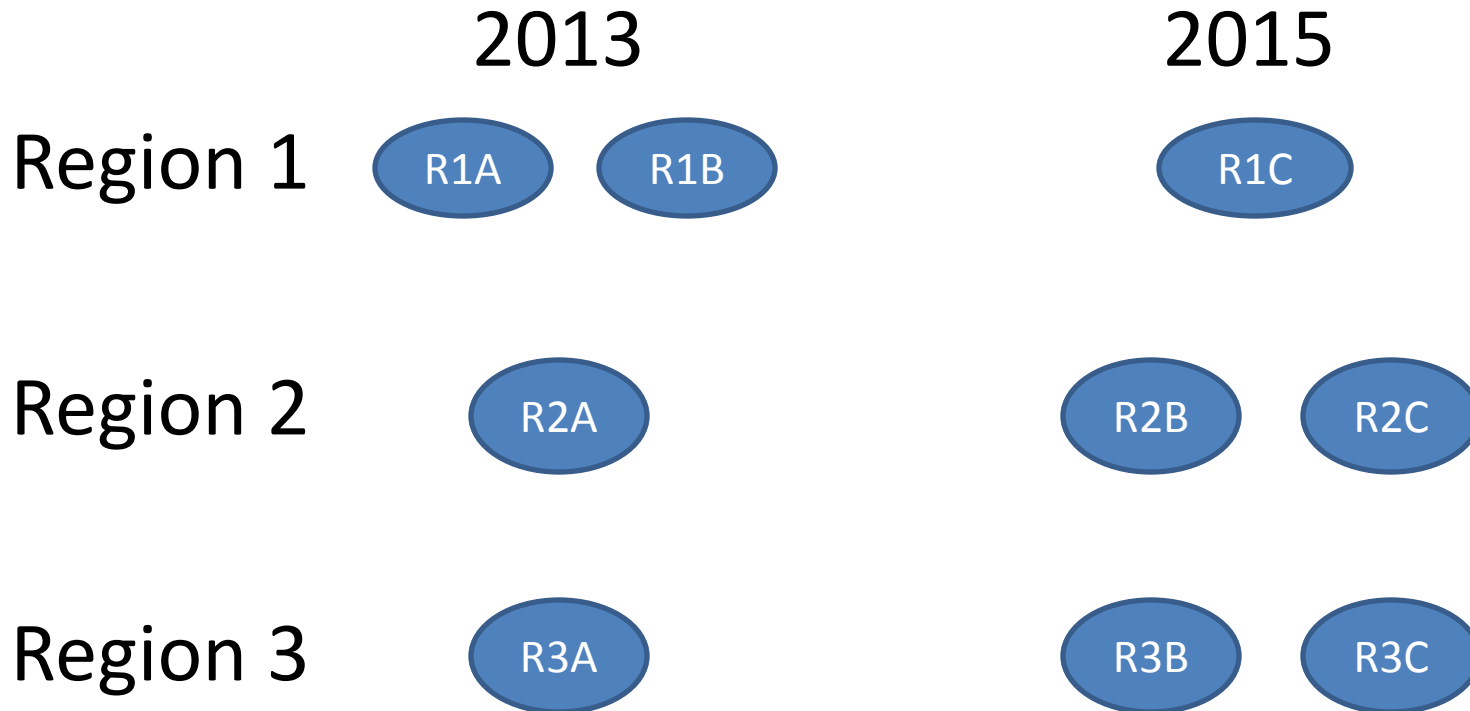
- Section 3-303(b)(3) of the School Code of 1949
  - Allowable election plans
  - Staggering of elections
- Voter experience
- Candidate experience
- Disruption to the Board

2 proposals considered for transition to hybrid model with 3 at-large reps + 2 reps per region (primary)

1 proposal discussed for transition to hybrid model with 6 at-large reps + 1 rep per region (secondary)

Community participated in discussion of transition plans

# Current Board Election Schedule



# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large<sup>Step 4</sup>

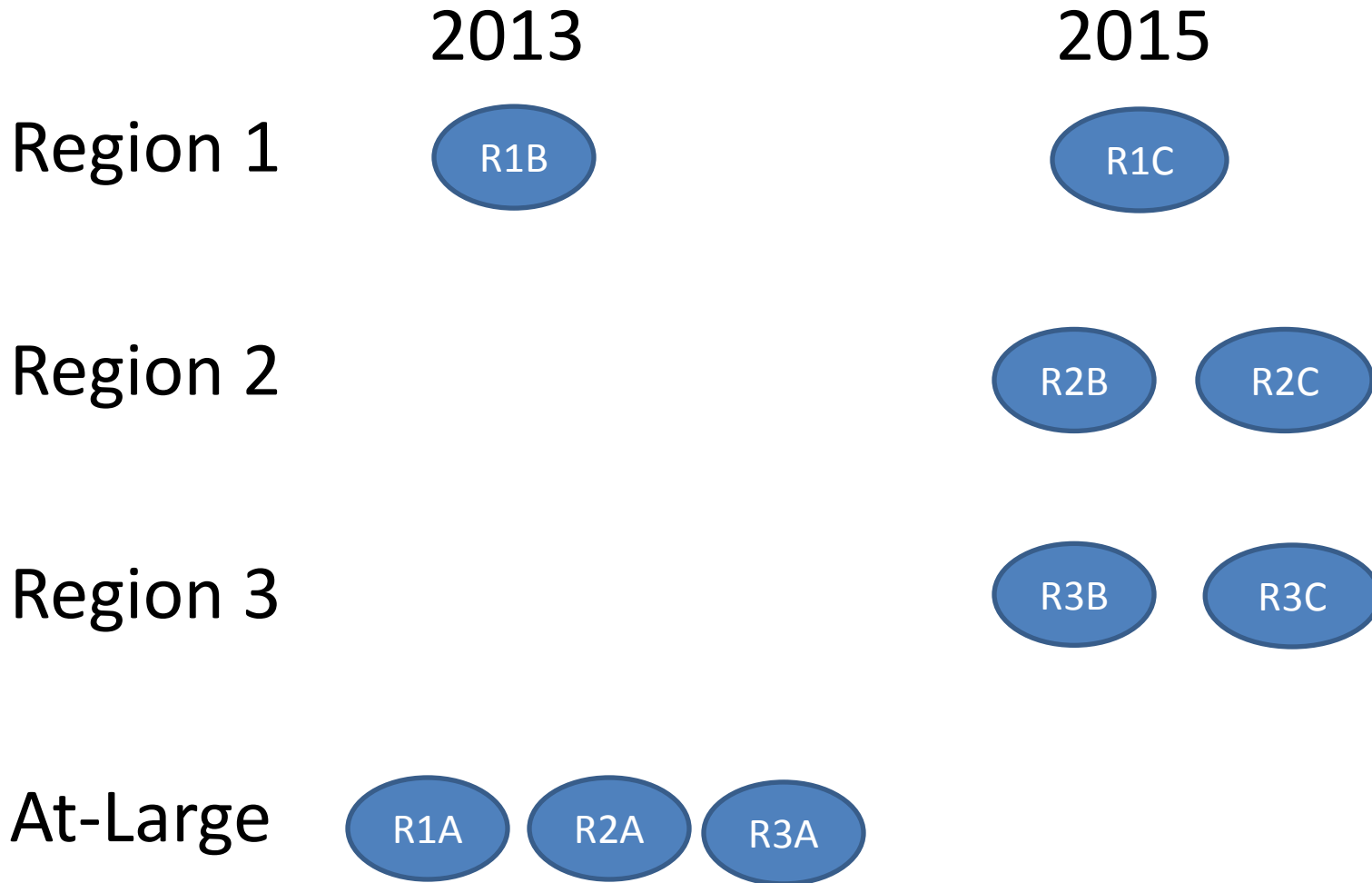
## Transition Plan



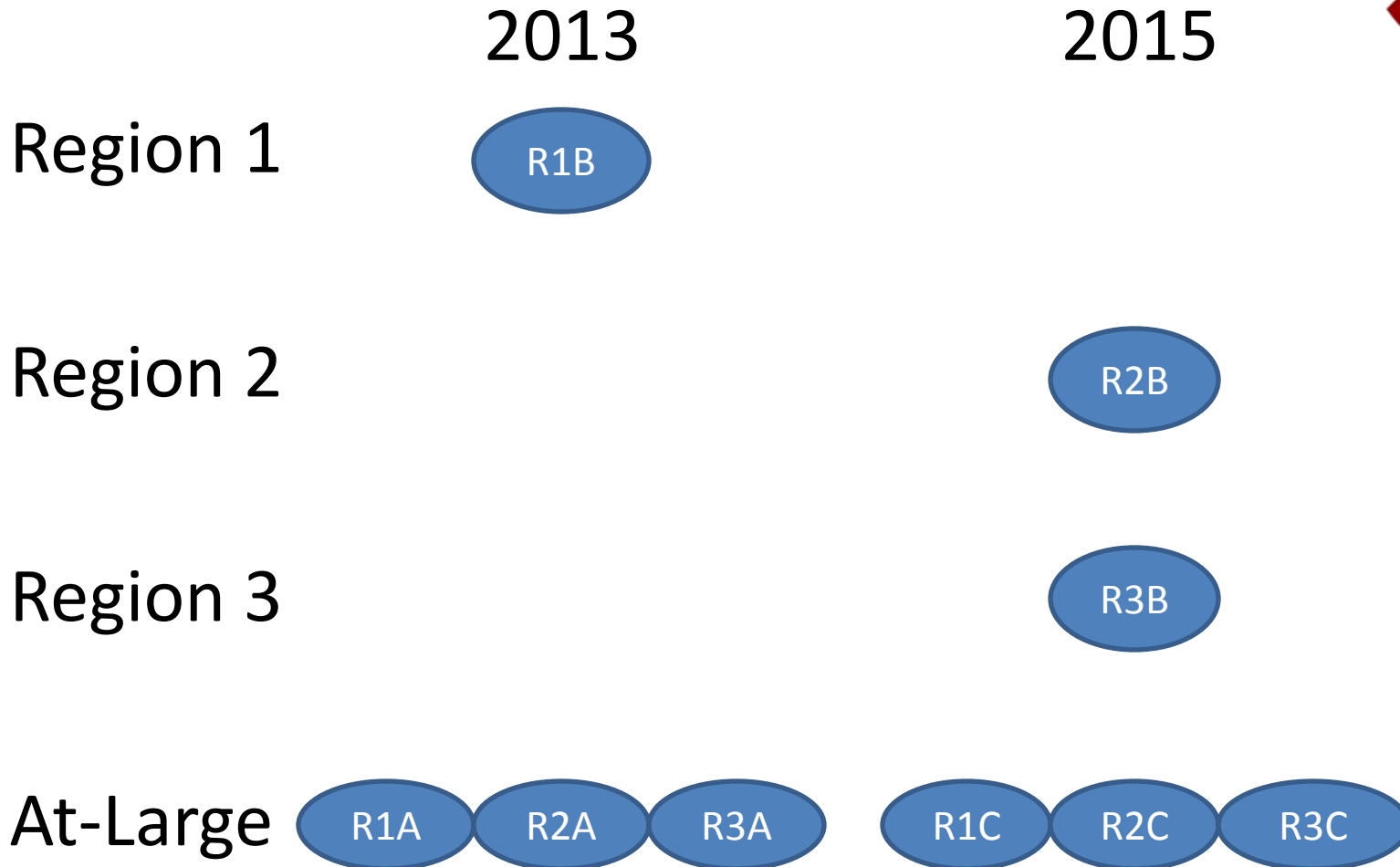
|          | 2013 | 2015    |
|----------|------|---------|
| Region 1 | R1A  | R1C     |
| Region 2 | R2A  | R2C     |
| Region 3 | R3A  | R3C     |
| At-Large | R1B  | R2B R3B |



# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large<sup>Step 4</sup> Transition Plan (alternate)



# 3 Region Directors with 6 At-Large<sup>Step 4</sup> Transition Plan



# Recommendation to the Board

- Hybrid Election Plan Model with 3 members elected at large and 2 members elected within each region
- Equalization Proposal A – Move Douglass Township (Montgomery County) voting precinct 1 from Region 3 to Region 1
- Transition Plan
  - 2013: 1 Board member elected at large to replace one of the regional seats from region 1
  - 2015: 2 Board members elected at large to replace one of the regional seats from both region 2 and region 3

# Region Equalization Proposal A

Step 5

## REGION 1

| Crossley             | Earl            | 1                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Haas                 | Colebrookdale   | 2                  |
| Parsons              | Colebrookdale   | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Bally                | 1               | 1,090              |
| Bechtelsville        | 1               | 942                |
| Colebrookdale        | 1               | 3,140              |
| Colebrookdale        | 2               | 1,938              |
| Earl                 | 1               | 1,446              |
| Earl                 | 2               | 1,749              |
| Washington           | 1               | 3,810              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 1               | 2,146              |
|                      | TOTAL           | 16,261             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 883                |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 35.25%             |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| GRAND TOTAL              | 46,133 |
| TARGET PER VOTING REGION | 15,378 |

## REGION II

| Dierolf              | Douglass, Berks | 2                  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Elsier               | Douglass, Mont  | 4                  |
| Hartford             | Douglass, Mont  | 3                  |
| MUNICIPALITY         | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| Boyertown            | 1               | 2,088              |
| Boyertown            | 2               | 1,967              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 1               | 1,551              |
| Douglass, Berks      | 2               | 1,755              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 2               | 2,392              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 3               | 3,217              |
| Douglass, Montgomery | 4               | 2,440              |
|                      | TOTAL           | 15,410             |
|                      | TARGET VARIANCE | 32                 |
|                      | % of TOTAL      | 33.40%             |

## REGION III

| Christman       | New Hanover     | 3                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Semmens         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| Usavage         | Upper Frederick | 1                  |
| MUNICIPALITY    | DISTRICT        | BY VOTING DISTRICT |
| New Hanover     | 1               | 2,282              |
| New Hanover     | 2               | 4,636              |
| New Hanover     | 3               | 4,021              |
| Upper Frederick | 1               | 3,523              |
|                 | TOTAL           | 14,462             |
|                 | TARGET VARIANCE | (916)              |
|                 | % of TOTAL      | 31.35%             |

## PROPOSAL A

Move Douglass Montco District 1 from Region 3 to Region 1

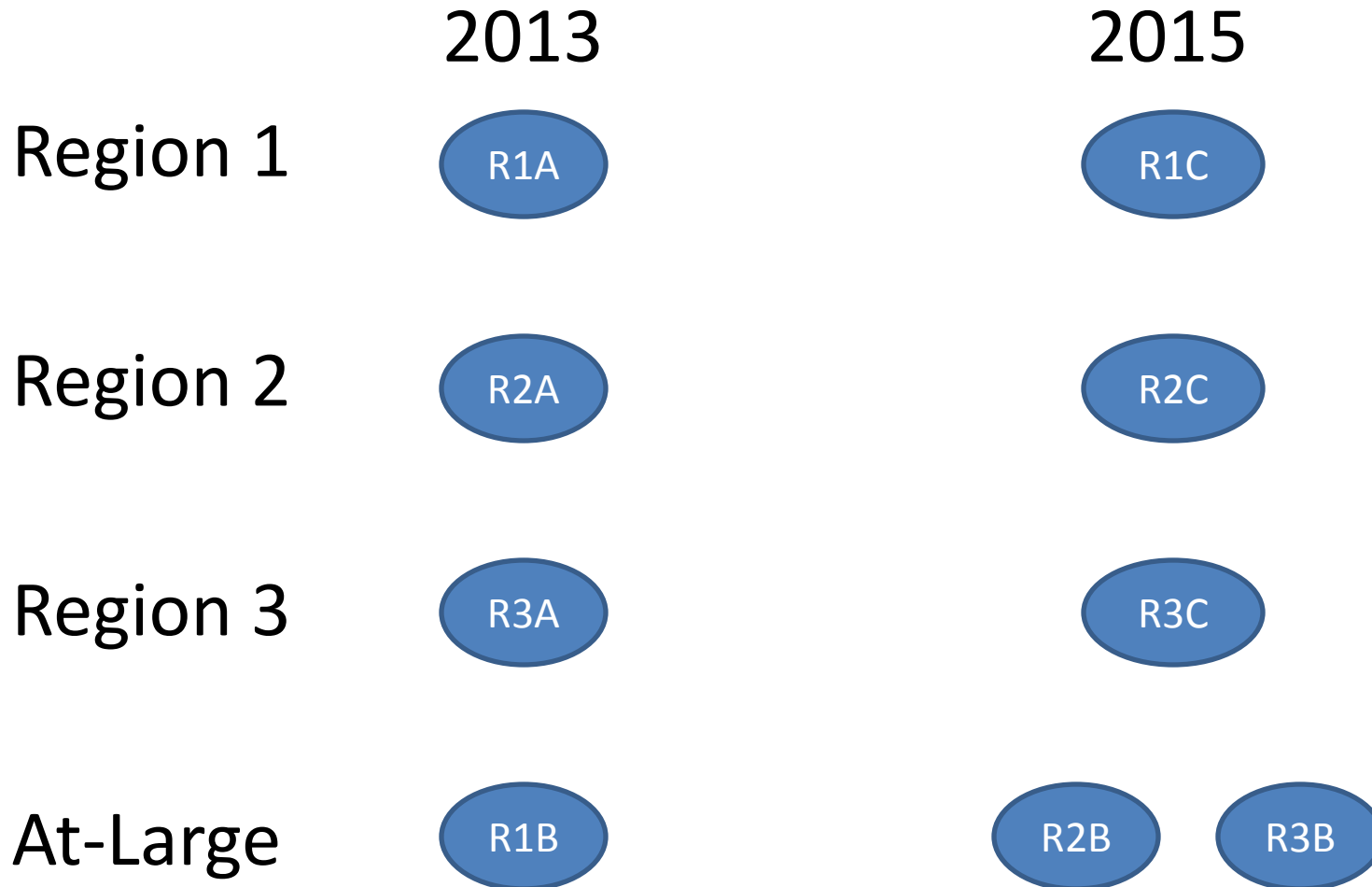
# Proposal A

Step 5



# 6 Region Directors with 3 At-Large<sup>Step 5</sup>

## Transition Plan



# Questions?