

BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN



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Message from the Mayor Jason F. Cilento March 2022

This month's Message from the Mayor will focus on the State of New Jersey's recent redistricting and apportionment of its Congressional and State Legislative Districts Redistricting and how it will impact our Federal and State representation, as well as an update on the New Jersey American Water project to replace water services to the newly replaced water mains and PSE&G's new gas main and services.

New Jersey American Water and PSE&G Improvement Projects

New Jersey American Water will continue replacing water services to the newly replaced water mains. In mid-March, NJAW is scheduled to install new water mains on North Washington Avenue from First Street to Mountain View Terrace and also on the 200 blocks of Mountainview Terrace and Fourth Street. North Avenue Ext./Pulaski Street could be starting at the end of March/Early April. Note: all streets that NJAW is working on will be paved curb to curb approximately 90 days after completion of installation.

PSE&G will be installing new gas mains and services (to each home) on the following streets:

- Second Street (from Middlesex Borough to Schwartz Place).
- All of Schwartz Place.
- 800 Block of First Street.
- 700 & 800 Blocks of Dunellen Avenue.
- 700 & 800 Blocks of Front Street.
- Sanford Avenue (from North Avenue to Dunellen Avenue).

The project is scheduled to start the week of February 28th. The installation phase could take approximately 8 weeks. Note: all streets on which PSE&G will be installing new gas mains will be paved curb to curb approximately 90 days after completion of the installation either through an agreement with PSE&G or through the Middlesex County mill and pave program. Sanford Avenue will not be paved curb to curb under the PSE&G project, but the road will be restored appropriately. The Borough of Dunellen is considering all of this street as an application to the NJDOT Municipal Aide Grant program for a FY2023 road improvement project.

New Jersey Congressional Redistricting and Legislative Apportionment Commissions

New Jersey Congressional Redistricting

There are 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives. Under the United States Constitution, each seat of a House Representative is created through a proportion of the state's population. The apportionment and redistricting process is undertaken at the beginning of each decade to count population changes during the prior decade in the United States. This is conducted through the U.S. Census. Our prior census was conducted in 2020, and Dunellen was an active participant in promoting and collecting census data through grant funds awarded by Middlesex County. The U.S. Constitution establishes this federal decennial census, utilizing demographic and geographical data, as the basis of information needed for the apportionment and redistricting of Congressional districts. Based on the changes in these numbers, States may gain or lose Congressional districts. During this period of census data, New Jersey will be authorized for 12 seats in the House of Representatives.

The Redistricting Commission, as established in the New Jersey Constitution, provides for a 13 member commission to handle the determination of these Congressional districts and that they are as equal in population as possible. The appointed commission members, equally made up of Republicans and Democrats, with an independent tie-breaker, were required to vote and certify a map and provide it to the New Jersey Secretary of State, on or before Tuesday, January 18, 2022. If the Commission was unable to certify and adopt a map by that date, the New Jersey Supreme Court would have been required to certify one of the two proposed district maps based on the map with the highest number of votes previously received and which was also closest to federal and constitutional requirements.

On December 22, 2021, the Redistricting Commission adopted the *New Jersey Congressional Districts: 2023-2031* map. This map was filed with the Secretary of State on January 6, 2022. Under the adopted map, the Borough of Dunellen remains in the 12th Congressional District represented by Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D).

New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission

The New Jersey Constitution requires the creation of an Apportionment Commission that is given the responsibility of redrawing the State's Legislative District lines. The State of New Jersey has 40 legislative districts that is represented by 40 Senators and 80 members of the General Assembly. Much like the Congressional redistricting, the State Legislative redistricting must occur every ten years to account for population changes over the last decade to ensure equal representation is being provided based on population size in the State. In New Jersey, the redistricting commission for Legislative Districts consists of an equal number of Republican and Democratic members, with an independent tie-breaker. Under the 2022 adopted map, the State of New Jersey will remain at having 40 Legislative Districts.

On February 18, 2022, the Apportionment Commission adopted the *New Jersey Legislative Districts: 2022-2030* map. Historically, this is the commission's first time coming to terms on a

bipartisan map, not needing a tie-breaking vote. The adopted map was filed with the Secretary of State on February 23, 2022. Under the adopted map, the Borough of Dunellen will no longer be in the 22nd Legislative District represented by State Senate President Nicholas Scutari (D), Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter (D) and Assemblyman James J. Kennedy (D), and will be placed into the 21st Legislative District represented by Senator Jon Bramnick (R), Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R) and Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis (R).

I have extended an invitation to our U.S. House Representative and our NJ Legislative Representatives for a meet and greet to introduce themselves to our community. I am awaiting their reply, and should this meet and greet come to fruition, I will happily share the date and time with residents.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason F. Cilento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen