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an **11** tiebreaking member selected by th **11** chief justice of the state Supreme Court. publicans plus

Although the commission is charged with redrawing the map to re flect population shifts and promote minority representation, pol itics winds up playing a mapr role, with each party vying to create a map with as many voters as possible likely to choose its candidates.

During the last two decades, the party that won the redistrictin g fight eventually won control of the legislature, the Republic ans in the **11** and the Democrats in the **11**.

The winning party this decade probably will not be kown until this fall, when all **11** seats in the legislature are up for grab s, but the map itself is due to be released by Sunday.

There is little consensus about what the map will look like, but most political watchers agree that it will reflect a general p opulation shift from northern to southern and central **11**ersey.

Theories abound about how the map should be redrawn, and some political watchers and groups have gone so far as to publicie th eir own maps detailing how they believe the state's legi slative districts should look

Some of their proposals call for modest changes within Burlington County; others call for mapr alterations.

The county, which spans the state from the Delaware River to the Atlantic Ocean, is divided with in four legislative districts: the **11**, **11**, **11** and **11**. The **11** is made up of the northernmost part of the county as well as large sections of Mercer and Ocean counties. The **11** is most ly the county's riverfront towns along with Pennsaukn and Merchantville in Camden County. Th e **11** is comprised of central and southern county towns. The **11** is mostly Ocean and Atlantic county towns plus Bass River and Washington in Burlington County.

All but the **11** District, which is represente d by two Democratic assemblymen and a Republican senator, are represented by GOP l egislators.

Based on the **11** census population totals, the **11** and **11** distri ct populations are within an acceptable range so their bounda ries will not necessarily need dramatic changing. The **11** and **11** distri cts appear to be too large and will likely lose towns to neighboring districts.

Even small changes to borders could have bi g impacts on the county's political landscape.

For example, one theory is that Bordentown City and Bordentown Township will be moved from the **11** District to the **11**, potent ially setting up a showdown between incumbents **11**oseph Malone, a Republican from Bo rdentown City, and Democrats Herb Conaway d. of Delanco and **11**Connors of Pennsaukn.

Another scenario involves Connors' hometown of Pennsaukn moving from the **11** to the neighboring **11** District, now made up enti rely of Camden County towns.

Among the most drastic proposals would split the **11** and **11** distri ct territories and merge them to create two highly competi ve districts that would pit the powerful Burlington County Republican and Camden County Democrat machines against each other.

"This is one of the more intriguing proposals," Schulman said in an email. "Depending on how it's done, it could bring more Republicans into the usually Democratic Camden County area. The (Democrats) in the 6th could end up having more competitive races from the Republicans."

Burlington County Democratic Chairman Joseph Andl downplayed the possible changes, saying that the 7th District is already competitive and that any changes to the 8th would likely benefit his party.

"We're not looking for the legislative districts to change," Andl said. "If (the commission's) goal is to create a more competitive 7th District, the split representation shows we already have one. And whatever they do in the 8th, I don't think it could hurt us."

Burlington County Republican Chairman Bill Layton also did not expect much change to the county's legislative borders, but he said the map needs to be made more fair in other areas of the state.

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