



SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF INDIANA

January 25, 2010

TODD ROKITA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Senator David Long
President Pro Tempore
Indiana State House, Room 3A-N
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Redistricting reform legislation

Dear Senator Long:

On behalf of the hundreds of Hoosiers who have contacted my office during the past few months, I would like to express sincere appreciation for your public support of redistricting reform in Indiana. Though change is never easy, the call for Indiana to commit to the adoption of mainstream redistricting principles is clear and I am confident that by your leadership and example, the General Assembly is prepared to answer the call for redistricting reform.

Based on comments from constituents and press accounts, there seems to be some lingering confusion as to whether the General Assembly must retain access to political data in order to assure compliance with the Voting Rights Act. After a careful review of the VRA and Supreme Court redistricting cases it seems clear that there is no legal mandate for the partisan use of political data in redistricting. As such, Indiana is free to adopt laws prohibiting the use of political data for partisan purposes in its redistricting.

I have included a short legal memorandum on this point for your review. My attorneys and the vendor which prepared the non-partisan concept maps, based on traditional redistricting principles, shown on <http://www.rethinkingredistricting.com/>, are available to brief your staff and answer questions. I look forward to continued discussion of this timely issue and to our continued collegiality.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Todd Rokita

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita

Enc.

cc: <http://www.rethinkingredistricting.com/>