

September 8, 2009

The Honorable Mike Delph

Dear Senator Delph,

I am writing to share with you an idea I will be discussing throughout the state over the next few months: Rethinking Redistricting. As the 2010 census and subsequent redistricting process approaches, I believe now is the opportunity to start a discussion with Indiana's voters and taxpayers on the issue of redistricting.

As Indiana's Chief Election Officer and a voter, I intend to offer a sensible set of criteria for the legislature to consider as it crafts future legislative districts. As you know, right now there are no criteria except for the requirement that the districts simply be contiguous. My concept relies on the following criteria:

- Reducing voter confusion about who represents them by following already existing political boundaries such as county and township lines
- Keeping communities of interest together
- Geographic compactness
- Nesting two House districts under the existing lines of a Senate district
- Maintaining population balance
- Not using any political data including incumbent addresses

Our constitution dictates that the duty of legislative map drawing lies with the General Assembly. I believe voters and taxpayers would have more confidence in us if these principles were codified or at a minimum used to guide the drawing of the districts.

For your review, I have enclosed a packet of information that includes prototype Congressional, State Senate, and State House districts as well as outlines the reasoning and concepts behind Rethinking Redistricting. In addition to the information I've provided, you can also find out more at our website www.RethinkingRedistricting.com.

Once again, the idea behind Rethinking Redistricting is to start a discussion with the citizens of Indiana about the redistricting process and its impact on them as voters, while being respectful of your constitutional duties.

Since redistricting is an issue of great importance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions about Rethinking Redistricting.

Thank you for your continued service and I look forward to speaking with you about this important issue heading into the 2010 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Todd Rokita
Indiana Secretary of State

Enclosures