



Re-drawing legislative districts to
better represent people, not politics.

www.rethinkingredistricting.com

Why is redistricting important?



Many people aren't aware of redistricting — the process of creating legislative districts throughout our state. Redistricting is the threshold issue that determines how much your elected officials listen to you on all other issues, from health care to the economy. That's why as Indiana's Chief Elections Officer, I am leading an important discussion to shed light on the way Hoosiers select legislative officials.

Reforming this process is critical to fair and accountable representation and more competitive elections. Without fairly drawn districts, incumbents or political parties can manipulate voters for their own advantage. In Indiana, this process results in many oddly shaped districts that split counties and cities and ultimately diminish the voting power of many communities. Even more, this reform would result in fundamentally less confusion for voters in connecting with their representatives.

I describe Indiana as the "Wild West" when it comes to this process because few laws and parameters are in place that would ensure the districts are drawn to serve you. This is wrong. We should pick our representatives, they shouldn't pick us. Worse yet, many legislators think that you — Indiana voters and taxpayers — don't care.

We need to communicate our expectations on this matter. RethinkingRedistricting.com shows how to do this. We have between now and 2011 to show that we expect government to serve us, not the other way around. Reform on this issue determines how much the General Assembly will listen on all the other issues that come after. I look forward to working with you on this important project.

Regards,  Todd Rokita INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE

People, not politics

In 2011, each state will redraw its boundaries for state and congressional districts based on the new 2010 census data. It's our goal that new criteria for redrawing district lines can help create a system that is fair, sensible, easy to understand and that, most importantly, serves you, the voter, and not the legislators.

A fair and effective redistricting plan will use community-focused criteria to represent Indiana's constituents. By concentrating on community, such a plan would redraw lines through a new system designed to:

- **Keep communities of interest together**

This criterion seeks to avoid unnecessary division of voters who share the same community and often the same priorities, views and motivations.

- **Create more compact and geographically uniform districts**

More than an aesthetic preference, this action

would improve government accessibility and raise constituents' awareness of their district and its distinct, local issues of concern.

- **Reduce voters' confusion about who represents them by following already existing political boundaries, such as county and township lines**

- **Not use any political data including incumbent addresses for partisan reasons**

Maps created without the benefit of political data will be inherently more fair and less likely to contribute to gerrymandering and other types of voter manipulation.

- **"Nest" two house districts under the existing lines of a senate district**

This would result in even more accountability and further lessen confusion about who represents you.

How we got here

Redistricting in Indiana is a process that dates back to the 19th Century, but over time, the process originally meant to serve the voting public has gone awry.

In Indiana and most other states, the state legislature is responsible for redistricting every 10 years to divide the state into relatively equal voting populations after U.S. census data is collected.

Under our current law, the officials responsible for redrawing district lines are the very legislators already elected to represent the voters in those districts. To many, that sounds like a conflict of interest. But it's a system that Indiana has maintained as the status quo for more than half a century.

The district maps in use today were drawn in 2001 and are based on 2000 census data. Since those maps were drawn, Indiana's competitive field of candidates has become more and more shallow, with candidates in two out of every five legislative races running without major party candidate opposition.

Maps That Make Sense

We believe the proposed criteria will help us map a sound solution to Indiana's redistricting challenges.

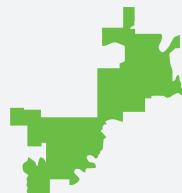
The maps in this brochure illustrate what our district maps could have looked like today if these criteria were used in re-drawing the maps after the 2000 census.

Beyond merely being easier to understand, a 2011 map based on the proposed criteria would result in voters choosing their legislators — not the other way around, a widened candidate field and more competitive races.

What do these look like to you?

While they may look like many different things to many different people, Indiana's oddly shaped legislative districts look like anything but fair for Hoosier voters.

A



- Wings
- Two partially eaten pieces of pizza
- A spaceship

B



- A choo-choo train
- A dog with a club foot
- A mountain range

C



- A tractor
- A squirrel
- A llama

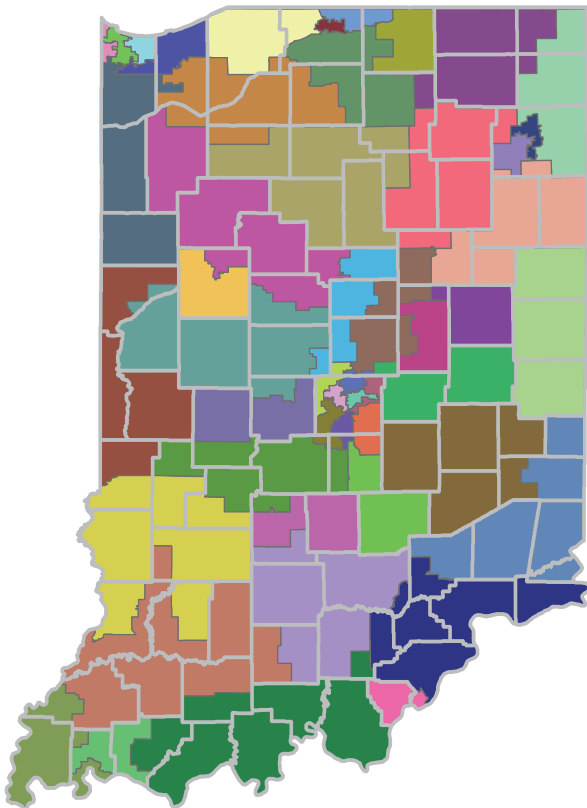
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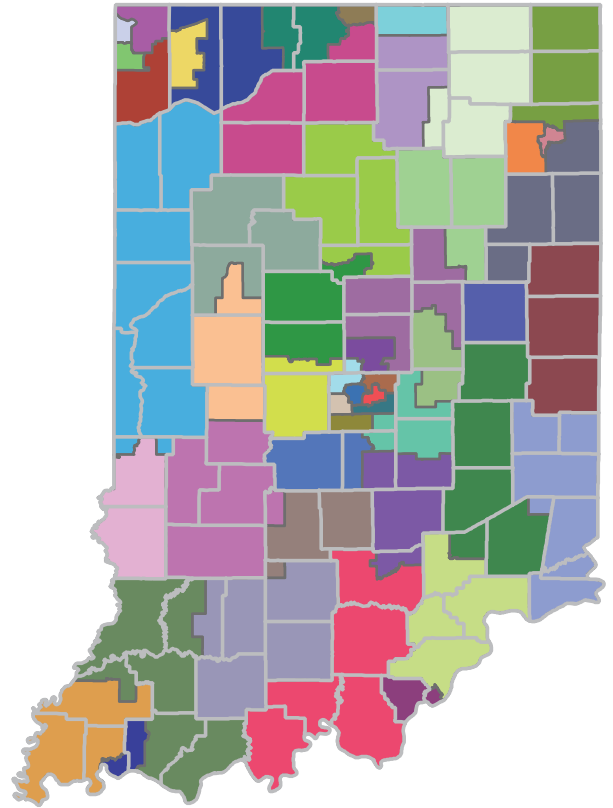
- A staircase
- A caterpillar
- A Pac Man maze

Indiana Senate Legislative Districts

Existing map



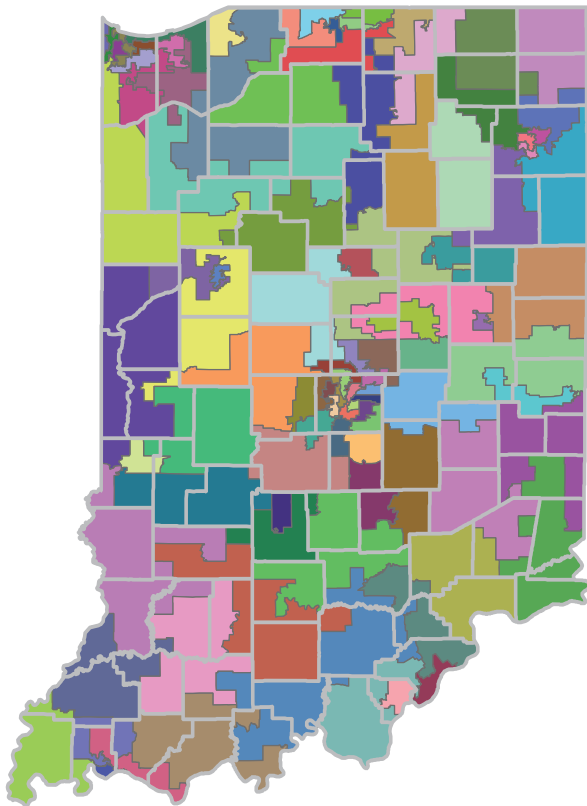
Conceptual map



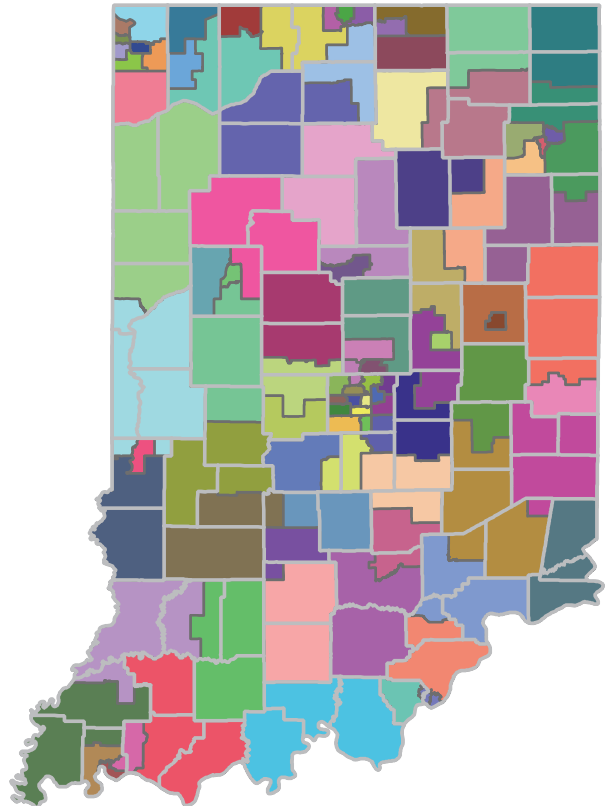
In this map, the districts follow already existing political boundaries that better represent communities of interest.

Indiana House Legislative Districts

Existing map



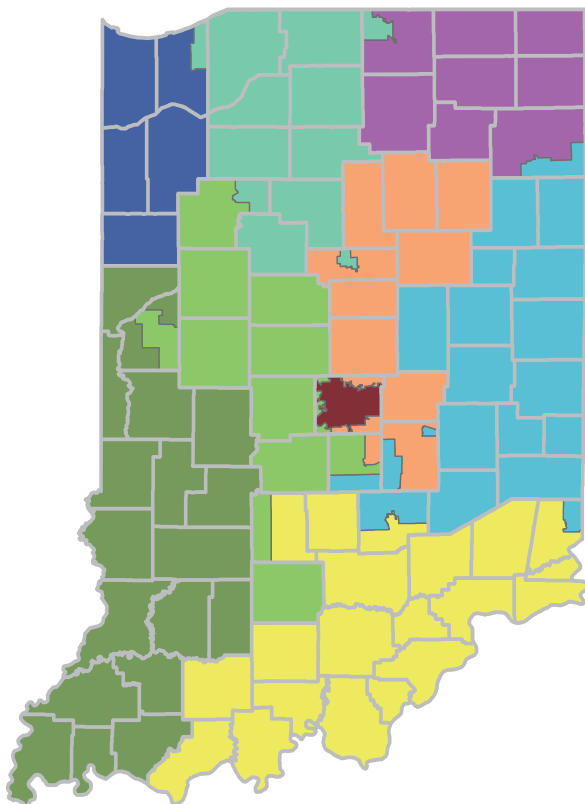
Conceptual map



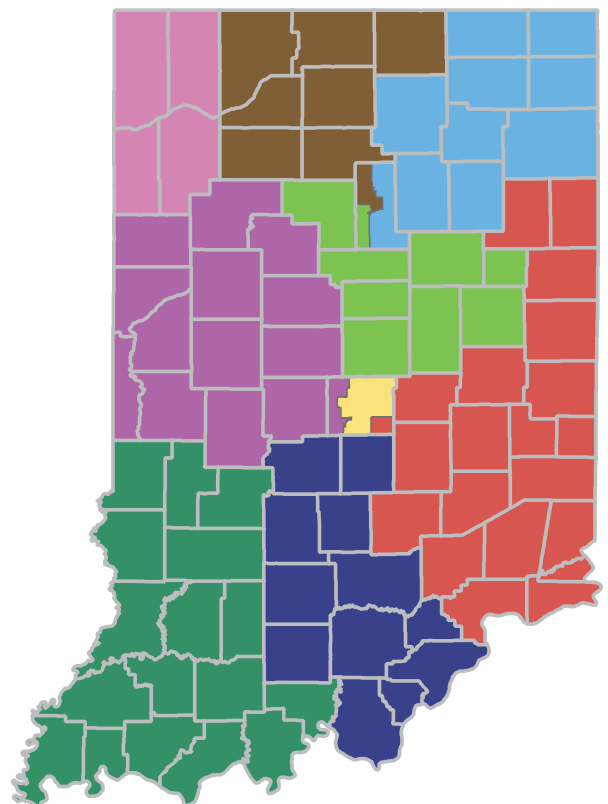
In addition to following county and township lines, in this map, every two house districts compose one senate district, greatly reducing voter confusion.

Indiana Congressional Districts

Existing map



Conceptual map



Help us take redistricting back to the re-drawing board.

Show your support for a plan to create districts
that put people before politics, improve accountability
and make government more accessible.

Visit RethinkingRedistricting.com to tell
your legislator about the Rethinking Redistricting
proposal and to register for news, updates
and opportunities to help

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