

Why Redistricting Matters

Members of Congress and state legislators are elected from districts; at least once per decade, the district lines are redrawn, block by block, precinct by precinct. In most states, including Indiana, these district lines are drawn by the legislators themselves.

Reformers say this amounts to “politicians choosing their voters.”

The way the lines are drawn can keep a community together or split it apart, leaving it without a representative who feels responsible for its concerns.

The way the lines are drawn can change who wins an election. Ultimately, the way the lines are drawn can change who controls the legislature, and which laws get passed.

As a basic building block of democracy, REDISTRICTING MATTERS.

TIME FOR REFORM IS NOW

Redistricting reform has become a hot topic in Indiana. Some advocates for change are calling for a set of principles to guide a less partisan process. Others want an independent commission to draw the maps. Either way, for reform to impact 2011 reapportionment, it has to pass in 2010.

Redistricting reform is fraught with potential constitutional minefields. From the Voting Rights Act to the 14th Amendment, any legislative change must be carefully considered.

Come to the seminar to hear local and national experts discuss how and why the Indiana legislature should reform the process in Indiana. Please join us for this important discussion in a most appropriate place—the Indiana Senate Chamber on December 18th

Panelists

The Honorable Todd Rokita



Indiana Secretary of State

Munster native Todd Rokita is serving his 2nd term as Indiana’s Secretary of State. As chief elections officer, Sec. Rokita has overseen Indiana elections with a commitment to innovation and technological advancements. In September of this year, he launched “Rethinking Redistricting”, a campaign to bring change to the redistricting process so it puts people before politics. Secretary Rokita has served as president of the National Assoc. of Secretaries of State.

Justin Levitt, J.D.



Justin Levitt is counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School. His work focuses on redistricting, election administration, and other voting rights concerns and includes research on election law and practice, publication of extensive studies and reports, assistance to federal and state legislative bodies, and participation as *amicus curiae* in cases around the U.S. When necessary, Mr. Levitt represents parties seeking to compel states to comply with their obligations under federal law and the Constitution.

Luis Fuentes-Rohwer, J.D., Ph.D.



Luis Fuentes-Rohwer is a Professor of Law at Indiana University Law School—Bloomington. Professor Fuentes-Rohwer’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of race and democratic theory, as reflected in the law of democracy in general and the Voting Rights Act in particular. Fuentes-Rohwer is interested in the way that institutions, especially the courts, are asked to craft and implement the ground rules of American politics.

Registration Form

Reserve my seat for the Dec. 18, 2009, luncheon seminar

Registration Rates:

Attorney claiming CLE credit—\$75

Attorney claiming CLE, no lunch—\$50

Regular registration—\$25 (includes lunch and materials)

Registration deadline is Dec. 15th

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