

Thank you all for being here. My name is Ranjan Rohatgi and I teach in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saint Mary's College. I have studied redistricting from a mathematical point of view and served on the Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission for the past year.

The problem that we have here is that when a political party has full power to draw the lines, they almost always do so behind closed doors.

I had hoped that our commissioners would be better than that. After all, there recently have been commissioners and council members voting in a bipartisan manner when it helps the people of this county. But that's not what happened here - like clockwork, the people in power drew maps on their own.

This process here is all wrong - the commissioners should have asked us, the people, to draw maps. They should have asked for our help. Any proposed map should have been approved by both the Republican-controlled Commission and the Democrat-controlled Council.

The commissioners should have been fully transparent about how they drew these maps, what they prioritized, the data they used, who they consulted with, and what they discussed in the creation of their proposed maps.

What the people want is competition; I heard this directly, from many St Joe County residents, during my time on the Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission. We want to be able to vote people out when we feel they don't represent us.

Right now, we have some competition on the commissioner level. We make our commissioners earn the votes of people from all parties, not just play to an extremist base - left or right - to get votes. Remember, when the last maps were drawn, Democrats had the majority on the commission but current Commissioners Fleming and Kostielney both strongly supported the maps that were drawn in a bipartisan manner.

I'm holding here [a redistricting plan](#) I drew. My goal was to maximize competition while keeping rural parts of the county together as best I could. The three districts in the map I have here are within about 300 people in population - better than the proposed maps - and each district, according to historical voting data that I have easy access to - has razor-thin margins, based on some recent elections. In each district, both major parties are within a few percentage points of each other. A map like this would lead to us, the people of St Joe County, being able to hold our elected officials accountable.

Commissioners: if we work together, you and I can create better maps than the ones that you created AND better than the one I created. I am here offering my services. I have an academic and practical background in redistricting, I live in St Joe County, and, best of all, I'll charge you zero dollars for my services. I, and others like me, can help you do this properly. Don't let nasty partisan politics infect this process. Let's work together on this.