

Robert Rhatigan lives in Albuquerque with his wife Allyson and daughter Leela. He brings over 15 years of experience in population analysis, data science, and Geographic Information Systems to the New Mexico Citizen Redistricting Committee. Robert received a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the State University of New York and a Master's degree in applied geography from the University of Colorado. He brings unique expertise in census operations, census data and New Mexico's geographic and cultural diversity.

Robert currently serves as the director of Geospatial and Population Studies at the University of New Mexico (UNM-GPS) where he has been since 2013. UNM-GPS functions as the New Mexico State Demographer's office and as New Mexico's demographic liaison to the United States Census Bureau through the Federal State Cooperative on Population Estimates. Since 2016, Robert has been an elected member of the steering committee of this national network of state demographers. Robert also serves on a National Academies of Science Center for National Statistics working group on Census Quality which is helping to shape key policy and data quality decisions at the US Census Bureau.

UNM-GPS also conducts traffic safety research for the New Mexico Department of Transportation and does demographic research for multiple state agencies such as the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration.

In 2017, Governor Susanna Martinez appointed Robert as the state liaison to the Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) program. LUCA is once-in-a-decade opportunity for state, tribal and local governments to ensure that the US Census Bureau has a complete and accurate address list of every residential household in advance of the decennial census count. This program was a critical early step in ensuring the most complete and accurate census count possible in New Mexico. Through collaborations with numerous state agencies, local governments and New Mexico's philanthropic community, the state LUCA program added over 60,000 residential addresses to the Census Bureau's Master Address File ensuring that every possible New Mexican household received an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census.

Governor Lujan-Grisham appointed Robert to the New Mexico Statewide Complete Count Commission in April of 2019. Over the next year and half Robert worked with a broad, non-partisan coalition that worked tirelessly to motivate every New Mexican household to complete the 2020 Census. In addition to serving a central role in the state's census campaign, Robert advised Complete County Committees that were established in all 33 counties, as well as dozens of municipalities and tribal communities throughout New Mexico.

Robert and his family love exploring all over New Mexico and they have a deep respect for the rich history and traditions of our state's many diverse communities. He believes it is critical to the success of the Citizen's Redistricting Committee that the people of those communities define their own boundaries and have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.