



California School Employees Association

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Member of the AFL-CIO

*The nation's largest
independent classified
employee association*



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Commission Members
California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The California School Employees Association (CSEA) is in opposition to the selection of the Rose Institute as technical consultant to the Commission. CSEA represents over 200,000 classified school employees, who are: paraprofessionals (classroom aides), bus drivers, food service workers, safety officers, maintenance workers, library technicians and other adults throughout California who dedicate their lives to ensuring that our students have a safe, clean, learning environment and that they receive the needed services to be able to focus and succeed in their education.

Let's be clear, the Rose Institute is a Conservative Republican Organization. Seven of the ten members of the Rose Institute's team who are registered in California are Republicans, including Project Leader Doug Johnson. Mr. Johnson has worked for Republican Members of Congress - his biography points out he used to work as "Legislative Director to U.S. Representative Stephen Horn" (R-CA). In addition, he has worked for Republican State Legislatures through his private company called National Demographics. National Demographics lists the Florida State Senate as a client for his work building community of interest data for their 2001 redistricting.

A federal court found that the 2001 Florida redistricting was one of the most partisan gerrymanders in the country stating, "The Republican-controlled legislature intended to maximize the number of Republican congressional and legislative seats through the redistricting process" [Martinez v. Bush, 234 F. Supp.2d 1275 (S.D. Fla. Dec.3, 2002)].

Several members of the Rose Institute Board of Directors have ties to the CA Republican Party, (including Tony Quinn and Marguerite Leoni) or have made significant campaign contributions to Republican candidates in California. Those same Board members are Doug Johnson's bosses.

In their bid, the Institute included a few quotes about their work (page 33) – below are a few we came across:

- “We have a reputation for being conservative” (Ralph Rossum, former Rose Director, July ’03)
- “The Rose Institute, which has been aligned with Republican redistricting in decades past” (Sacramento Bee, October ’05)
- The “Republican-oriented Rose Institute.” (LA Times, July ’00)
- “A group used by Republicans and largely shunned by Democrats (California Journal, October ’91)

In addition, the Rose Institute and Doug Johnson have a reputation for diluting minority voting rights. Douglas Johnson has worked as an expert witness with groups opposing implementation of the California Voting Rights Act. He was the chief line drawer for the Arizona redistricting commission whose lines were rejected by the US DOJ for potentially deliberately diluting minority voting rights. According to the Assistant Attorney General Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., Arizona had “not met its burden of establishing that minority voters will continue to be able to elect candidates of their choice”.

J Morgan Kousser, Professor at Caltech has warned the Commission - “He will and should be perceived as an active opponent of minority voting right, and hiring him would undercut at the outset the CRC’s reputation for playing fair with minorities.”

Finally, CSEA is concerned by the lack of transparency in the Rose Institutes proposal to provide technical consulting services to the Commission. Despite being required components of the bid, the Rose Institute failed to provide information about the Rose Institute’s funding sources as well as information about the Rose Institute’s work for other entities. The Rose Institute’s nonresponsive submission to the commission should, in and of itself, disqualify the Institute from consideration.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Joshua Golka

California School Employees Association