

To: Daniel Claypool

From: Karin Mac Donald

Date: February 14, 2011

Re: Public Comment from February 12 Hearing of Citizens Redistricting Commission

It is my understanding that late in the February 12th hearing of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) there were several public comments expressing concern with my involvement with its efforts due to a perceived affiliation and/or bias toward the Democratic Party. As I have already completed several projects for the Commission and the Bureau of State Audits during the selection process I wish to clarify the record to avoid any misperceptions.

First, I have been a registered Decline to State voter since May 12, 2005. I am not a member of any Democratic club or organization. I have never been paid by any Democratic candidate or organization, nor have I ever donated funds to any partisan organization. The only services I have ever provided to Democratic officials are in response to requests for data as part of my role to provide such access to the public as Director of the Statewide Database at UC Berkeley (SWDB). I have similarly responded to requests from Republican, minor party, independent and non-political groups and individuals.

Second, I had no role in the 2001 redistricting of state Assembly, Senate, Congressional or Board of Equalization districts other than providing the official redistricting database and providing public access to redistricting data, software and services, again as part of my role at the SWDB. I had no role in earlier state redistricting efforts as my employment at UC Berkeley began after the 1990 redistricting was complete, and during previous redistrictings, I was neither a citizen nor a resident of the U.S.

Third, in 2001 I did provide redistricting consulting services to redistricting commissions in San Diego and San Francisco. I make no apologies for that work and would note that the proponents of Proposition 11 specifically cited those commissions when arguing for the creation of the CRC as examples of how redistricting should be done in a fair and non-partisan manner.

Fourth, Professor Bruce Cain does serve as the Principal Investigator (P.I.) for the SWDB and is a minority partner in Q2 Data & Research, LLC. In the 1980 redistricting, Professor Cain did provide redistricting services to Democrats. This was prior to becoming the P.I. of the SWDB. Since the 1980 redistricting, Prof. Cain has only provided redistricting services to cities, counties, Attorneys General, Commissions and Courts. He was also the Special Court Master for the Arizona redistricting in 2001. Professor Cain is no longer a resident of California, has had no part in consulting services provided by Q2 to the CRC to date, would have no role in any services provided by Q2 going forward and has no financial stake in any contracts with the CRC. All work done by Q2 for the CRC to date has been by individuals not affiliated with either of the two major political parties.

Fifth, as part of my work with the SWDB I do frequently speak to a wide variety of groups and organizations about redistricting and other related matters. These have ranged from political groups, to voting rights groups, to governmental organizations, to community based organization, to local civic groups and beyond. I use no partisan or ideological screen in determining what engagements to accept. In my personal life I am involved in some non-political organizations and causes primarily surrounding expanding access for people with dogs to public lands, animal welfare, and improving community development in West Oakland where I live. I serve on the West Oakland Project Area Committee for Redevelopment to which I was elected by my neighbors in 2003.

Sixth, I do serve on the Secretary of State's HAVA State Plan Advisory Committee. I was first appointed in 2005 by then-Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, a Republican, to the VoteCal advisory board, which dealt with the establishment of a statewide, uniform, interactive voter registration database as part of the implementation of the Help America Vote Act signed in 2002 by then-President George W. Bush. I was subsequently reappointed by Secretary Bowen, a Democrat. My service on that committee led to my appointment to the HAVA State Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee is made up of thirteen non-partisan local elections officials, representatives of voting rights groups and political scientists possessing academic credentials and practical experience directly related to the administration of elections and the electoral process. I serve on the Committee as part of my role at the SWDB, primarily to advise on the development of a statewide voter registration database. A minor role is in my capacity as Director of the Election Administration Research Center, to advise on issues involving poll workers and training, as well as on Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voters, as I have conducted research about the implementation of UOCAVA for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) with Q2 Data & Research, LLC.

Finally, in 2005 I did provide testimony before a mandated legislative hearing regarding Proposition 77 in part about the timeline challenges that would be created by the need to select and organize a redistricting commission, hold multiple rounds of public hearings and adopt final maps by deadlines required in that proposition, which were much more restrictive than those provided for in Propositions 11 and 20. I believe the CRC has been actively struggling with those very challenges. Specifically, I remember commenting on the claim by the proponent of Prop. 77 that a statewide plan could be drawn "in a couple of hours." I do not believe that it was possible then, especially not a plan that could stand up in court, and neither do I believe that it is possible now. I have done my absolute best to aid this Commission to be successful in its historic challenge.

I hope this provides some clarification for you and the Commission. Please feel free to forward this information to the Commissioners and make available it to the public. If you need any clarification on these or any other items, please feel free to ask.

Thank you for your time and attention.