

March 9, 2011

California Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Via Email: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Joshua Hall and I am a Democrat and a former Commissioner of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. Needless to say, I am empathetic of the challenge which lies before you in redistricting the State of California.

The two most critical decisions for us were who we chose as a technical consultant and who we chose as legal counsel. Fortunately, in both cases we made tremendous choices.

With respect to our technical consultant, Doug Johnson and his staff were absolutely outstanding. They were always very responsive to whatever requests we made. Their desire was to always serve us. Throughout the process, Doug was impartial and unbiased. He never seemed to have an agenda other than to make us happy. His demeanor and actions was always polite, courteous, professional and productive.

When it came to the nuts and bolts of redistricting, Doug's technical knowledge and expertise were without match. When comparing the analysis completed by Doug and his staff, to that of other consultants representing special interests, the difference was often dramatic in the level of depth and detail. In addition to his technical expertise, Doug had a keen sense of how to help us navigate the complexities of the process. He understands redistricting better than any person I know. He has a unique ability to synthesize that which is very complicated and make it very understandable for the public. He frequently would present various options, without representing any position, clearly delineating differences and challenges of each option in a clear and succinct manner.

In short, I would highly recommend that your commission hire Doug Johnson and his staff as your consultant. In the end, when many legal challenges come (and they will come) it is good to know that the data and expertise that formulated your decisions are solid. Our decisions were eventually upheld, in large part, because of Doug's expertise and sound advice.

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Hall