



March 17, 2011

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

Re: Consideration of the Rose Institute for Technical Consulting

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I write as Chair of the California Democratic Party's Redistricting Subcommittee as well as the Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party.

In a 2004 op-ed Douglas Johnson wrote, "The second ingredient for effective reform is the selection of trustworthy persons to draw the lines." [Op-ed, Douglas Johnson, Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College, Fresno Bee, 6/13/04] I strongly agree with Johnson's assessment and for that reason I urge you to reject the application of Johnson and the Rose Institute to serve as your technical consultant.

No matter what the Rose Institute may claim in their application, their history as a Republican leaning organization is a matter of public record:

- A 2010 Santa Maria Times article, noted Rose Institute advises Republicans on redistricting. [Santa Maria Times, 12/14/10]
- In 2002 the Sacramento Bee described Rose as the "conservative Rose Institute." [Sacramento Bee, 2/17/02]
- In 2000 the Los Angeles Times called Rose the "Republican-oriented Rose Institute." [Los Angeles Times, 7/6/00]
- In 1991 the California Journal reported that Rose was "a group used by Republicans and largely shunned by Democrats." [California Journal, 10/1/91]
- In 2003 the then director of Rose said, "We have a reputation for being conservative." [Business Press, 7/7/03]

The Rose Institute had an opportunity to repudiate this historical record of partisanship. The Commission required applicants to disclose services they had performed for any political party, interest group or other entity that has supported, donated money to, raised money for candidate for public office, taken a position on a ballot initiative or sought to influence the redistricting process. It

further required that bidders disclose any donations or funding from any source are used to support its operations.

The Rose Institute outright refused to provide the required information responding with a vague commitment, that “the Institute has no partisan connections or political advocacy roles that present a conflict for our proposed work for the Commission” and “none of these funding sources represent any conflict with the Institute's proposed work for the Commission.”

The right to make determinations about whether a conflict exists belongs to the Commission and the Commission alone. And the Commission does not have the information to determine whether Rose's past work and funding represents a conflict because Rose refuses to disclose them. Given their documented public reputation for partisan bias, this refusal represents grounds for rejecting their application.

Further, the Republican ties of the Rose application extend beyond the organization to the individual members of their proposed team. Of the ten members that we could verify are registered in California, our records shows seven are registered Republicans (Douglas Johnson, Andrew Busch, Kenneth Miller, Florence Adams, Bipasa Nadon, Justin Levitt and Emily McNab). Indeed, the top five members of the Rose team are all Republicans.

Project Leader/Manager/Coordinator Douglas Johnson's ties to the Republican Party are particularly troubling. Johnson's biography points out he used to work for a California Republican Congressman, Stephen Horn [<http://rosereport.org/fellows/>]. His private business, National Demographics, Inc. lists the Republican-dominated Florida State Senate as a client for his work on their 2001 redistricting [<http://www.ndcresearch.com/client1.html>]. A federal court found that redistricting to be a partisan gerrymander 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)]. In a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 5%, Republicans outnumber Democrats in the State Senate by more than two to one (28-11).

I urge the Commission to reject or disqualify the Rose Institute's proposal. Its partisan Republican ties and lack of transparency and full disclosure are unacceptable and inconsistent with the Voters First Act.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jess Durfee
Chairman, San Diego County Democratic Central Committee
Co-Chair, Voter Services Committee, California Democratic Party
Chair, CDP Redistricting Subcommittee