

From: **Sam Foster** [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2011 at 6:05 PM
Subject: NON-partisanship please!
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Please act responsibly and uphold the non-partisan mandate of your commission. Hiring partisan people to draw district boundaries and be the commission's attorney is absurd and a slap in the face to all Californians!

<http://www.calitics.com/diary/13273/partisan-redistricting-commission>

"Back in February I wrote about the efforts of the new Citizens Redistricting Commission

<<http://www.calitics.com/diary/13148/prop-11-commission-tries-to-pick-a-consultant>> to hire a consultant to help them draw our new districts and how Republicans were trying to blow up the process.

Well on Saturday the Commission will finally be making a decision and the Reps are still at it. One of the two finalists is the Rose Institute. The LA Times, Sacramento Bee and California Journal have all called Rose a Republican-oriented, conservative organization.

Running the project for Rose is Doug Johnson. Johnson is a registered Republican who was once the Legislative Director for Republican Congressman Steve Horn. He worked for the Republican-dominated Florida State Senate on redistricting, which passed a Republican partisan gerrymander. A federal court found, "The Republican-controlled legislature intended to maximize the number of Republican congressional and legislative seats through the redistricting process."

Even worse, two of the final four candidates for the Commission's attorney charged with protect the federal voting rights of California's diverse electorate are also hard-core Republicans. One firm, Nielsen, Merksamer, has represented Republicans in statewide redistricting litigation. Partner Steven Merksamer was chief of staff to Governor Deukmejian. Attorney Daniel Kolkey from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher was Governor Wilson's Legal Affairs Secretary and represented him during the 1990 redistricting cases.

We need to step up and make clear to Commissioners that they have been charged by the people of California with drawing lines in a fair and impartial manner and hiring a Republican line-drawer and Republican attorney would be a serious violation of the public's trust. Send your comments to votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov. The deadline is Friday at 1 PM. For those in the

Sacramento area, you can attend their hearing on Saturday at 9 AM in Room 447 of the State Capitol. "