

From: **Elaine Harris** [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Mar 18, 2011 at 1:00 PM  
Subject: Comment re: Linedrawer Applicant  
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the selection of Rose Institute as a party to oversee the redrawing of California's legislative districts. In approving ballot Propositions 11 and 20, California voters affirmed their desire to ensure that redistricting was a nonpartisan affair, a goal that the selection of Rose Institute would seriously undermine.

The Institute itself has been labeled "Republican-oriented" and has a reputation as a conservative organization. Indeed, of the ten members of the Rose redistricting team registered in California, seven are Republicans. The group's project leader, Douglas Johnson, a registered Republican, is actually a former legislative director for Republican Congress member Stephen Horn.

Mr. Johnson's previous redistricting efforts in Florida and Arizona are of particular note. In Florida, Mr. Johnson's work for the Republican State Senate resulted in a redistricting plan that a federal court labeled a "partisan gerrymander." In Arizona, where Mr. Johnson was the chief architect for that state's redistricting commission, his plan was rejected by the U.S. Justice Department, who accused him of deliberately diluting minority rights. A non-partisan commission should have no place for someone who has worked as a hired expert witness on behalf of groups opposed to the implementation of the California Voting Rights Act, as Mr. Johnson has.

Unfortunately, the partisan nature of the Rose Institute and the work of its principal, Mr. Johnson, are not the only concern. Part of the responsibility of the Citizens Commission on Redistricting is to conduct its business in a transparent manner. The Rose Institute fails even this basic test, having refused the Commission's request to release information on either the funding or the political activities of its past donors.

I urge the Commission to honor the truly non-partisan nature of its mission and reject the Rose Institute's participation in California's redistricting process.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Chavez  
Executive Director  
Working Partnerships USA