

From: **Laurence Zakson** [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Mar 18, 2011 at 7:57 AM  
Subject: Comment Concerning Retention of Commission Professionals  
To: [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)

Commissioners:

It is my understanding that, on Saturday, March 19, 2011, the Commission will be making a decision about counsel and a redistricting consultant. Given that Democrats are the largest party in this state and that the GOP is a distant second, I find it quite disturbing that the finalists include so many GOP partisans. Although I do not question the technical and professional proficiency of the finalists, the redistricting process involves a great deal of informed discretion. Accordingly, I urge you to select professions other than those with strong ties to the Republican Party.

With respect to consultants, the Rose Institute is an organization which the Sacramento Bee has identified as Republican-oriented. While I have respect for the scholarly insight of some of those associated with the Rose Institute, I would regard their work as having a right-of-center point of view. Moreover, I understand that the redistricting project will be spearheaded by Doug Johnson. I understand that Mr. Johnson, a registered Republican, worked for the Republican-dominated Florida State Senate on redistricting, which passed a partisan Republican map. In this regard, I have seen published reports stating that a federal court found, "The Republican-controlled legislature intended to maximize the number of Republican congressional and legislative seats through the redistricting process."

With respect to counsel, attorney Daniel Kolkey from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher was Governor Wilson's Legal Affairs Secretary and represented that Republican Governor during the 1990 redistricting cases. While I know that the firm is well-regarded and I very much have enjoyed working with a number of its members, I am concerned about this partisan history.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments, and wish to emphasize that I am offering these comments in my personal capacity and not as a representative of any of my firm's clients.

Laurence Zakson  
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