



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Awards Contract to Q2 Data and Research for Technical Expertise in Line Drawing

SACRAMENTO, CA (March 19, 2011)

The independent Citizens Redistricting Commission voted unanimously this evening to award a contract to Q2 Data and Research LLC, to assist in the technical drawing of district lines.


Q2 Data and Research is a small, non-partisan, woman owned consulting firm located in Oakland. The Q2 team includes nationally known experts in building redistricting databases that are responsible for the implementation and administration of the only transparent and publicly available redistricting database project in the United States. The team also includes a Voting Rights Act expert with extensive experience in Sections 5 and 2, and multiple line drawers with hundreds of hours of training and line drawing experience.

Karin MacDonald, Manager of Q2 Data and Research has extensive experience in redistricting. She has participated in conducting two academic statewide plans on redistricting including one on the issue of competitiveness.

In addition to Q2 Data and Research, the Commission considered the only other bid for services which was submitted by the Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College. The Commission deemed the Rose Institute bid as non-responsive due to their failure to disclose donor information and staff conflicts.

In awarding the contract to Q2 Data and Research, the Commission put in provisions to create a firewall between Q2's California redistricting team and Q2 partner Bruce Cain in Washington, D.C. The Commission also stipulated that Q2 will work with a peer review of their work if required by the Commission.

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California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission is a new 14-member Commission charged with redrawing California's Senate, Assembly, State Board of Equalization, and Congressional districts based on information gathered during the 2010 census. The Commission must draw the State Senate, Assembly, State Board of Equalization, and Congressional districts in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians.