



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Poised to Enter Into Public Input Hearing Phase, Commission Hires Voting Rights Act Counsel and Technical Expert in Line Drawing

SACRAMENTO, CA (March 22, 2011)

California's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is poised to enter its important first phase of public input meetings after the hiring of expert legal counsel and technical advisors.

At its March 19th meeting the Commission voted unanimously to retain the highly respected international law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher to advise the Commission on the Voting Rights Act. The firm's team will be headed by attorneys George Brown and Dan Kolkey.

Brown, a Democrat, has extensive experience in litigating voting rights claims on behalf of minority voters under the California Voting Rights Act and has worked closely with leading advocates for minority voting rights. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kolkey, a Republican, has extensive experience in redistricting matters, and is the principal drafter of Proposition 20 which gave the Commission the authority to draw state Congressional districts. He also played an important role in the drafting of Proposition 11 which created the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Kolkey has represented the Governor of California and the Arizona House of Representatives in redistricting, including the Federal Voting Rights Act.


On Saturday the Commission voted unanimously to award the contract for technical assistance in line drawing to Q2 Data and Research a small, non-partisan, woman owned consulting firm located in Oakland, CA. 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 McDonald, Manager of Q2 Data and Research has extensive experience in redistricting and is registered as decline-to-state. She has also participated in conducting two academic statewide plans on redistricting including one on the issue of competitiveness.

The Commission will announce at its meeting later this week the schedule for public input hearings throughout California beginning in April. The dates and cities will be posted this Friday, March 25th at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

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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.