

# CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE



*The Rose Institute of State and Local Government*

## PRESS RELEASE

1:00 P.M., April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Contact Information:

Douglas Johnson, Consulting Fellow

Office: 909-621-8159

Cell: 310-200-2058

[douglas\\_johnson@alumni.mckenna.edu](mailto:douglas_johnson@alumni.mckenna.edu)

<http://rose.claremontmckenna.edu/>

### **2005 Redistricting Survey**

The Rose Institute of State & Local Government today announced the results of a statewide survey that found two-thirds of California voters think redistricting should be done by an independent commission, not by state legislators. An equally large majority believes that it is a conflict of interests for legislators to draw their own district lines.

The survey also indicated that:

- Most voters believe that the redistricting reform proposal promoted by Governor Schwarzenegger is “an honest effort to reform and improve California government” and not “a Republican power grab.”
- A majority of voters in each party would prefer that “redistricting reform take effect in 2006” rather than waiting until 2011.
- More voters approve than disapprove the job that Governor Schwarzenegger is doing; and more voters disapprove than approve of the job the state legislature is doing.

Dr. Ralph A. Rossum, Director of the Rose Institute commented: “The Rose Institute has studied redistricting for more than 30 years. These results are the most convincing we have ever seen that a large majority of the electorate is now prepared to back reform.”

– more –

Rossum added: “Most of California’s major newspapers have editorialized against redistricting abuse. Many observers of California government now understand the connection between districts drawn by legislators and the gridlock and extremism of current Sacramento politics. And now we have clear evidence that the public is eager to make a change.”

Historical opponents of redistricting reform – including the Speaker of the Assembly and the President Pro Tem of the State Senate – now agree that an independent redistricting commission is needed.

The statewide survey was conducted between April 12 – 16 with 800 likely voters and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent with 95 percent confidence. Detailed results are appended.

**About the Rose Institute:**

The Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College provides research and management experiences for Claremont McKenna College students while conducting and publishing research on California government and politics.

Using computer technology, students and faculty in the Rose Institute advance knowledge about politics and help create services that make the political process more democratic. Through the development of large computerized databases and advanced geographic retrieval systems, students become involved in projects focusing on such topics as redistricting, fiscal analysis, California demographics, survey research, and legal and regulatory analysis. The Rose Institute also works in collaboration with the Kosmont Companies to publish the annual Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey®.

# # #