



The Rose Institute of State and Local Government

PRESS RELEASE

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**USC and UC Berkeley Researchers Agree
With Rose Institute Redistricting Findings**

Recent comments and research from the USC California Policy Institute and UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies agree with key findings in the Rose Institute's September 26th report, "Restoring the Competitive Edge."

The Rose Institute report found that Proposition 77 would result in a significant increase in competition in California elections. The report goes on to examine the threats to representative democracy under the incumbent-protection gerrymanders of 2001, comparing them to the competitive, community-oriented districts created when panels of retired judges drew the districts in 1973 and 1991.

Commenting on the Rose Institute report, Dr. Bruce Cain, Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, said "Their numbers are an estimate, all our numbers are an estimate, but they're perfectly sensible." Dr. Cain also reported that ongoing IGS research predicts a roughly similar number of competitive districts.

On September 27th the University of Southern California's California Policy Institute (Director: Walter Zelman) released "Proposition 77 Analysis." This report also agreed with several key findings of the Rose Institute study, including competitiveness: "Based on California's past experience with redistricting plans developed by panels of retired judges, it seems likely that there will be some increase in the number of competitive districts statewide."

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The USC report also agreed with the Rose Institute's findings on the greater independence of retired judges relative to legislator-appointed bipartisan commissions: "The commission selection process [in Proposition 77] is more removed from potential influence by elected officials than is the case with most existing state commissions."

The Rose Institute report:

<http://rose.research.claremontmckenna.edu/redistricting/redistricting.asp>.

Comments from Dr. Cain are reported in the Sacramento Bee, available here:

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/13631831p-14474331c.html>

The USC California Policy Institute report:

<http://www.usc-cpi.org/2005/09/28/proposition-77-redistricting/>

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 at the Rose Institute advance knowledge about politics and provide services that assist in understanding the political process. Through the development of large computerized databases and advanced geographic retrieval systems, students become involved in projects focusing on topics such 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*®.

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