

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division

GOLDEN BETHUNE-HILL, et al.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF	)	Civil Action No. 3:14-cv-00852-REP-AWA-
ELECTIONS, et al.,	)	BMK
	)	
Defendants,	)	
and	)	
	)	
M. KIRKLAND COX, SPEAKER OF THE	)	
HOUSE OF DELEGATES, and THE	)	
HOUSE OF DELEGATES,	)	
	)	
Intervenor-Defendants.	)	

**DEFENDANTS’ OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED  
CANDIDATES TO SERVE AS SPECIAL MASTER**

Pursuant to this Court’s September 14, 2018 order, defendants hereby submit these objections to proposed candidates to serve as Special Master.

The parties have proposed four candidates. The defendants have proposed Dr. Bernard Grofman and Dr. Nathaniel Persily, and the intervenor-defendants have proposed Dr. Thomas Brunell and Dr. Douglas Johnson.

1. Defendants object to Dr. Brunell. Based on the materials that have been submitted, it does not appear that Dr. Brunell has ever served as a Special Master or court-appointed expert. See generally ECF No. 266-2. In addition, as indicated on Dr. Brunell’s curriculum vitae, see *id.* at 2, he is the author of the 2008 book *Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections are Bad for America*. According to that book’s summary on Amazon.com, “Brunell makes the case for a radical departure from traditional approaches to

redistricting—arguing that we need to ‘pack’ districts with as many like-minded partisans as possible.”<sup>1</sup> Dr. Brunell’s curriculum vitae also highlights (in a section labeled Other Publications and Community Involvement) that he “[w]ent to the Republican National Convention, July 2016,” see ECF No. 266-2, at 8, while providing no information about the role or context in which Dr. Brunell attended that partisan political event or why his attendance at that event appears on his professional resume. For all of those reasons, defendants submit that Dr. Brunell would not be an appropriate choice to serve as Special Master.

2. Defendants have less information about Dr. Johnson. But, based on the materials that have been provided, defendants submit that Dr. Johnson would not be the most appropriate choice to serve as Special Master in this complicated and time-sensitive case. Like Dr. Brunell, it does not appear that Dr. Johnson has ever served as a Special Master or court-appointed expert and it does not appear that Dr. Johnson has previously worked in Virginia. See generally ECF No. 266-1. In addition, although Dr. Johnson’s curriculum vitae indicates that his company “has performed racial block voting analysis for clients,” *id.* at 4, it does not indicate whether Dr. Johnson is himself experienced with or qualified to perform such analysis and, if not, the identity of the person at Dr. Johnson’s firm who is qualified to perform such an analysis.

Regardless of whether Dr. Johnson may be qualified to serve as a Special Master in some other case, defendants submit that Dr. Grofman would be a far more appropriate choice to serve as Special Master in this one. As his curriculum vitae notes, “Grofman has been a consultant to federal courts on five different occasions,” and he was previously appointed Special Master by this Court to assist with the redrawing of Virginia’s Third Congressional District. ECF No. 264-1, at 2. The Court ultimately adopted one of the two plans proposed by Dr. Grofman, concluding

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Redistricting-Representation-Competitive-Elections-Controversies/dp/0415964539>.



