Denise Gitsham (CA-52) Top Hits

Denise Gitsham is a Principal and co-owner of a San Diego and Southern California-based public relations firm. Previously, she held roles in the Bush White House and the Department of Justice before becoming a registered DC lobbyist. While a lobbyist, Gitsham pushed dirty technologies for coal companies and fought against efforts to regulate dangerous chemicals. More recently, during her run for Congress, she has taken a far-right turn into a Tea Party-tinged ideology that does not mesh with the values of San Diego.

### Right-Wing Comments And Campaign Missteps

* Stated she would “look to [Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security] to begin the process of cutting down how much we spend”
* [VIDEO] Spoke at 2016 CPAC and told the crowd, “I’m one of you”
* Said she is “pro-life” and supported “defunding Planned Parenthood”
* Said immigrant women who come to the U.S. to have a child “should not be given visas,” and said it would not pose an issue for enforcement officials because “[i]t’s not hard to pick out a pregnant woman”
* Five months late in filing her candidate personal financial disclosure, leaving voters, in the words of a *San Diego Union-Tribune* reporter, “unable to see how the former lobbyist makes a living”; Paid $200 fine
* [VIDEO] Explained role as Hispanic Relations Coordinator on Bush campaign by saying she was “ just ambiguously ethnic enough to pass for almost anything”
* Received criticism from *San Diego Union-Tribune* Editorial Board for her silence on gun issues

### Dirty And Hypocritical Environmental Lobbying Record

* Despite calling for federal budget cuts, Gitsham has touted her record of helping a algae biofuel company secure over $100 million in federal funds, including at least $50 million in Stimulus funds
* Washington Free Beacon wrote article entitled “Sapphire in the Rough,” writing company received “$100 million in federal money” with only 36 jobs created in 2011, while Gitsham was employed in the company
* Claimed that, as lobbyist for K&L Gates, “represented clients in the clean technology” industry, but lobbied on behalf of coal and energy companies pushing dirty technologies
* Lobbied on behalf of Peabody Energy, the self-described “largest private-sector coal company in the world” and an energy company, Accelergy Corp, to push for liquid coal, a technology considered by in the scientific community as a “enormous” producer of greenhouse gas emissions
* Lobbied on bill containing incentives for polluting technology, estimated to cost more than $1.4 billion over 10 years
* Lobbied CPSC on behalf of a company that was actively downplaying the toxicity of chemical it produced; despite numerous news reports and studies to the contrary, the company disputed the chemical’s cancer potency and classification as a “probable human carcinogen”

### Washington-Style Partisan

* Employed as a lobbyist at K&L Gates while firm was reported to hope to “share a cut of its clients earmark success”
* March 2016: Indicated compensation in excess of $5,000 from birther Joseph Farah’s WND news website; July 2013: Listed “birther Joseph Farah’s WND books” as a client on her public relations firm website, but no longer listed
* Initially expressed concern that California might provide a comparatively less “intellectually challenging atmosphere” to DC
* As recently as 2013, referred to herself as “bicoastal” in her Twitter bio
* Appeared on the 12th season of the Bachelor, but was eliminated after talking about Karl Rove when meeting the Bachelor, when she stated, “I worked for Karl Rove…. He’s ‘Bush’s brain’”
* *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported she had “direct ties” to Karl Rove; Said she would eventually “reach out” to Bush and Rove directly to help in her campaign
* 2013: Wrote an op-ed in *POLITICO* in which she compared the Republican Party to the British Burberry Luxury fashion line, noting that they both appeal to old white men