

Rove: CA Republicans would be stupid not to pick Kashkari

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Karl Rove in 2013. Photo: Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press

Republican guru Karl Rove told a Sacramento crowd Monday that if California Republicans “have to lose to Jerry Brown,” they should at least pick someone who won’t damage their future with Latinos.

Rove gave his assessment of the 2014 gubernatorial election during a keynote address to about 90 people at a meeting of the National Federation of Independent Businesses’ \$1,000 a plate “Leadership Trust” dinner in Sacramento.

One source who was at the event told us that Rove said he’s met [Neel Kashkari](#), the former Treasury Department official who is running for governor as a Republican. Although he didn’t deliver a formal endorsement, Rove told the audience “that if the Republicans have to pick someone to lose to Jerry Brown, they’d be stupid not to pick” Kashkari, the source told us.

Then Rove also weighed in on the Tea Party gubernatorial favorite, GOP Assemblyman [Tim Donnelly](#), who was the first runner-up to Brown in a [March poll](#) by the [Public Policy Institute of California](#).

“The comments that the other guy has made in the past are going to damage the party with Latinos on Election Day,” Rove said, according to our source.

Donnelly is perhaps best known for founding the California chapter of the Minutemen, a self-styled border patrol. Last fall, when comrade Joe Garofoli [asked him what he would say to Latinos](#) who might find his past leadership of the group offensive, Donnelly

replied, "I find the assumption built into the question to be really offensive. It's the idea if you have a Hispanic surname that you support higher taxes.

Donnelly, by the way, is taking his campaign to San Francisco on Tuesday. He's speaking at a dinner before the Nob Hill Republican Women's Club.