

# NumbersUSA

For an anti-immigrant organization, NumbersUSA is something of a peculiarity. Eschewing the more vehement rhetoric of its fellows, it instead focuses on the all-important “numbers” of people that, it claims, negatively impact environmental and economic conditions within the United States. Proclaiming a “non-partisan” stance, and insisting on a tolerant project, NumbersUSA has grown to become the largest grassroots organizing network for the anti-immigrant movement in this country. NumbersUSA was founded by Roy Beck, who is still president of the group today. Though Beck would deny it, NumbersUSA was actually seeded by the largest, most controversial anti-immigrant network in the country.

Renowned white nationalist John Tanton is credited with forging an extensive alliance of nativist groups, summarily described as the John Tanton Network—the numerous organizations that he founded, funded, or otherwise supported. From decrying a purported “Latin onslaught” on the United States to advocating a “clear” white European-American majority in the country, Tanton and his ilk indicate that their project is one of racial homogeneity—not simply a numeric concern.

Beck is a close friend of Tanton, with their relationship dating back as far as the 1970s. When then-journalist Beck exhibited promise for his burgeoning movement, Tanton hired Beck to the position of Washington Editor for Tanton’s white nationalist journal, The Social Contract, a position he held from 1991 until at least 2000. Between these years, he also undertook some other unsavory duties, such as editing books for the Network’s publishing house, the Social Contract Press—one of which was banned in Canada as hate-speech. In 1996, he addressed the national conference of the white nationalist Council of Conservative Citizens (CofCC), which has referred to African Americans as a “retrograde species of humanity.”

It was while working under Tanton that Beck decided to found NumbersUSA in 1996 under the Tanton Network’s financial umbrella, U.S., Inc. During this time, Beck and Tanton’s relationship developed enough for Tanton to name Beck his “heir apparent” in 1998. Beck decided, however, to take a different route, making NumbersUSA a legally separate entity from U.S., Inc. in 2001/2002. Today, NumbersUSA comprises three organizations: NumbersUSA

Education & Research Foundation, NumbersUSA Action, Inc., and Americans for Better Immigration.

But despite this separation, NumbersUSA has maintained a number of questionable contacts, such as the brazen Holocaust denier Jim Rizoli, who was listed as the group’s state contact for Massachusetts in early 2011. In its 2009 video, “Immigration 103—American Trauma: Jobs and the Economy,” NumbersUSA featured the testimony of Roan Garcia-Quintana, a board member of the aforementioned white nationalist organization Council of Conservative Citizens. At a CofCC national conference, Garcia-Quintana stated, “There are three types of people in the world: Negroids, Mongroids, and Caucasians.”

Beck’s writings have appeared on the anti-immigrant blog VDARE.com. VDARE was founded by the white nationalist, Peter Brimelow, and regularly features anti-Semitic, homophobic, and flagrantly racist authors and articles. VDARE has long allowed Tanton personnel to bridge the gap between the more concealed bigotry of their anti-immigrant project and their explicit white nationalist tendencies.

Beck’s proximity to the Tanton Network has undermined the alleged neutrality of NumbersUSA. While he may dilute his anti-immigrant rhetoric, Beck and his organization remain tied to extremists.