



CAPAFR

COALITION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING

How to Apply for the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Redistricting is completed every ten years following the census to ensure that the district maps used by political jurisdictions at all levels of government reflect where the population has moved, grown, or shrunk. Well-drawn district maps can empower communities and create political opportunity. Badly drawn district maps can disempower communities and entrench those in power at the expense of all others.

In an effort to stop gerrymandering and put regular people in control of the redistricting process, California voters created the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) in 2008. The CRC is independent and nonpartisan, composed of 14 regular Californians who are highly qualified but not connected to the powerful in Sacramento. Every ten years, the CRC draws the districts for California's congressional delegation, the State Senate, the State Assembly, and the state Board of Equalization.

Who can serve on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission?

Almost any California citizen. To protect the integrity of the CRC, certain people are disqualified from serving, including anyone who in the last 10 years:

- has been a candidate for federal or state office;
- has been an employee of a political party or a campaign for federal or state office;
- has been a registered lobbyist at any level;
- has been a paid legislative staffer;
- has donated \$2,500 or more to a single candidate, at any level, in a single year.

Anyone who has an immediate family member who has had any of these roles or donated money in that amount is also disqualified. (Cal. Gov. Code § 8252.)

There are a few additional requirements for applying. You must have been a registered voter with the same political party since at least July 1, 2015, and you must have voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections (Nov. 2014, Nov. 2016, and Nov. 2018). Because applicants must be a registered voter to be considered, CRC service is not available to non-United States citizens.

To ensure the CRC does a fair and balanced job, five CRC members must be Democrats, five must be Republicans, and four must be either Decline to State voters or with a third party.

What does the application process look like?

The application process has several stages.

June 10, 2019 – Aug 9, 2019	Application period 1 (screening only) Applicants submit a basic conflict-of-interest questionnaire to see if they are disqualified from serving on the CRC.
Aug 12, 2019 – Sept 11, 2019	Application period 2 (full applications) Applicants who are not disqualified submit a full application, including essays and three recommendations. Only applicants who participated in application period 1 can be considered in application period 2. Note that CRC applications are public records and will be posted on the State Auditor's website, with confidential information redacted.
Sept 12, 2019 – Feb 14, 2020	Review A panel of three state auditors known as the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) evaluates applications and chooses 120 applicants to interview. Applicants are evaluated on “their relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography.” (2 CA ADC § 60848.) Applicants who advance will be required to fill out a Statement of Economic Interests (aka a FPPC Form 700), which will become a public document.
Feb 18, 2020 – Apr 20, 2020	Interviews The ARP holds 120 interviews in Sacramento. The State Auditor's Office will cover travel costs. Video of the interviews will be posted online.
Apr 21, 2020 – May 8, 2020	Phase 1 of selection The ARP selects 60 of the most qualified applicants, including 20 Democrats, 20 Republicans, and 20 others.
May 15, 2020 – June 30, 2020	Phase 2 of selection (legislative strikes) The ARP sends its list of 60 applicants to the legislature. The leadership of each party may strike up to 12 applicants.

No later than July 5, 2020	Phase 3 of selection (random draw) The State Auditor randomly selects eight commissioners out of the remaining pool to serve on the Commission.
No later than Aug 15, 2020	Phase 4 of selection (final additions) The eight randomly selected commissioners evaluate the remaining commissioners in the pool and select six to balance the skills, party registration, and the diversity of the Commission.

How do I apply?

Advancing Justice – ALC and Advancing Justice – LA are happy to assist you in preparing an application. Our contact info is at the end of this document.

Applicants must submit their applications online through the website of the State Auditor’s Office. The application may be saved while it is being filled out and completed over multiple sessions. Any applicant who needs a paper application as a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act may request one from the office.

What sorts of people serve as Commissioners?

You don’t need to be a redistricting expert, a voting rights expert, a mapping expert, or a demographer in order to serve. Commissioners will be provided various forms of staff and technical support and will have legal counsel.

Commissioners from the 2010 CRC included an architect, a high school principal and local elected official, a law professor, a philanthropic leader, a businesswoman and entrepreneur, a nonprofit administrator, a self-employed attorney, a rancher and owner of an independent book store, a chiropractor, and others.

Keep in mind that serving as a Commissioner means being in the public eye. All meetings of the Commission will be public and will be streamed online. All communications by Commissioners about the work of the Commission are subject to public records requests.

Will diversity be considered?

The application process is supposed to result in a Commission that is “reasonably representative of this State’s diversity.” (Cal. Const. art. XXI, § 2.) State Auditor regulations make clear the ARP must consider diversity at each stage in the process to achieve this goal.

What is the time commitment? Will Commissioners be paid?

Despite the fact that Commissioners serve for 10 years, most of the Commission's work will be done in the one-year period between the establishment of the CRC on August 15, 2020 and the approval of new district maps by August 15, 2021. During that period, serving as a Commissioner will be close to a full-time job.

There may be substantial travel as the CRC hears from the public in various parts of the state. There will also be many meetings in Sacramento. For a list of the public hearings held by the 2010 CRC, visit here: <https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/hearings>.

Commissioners will be compensated \$300 for each day they are engaged in Commission business. The total compensation will depend on the schedule set by the Commission and each Commissioner's workload. Expenses will be reimbursed.

What are the post-service restrictions?

To prevent conflicts of interest and self-serving decision-making, Commissioners cannot hold a number of jobs after their service on the Commission. Anyone who serves on the CRC is ineligible to hold elected office at the federal, state, county, or city level in California for a period of 10 years. Anyone who serves on the CRC is ineligible to hold appointed federal, state, or local public office, to work as paid staff in Congress or the State Legislature, or to register as a federal, state or local lobbyist in California for a period of five years.

I want to apply. What are my next steps?

Please contact us! We would be pleased to help you with your application.

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More information is also available at the website
of the State Auditor's Office:
<http://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/>

