



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?

To serve, you must have voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections (Nov. 2014, Nov. 2016, and Nov. 2018) and must have been a registered voter in California with the same political party (or no party preference) since at least July 1, 2015. (Cal. Const. art. XXI, § 2(c)(3).) CRC service is restricted to U.S. citizens only.

To protect the integrity of the CRC and the district maps its produces, certain people are disqualified from serving, including anyone who in the last 10 years:

- has been appointed to, been a candidate for, or been elected to federal or state office, including any state board or commission (no disqualification for local offices);
- has been a paid employee of a political party or a campaign for federal or state office (no disqualification for unpaid volunteering with a political party or campaign);
- has been a registered lobbyist at any level;

- has been a paid staffer for the state legislature, the Board of Equalization, or a member of Congress elected from CA (no disqualification for working for a local public official);
- has donated \$2,500+ to any congressional, state, or local candidate in a single year (no disqualification for donating in this amount to presidential candidates).
(Cal. Gov. Code § 8252.)

A potential applicant is also disqualified if they have an immediate family member or in-law who meets one of the criteria above, so long as the potential applicant has a “bona fide” relationship with that family member, as defined by law.

What are the selection criteria? What sorts of people serve as Commissioners?

Applicants will be selected based on “their relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography.” (2 CA ADC § 60848.)

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 Citizens Redistricting Commission 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.

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/timeline look like?

The application process has several stages.

June 10, 2019 – Aug 19, 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 21, 2019 – Sept 20, 2019	Application period 2 (full applications) Applicants who are not disqualified submit a full application, including essays and three reference letters. Only applicants who participated in application period 1 can be considered in application period 2.
Sept 21, 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 who advance will fill out a Statement of Economic Interests (aka a FPPC Form 700), 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.

Keep in mind that serving as a Commissioner means being in the public eye. Your application materials will be made public, with confidential content redacted. 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.

How do I apply?

Advancing Justice – ALC and Advancing Justice – LA are happy to assist AAPI community leaders in preparing an application. Our contact info is at the end of this document. Applications are submitted in two phases, as detailed above. Applicants must submit their applications online at this link: <http://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/>.

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(c)(1).) 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 new CRC in August 2020 and the completion of the map-drawing process in August/September 2021. During the peak period, which is likely to be from January 2021 to September 2021, serving as a Commissioner will likely 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 (and potentially slightly more) for each day they are engaged in CRC business. The total compensation will depend on the schedule set by the Commission and each Commissioner's workload. Travel and other expenses will be reimbursed.

How are my activities restricted if I am selected?

If selected, you will be a redistricting commissioner for the full decade. To prevent conflicts of interest and self-serving decision-making, Commissioners cannot hold a number of jobs during their service on the CRC. Anyone who serves on the CRC is ineligible to hold *elected* office at the federal, state, county, or city level in California for the full 10 years of their service. 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 the first five years of their service.

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/>

