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Margarita Fernandez
California State Auditor's Office
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

As a person who has been interested from the beginning in the proposed **redistricting commission**, I have just received the draft application for commissioners. Although I no longer propose to apply (because of hearing loss), I feel qualified to offer a few comments on the **draft application**.

The instructions for the essays call for 250 to 1600 words, but skillful, laconic communicators can -- and probably should, in the spirit of Occam's razor -- provide their essays more briefly and thereby more cogently. And demonstrate their literacy, as well.

Under "Employment History" I suggest that the line reading "Employment history must include at least 10 years" be changed to read "Employment history must include the last 10 years." "At least 10 years" could mean, say, the period from 1965 to 1975.

Under "Letters of Recommendation," the proviso that such letters be submitted "on or before April 2 of the application year" ought to add "(provisionally foreseen as 2010)" or other named year. Given that this is a draft of the application, "of the application year" would presumably become the specific year on the final version.

Under "Education," the space for the school's name is small, but presumably expandable if this is to be an on-line application. The same comment applies to the "Former Residences" section.

I notice that the application is apparently designed to be submitted on line. But surely there are persons qualified to serve as commissioners who are not on line. This would include elderly persons who simultaneously have considerable experience that would best qualify them to serve (like me), and who, like many of the elderly, have found no need to use the internet (unlike myself). But, then, I suppose they could get their grandchildren to help.

Yours,



Willard L. Felsen