

To: CA Citizens Redistricting Commissioners

From: Commissioners Forbes & Galambos Malloy

Date: February 15, 2012

Re: Addressing Economic Barriers to CRC Participation

At the CRC's session in early February, Commissioners Forbes & Galambos Malloy were tasked to explore statutory and policy changes that would help to offset the variety of economic hardships Commissioners have experienced from participating under the existing structure during the 2011 process. To inform our recommendations, we requested additional information from the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) as to the demographics of the CRC's total applicants, total applicants that proceeded to the supplemental application, 120 applicants that went on to interview, and the full commission itself. For background information, please see attached.

Based on the feedback we've received to date from the public and Commissioners, we'd like to suggest the following range of possibilities.

- Currently all CRC applicants' income information is voluntarily reported, with no independent data verification. Future applicants could be requested to sign a waiver authorizing the BSA to conduct independent verification of financial disclosures to ensure that stakeholders have access to credible economic data on future applicant rounds.
- Currently many income sources are not currently disclosed by Commissioners, due to their being exempt from disclosure on the Form 700. Future applicants could be requested to disclose income sources beyond those specified by Form 700, including but not limited to:
 - *Salary, reimbursement for expenses or per diem, social security, disability, or other similar benefit payments received by you or your spouse or registered domestic partner from a federal, state, or local government agency.*
 - *Payments received under a defined benefit pension plan qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a).*
- Currently Commissioners receive \$300 a day per diem in addition to reimbursement of travel expenses. Future Commissioners could submit receipts for reimbursements of up to \$100 per day of CRC duty-incurred expenses, to be approved on a case by case basis. This could include dependent care expenses, for example.
- Future Commissions could be encouraged to implement policies that will minimize economic impacts to Commissioners. Examples could include offering Commissioners pre-tax Flexible Spending Accounts for dependent care costs; lowering the threshold for per diem allowance to a four-hour day for all Commissioners; encouraging regional teleconference locations for business meetings as practicable to minimize travel time; directing limited staff time to provide Commissioners with relevant childcare options near meeting sites, etc.