

California Legislative Women's Caucus

Representing Democratic and Republican Women in the California State Legislature

February 25, 2009

Ms. Barbara Paget
Bureau of State Audits
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Paget:

The Women's Caucus is made up of elected women in both the State Assembly and Senate and represents both the Democratic and Republican parties. Our focus is on improving the lives of women and children in California. We write to you regarding the selection process being formed through public meetings for the Citizen's Redistricting Commission that will draw new boundary lines for the State Assembly, State Senate and State Board of Equalization districts.

With the passage of Proposition 11, we have a unique opportunity to have greater representation of women in politics. As you know, women make up a larger percentage of the population, but we are underrepresented in all forms of government. Women are elected to city, county, state and federal government positions in lesser numbers than our male counterparts. Currently the elected women at a state level, which is in the Assembly and the Senate, make up 28% of the total population, and we have only one constitutional officer. In our January caucus meeting, we discussed the need for gender balanced representation on this Commission, and request that in your final selection, women will have equal representation.

Sincerely,



Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña
Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus
Assembly, District 76



Senator Lois Wolk
Vice Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus
Senate, District 5

cc: California Legislative Women's Caucus

