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Who Can Serve on the Commission?

California voters authorized the creation of the commission when they passed the Voters FIRST Act (Act), which appeared as Proposition 11 on the November 2008 general election ballot.

The Act requires the State Auditor to initiate an application process for selecting the members of the commission. The application process is open to every registered California voter who:

- Will have been continuously registered in California with the same political party, or with no political party, for the five years immediately prior to being appointed to the commission; and
- Has voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections.

However, an applicant is ineligible to serve on the commission if the applicant has a conflict of interest as defined by the Act. An applicant has a conflict of interest if, during the ten years prior to submitting an application, the applicant, or a member of his or her immediate family with whom the applicant has a "bona fide" relationship, as will be defined in regulation, has:

- Been appointed to, elected to, or a candidate for a California congressional or state office;
- Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a California political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for California congressional or elective state office;
- Served as an elected or appointed member of a political party central committee in California;
- Been a registered federal lobbyist;
- Been a lobbyist registered with the State of California or a California local government;
- Served as paid California congressional, legislative, or State Board of Equalization staff; or
- Contributed \$2,000 or more to any California congressional, state, or local candidate for elective public office in any year.

An applicant also has a conflict of interest if the applicant is serving as staff or as a consultant to, is under contract with, or has an immediate family relationship with the Governor of California, a member of the California Legislature, a California member of Congress, or a member of the State Board of Equalization.

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