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CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR ANNOUNCES THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL

SACRAMENTO, CA (Nov. 16, 2009) – Today, the California State Auditor announced the members and alternate members of the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) for the Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission).

The ARP is made up of three certified public accountants with at least 10 years of independent auditing experience, as defined in the Voters FIRST Act. The three panel members are from the California State Auditor's Office and were randomly selected today. The entire process was videotaped and will soon be posted to www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov.

The ARP will be responsible for reviewing the applications of persons interested in serving on the Commission to draw the State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization district lines, and will select 120 of the "most qualified" applicants who the panel will interview publicly in Sacramento. The State Auditor will be accepting applications to serve on the Commission from Dec. 15, 2009 through Feb. 12, 2010 at www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov.

"The three members of the Applicant Review Panel are highly qualified individuals. All are active certified public accountants with more than 10 years of experience, and must meet high standards of integrity in the regular course of our work," said Elaine M. Howle, California State Auditor. "The process of creating a Commission to draw fair and legal districts is important to our state and its future, and the ARP is the first step towards that end."

(more)

Citizens Redistricting Commission



The ARP is made up of the following individuals:

KERRI SPANO has been conducting independent investigative audits as an investigative auditor with the California State Auditor's Office since 2007. In her position, Ms. Spano investigates improper activities by state employees. Prior to joining the office, for six years Ms. Spano conducted investigative audits with the Department of Justice and independent audits for three years with the Department of Finance. She earned a B.S. in Accounting from CSU Sacramento and is an active Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Spano is registered with the Democratic Party.

MARY CAMACHO has been with the California State Auditor's Office since 2006 and is currently a Senior Auditor Evaluator II. In her role, she has led independent audits of the California financial statements, the State Overtime Costs, the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Prior to joining the office, Ms. Camacho conducted independent audits of state entities for 10 years at the Department of Finance. Ms. Camacho earned a B.S. in Accounting at CSU Sacramento and is an active Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Camacho is registered as decline-to-state.

NASIR AHMADI is an active Certified Public Accountant and has over 15 years of experience as an independent auditor with the California State Auditor's Office. Mr. Ahmadi currently serves as a team lead in his position as Senior Auditor Evaluator II. In addition to the numerous independent audits of California's financial statements, Mr. Ahmadi has also participated on many audits including audits of the State Bar of California, the Department of Health Services, Department of Transportation, as well as conducted investigations of improper activities by state employees. Additionally, Mr. Ahmadi participates in the California State Auditor's recruiting program. Mr. Ahmadi has a B.S. in Accounting from CSU, San Diego, and is registered with the Republican Party.

The three alternate ARP members include:

MIKE TILDEN has over 15 years of experience conducting independent audits with the California State Auditor's Office. Mr. Tilden has conducted, led, and managed a wide variety of independent audits including audits of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, California Public Schools, Pharmaceuticals, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Department of Industrial Relations, and the Franchise Tax Board. Having earned a B.S. in Accounting from CSU Sacramento, Mr. Tilden is currently an Audit Principal with the office. Further, he is an active Certified Public Accountant and is registered with the Democratic Party.

PHILIP JELICICH is a Deputy State Auditor with the California State Auditor's Office has nearly 30 years experience with the office and its predecessor agency, the Office of the Auditor General, conducting, leading, or managing numerous independent audits concerning a wide variety of subjects and entities including the California Energy Markets, the Department of Education, the Department of Insurance, the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Social Services. Further, Mr. Jelicich managed investigations of improper activities by state employees. In addition, as a member of the executive management team, Mr. Jelicich is involved in policy making and is instrumental to the recruiting activities for the office.

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Mr. Jelicich earned a B.S. in Accounting and Finance and an M.B.A. in Finance from CSU Sacramento. He is also an active Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Public Financial Officer. Mr. Jelicich is registered as decline-to-state.

NORM CALLOWAY, having earned a B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from CSU Stanislaus, is currently a Senior Auditor Evaluator III for the California State Auditor's Office and is an active Certified Public Accountant. With over 20 years of experience performing independent audits for the office and its predecessor agency, the Office of the Auditor General. Mr. Calloway has conducted and led independent audits in numerous areas including County Poll Workers, Veterans Home of California at Yountville, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Nonprofit Hospitals, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program, and Cajon Valley Union School District. Mr. Calloway is registered with the Republican Party.

For more information, please visit www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov

NOTE:

State Auditor Elaine M. Howle is available to speak with the media today to discuss this process. She is available from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the auditor's office at 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300.

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