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SUBMITTED SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION NUMBERS ANNOUNCED FOR CALIFORNIA'S FIRST CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

THOUSANDS OF TENTATIVELY ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS FOR HISTORIC SERVICE

SACRAMENTO, CA (April 20, 2010) – Today, the California State Auditor announced that nearly 5,000 tentatively eligible applicants submitted supplemental applications for the state's first-ever Citizens Redistricting Commission—nearly 20 percent of those tentatively eligible in the initial phase. The supplemental application period closed on April 19 at 5 p.m.

An influx of required letters of recommendation kept the fax machine going all day, as did a flood of emails and mail. The State Auditor has roughly 2,000 letters of recommendation (and more in the mail) to process in order for the supplemental applications to be considered complete—thus, final numbers of “complete applications” (which is the supplemental application plus the three required letters of recommendation) are not yet available.

“We are pleased that thousands of Californians are continuing in the process to become one of 14 members of our state's first Citizens Redistricting Commission,” said California State Auditor Elaine M. Howle, whose office is charged with creating the Commission. “The pool of applicants will allow the Applicant Review Panel to identify 60 of the most qualified applicants that are reflective of California's richness and diversity.”

Every 10 years after the census, California goes through the process of redrawing the political districts from which representatives of the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization are elected, but

(more)

Citizens Redistricting Commission



Proposition 11—the Voters FIRST Act—transferred the responsibility from the Legislature to a new 14-member independent commission made up of California citizens. The Commission application process was open to registered California voters who voted in at least two of the last three general elections and had consistent party affiliation for five years.

“It’s been an honor to be a part of this historic process, and I thank every single Californian who had the interest and took the time to apply,” said Howle.

The application process for the Citizens Redistricting Commission opened on December 15, 2009, and closed on February 16, 2010. More than 30,000 registered voters applied to the Commission.

The three-member Applicant Review Panel will now review the applicant qualifications and identify 120 of the most qualified applicants. Interviews for those 120 applicants will then be scheduled and the Applicant Review Panel will then narrow the pool to 60 of the most qualified.

The Applicant Review Panel will then submit the list of those 60 applicants to the California State Legislature. Legislative leadership has the option of removing up to 24 names from the list. From that list, the California State Auditor’s office will then randomly select the first eight commissioners. Those eight commissioners will select the remaining six to establish the 14-member commission which will include, in total, five Republicans, five Democrats and four members from neither of those parties.

For more information please visit www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov, or if you have questions, please call (866) 356-5217.

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