

The following document contains background information about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) and justification for our ongoing budget request. In order for the CRC to fulfill its missions for the people of California, a modest, ongoing budget allocation is required. The Department of Finance has already approved almost half of our budget request (Table 1). The discussion today is intended to explain why the CRC needs the rest of our requested budget allocation. Per request from the Department of Finance, the CRC has arranged for up to 1000 hours of annual support from the Attorney General so no additional legal funding has been included at this point.

Background

Holding Public Meetings – Bagley-Keene requirements

1. Public Policy of California is for deliberations of public bodies take place at open meetings in **full** view of the public.
 - a. Without video, closed caption and video functionality, this standard is not met.
 - b. This standard applies regardless of the size of the state public body of three or more members.
2. Agenda must be posted on CRC website ten calendar days in advance.
 - a. Ability to post agenda on website is a requirement.
 - b. Post handouts
 - c. Post video which is the official record of our meetings
 - d. Post transcripts
3. CRC must keep a mailing list.
4. Fees associated with multiple locations (rental fees, and ability for public to speak at those locations) are required under current law.
5. Right for the public to access meeting records- need either a database for electronically scanned meeting records or a physical location with internet to email or mail the requested records.
6. Need a way to keep a recording of past meetings accessible to the public.
7. The possibility of being sued- need a physical location for service of process.

Applicable Codes for the CRC

California Constitution: Article XXI, Sections 1 – 3

Government Code: Chapter 3.2 Sections 8251 – 8253.6

Election Code: Chapter 1 21000 – 21003

Bagley-Keene Act Section 11120 et seq

State Auditor Code: Title 2, Division 10, Chapter 1 of CA Code of Regulations

The term for Commissioners expires upon the appointment of the first member of the succeeding commission Article XXI, Section 2(c)(4). The term of the current CRC will expire no later than July 5, 2030 GOV 8252(f).

The CRC is the only entity that may recommend changes to the provisions in the government code that apply to the CRC [GOV:8251(c)].

Commission members shall be compensated for each day the member is engaged in commission business GOV 8253.5

Ongoing Work of the Commission

1. Legislative Changes

The CRC is working on a number of improvements to current legislation. Although the Legislature has already approved one change, several other changes are in the works. Enacting these changes requires the Legislative subcommittee to meet regularly with the JLBC (legislative staff).

2. Lessons Learned

A 126-page draft document capturing lessons learned has been created by the Lessons Learned subcommittee. This document is under review by the entire CRC and will be several months before completion.

3. Continuity/Transition planning

The current legislation governing the CRC gives little consideration to the transition between sitting and newly appointed commission members and the requirement that an entirely new commission staff be hired shortly after that transition. The current CRC is working to develop and implement a plan to make that transition more effective. This will require ongoing work by the subcommittee, especially in the years ending in 8, 9 and 0.

4. Outreach and Education

The CRC is required to conduct a statewide outreach program GOV: 8253(a)(7) and 8235.6(a). The current timeline for the CRC does not allow for the CRC to do an effective job of outreach because there is simply not enough time to hire outreach staff, develop an outreach plan, place contracts, and conduct outreach and education. Therefore, the current CRC is considering a strategy to partner with the Census outreach office for planning and execution of CRC outreach. This will require the subcommittee to work with the Governor's office and Census office beginning in the year ending in 4.

5. Finance & Administration

The Finance & Administration subcommittee will continue its ongoing activities of overseeing the CRC budget, working personnel issues, and any other administrative issues that arise.

6. Incarcerated Populations – Federal Facilities

Elections Code 21003 does not address how the CRC will count the incarcerated population housed in federal facilities. The Incarcerated Populations-Federal Facilities subcommittee is working with the Federal Bureau of Prison and Senator Padilla's Office to obtain an agreement where appropriate information will be received to gain the last known residence data for in-state and out of state incarcerated individuals in federal facilities. The subcommittee will also coordinate with the Statewide Database personnel to ensure the information is received in the appropriate format.

7. Bagley-Keene

The Bagley-Keene subcommittee will continue to work to amend the Bagley-Keene requirement that the CRC meet in person, similar to the recommendations by the Little Hoover Commission.

8. Ongoing operations

The CRC will have an office of one permanent full-time staff to manage ongoing operations between 2023 and 2030. This staff member will be responsible for overseeing all commission business during this time with the support of the Finance and Administration subcommittee. Among other duties,

the staff will coordinate the CRC meetings (videographer, ASL, close captioning, transcriptions, Attorney General, agenda, meeting locations), process per diem claims, process travel expense claims, manage IT needs, process invoices, process and monitor contracts, work with subcommittee members, liaison with the Chairs and Vice Chairs, and work with external agencies (DGS, SCO, AG, State Auditor).

9. Web Site and IT Needs

A web site is required to host CRC information. The Website subcommittee will need to continue to oversee the site and ensure it is working properly. Also, other IT needs such as migration to the state EIS and managing our database will require part-time needs by a retired annuitant. Further, the commissioners and staff require email in order to communicate with each other as it related to Commission business (meetings, subcommittee work, ongoing redistricting activities, etc.).

10. Cell Phones

Commissioners and staff require cell phones for commission use. As with all state work, not everything can be accomplished via email and/or computer. Furthermore, if the Commission were to be sued, Commissioners should not be put in a position where they would need to relinquish their personal phone if there were discovery orders.

11. Periodic meetings

All of the work outlined above requires ongoing meetings of the full CRC for updates and approvals. Those meetings require all of the services outlined in Bagley Keene requirements above. We have proposed only holding four meetings per year to minimize overall cost.

Table 1. Items approved for ongoing funding by the Department of Finance

| Item | Ongoing Budget Approved |
|--|-------------------------|
| SSM1 Specialist (Salary and Benefits) | \$141,000 |
| Website maintenance and operation | \$12,600 |
| DGS Contract | \$27,500 |
| Per Diem (14 Commissioners x 4 meetings x \$378) | \$21,168 |
| Travel Cost (4 meetings x \$3,500) | \$14,000 |
| Total Approved Budget | \$216,268 |

Table 2. Items required for CRC to continue to operate

| Item | Why Needed | Projected Cost per Year | Ongoing work Item # above |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Office Space | The CRC needs on-going office space to prevent issues the 2010 Commission experienced, re: lost documents, state equipment and materials being housed in an RAs garage, etc. | \$45,000 | All |
| CRC's O365 | The CRC needs official commission email to prevent commingling of personal and state communications. | \$4,140 (Expires 3/2024) | All |
| Commission cell Phones | As above, the CRC needs official commission cell phones to prevent | \$10,800 | All |

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| | commingling of personal and state communications. | | |
| Retired Annuitants | Retired Annuitants to support CRC operations in IT, Legal, and Accounting. | \$20,953 | All |
| State Storage | State Records Storage provides a cost-effective means of housing and securing important hard-copy state records. | \$1,000 | |
| Postage and Office supplies | The CRC sends live warrants to commissioners via FedEx and USPS priority mail to prevent loss of the warrants. | \$500 | |
| Meeting svcs | Videography/ASL/Transcriptions (4 meetings per year) | \$31,980 | 11 |
| Sub-committee work | Chair & Vice Chair/Subcommittee work with Staff prior to meetings. | \$90,720 | All |
| OE&E | Lexus/Nexus, SCIF, SCO, CalPers, ESRI | \$17,000 | All |
| | Total | \$222,093 | |