



NOTE: THIS SET OF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL IN MAKING A DECISION ABOUT WHETHER TO APPLY FOR THE COMMISSION.

Question 1: What kind of work will the commissioners do?

The commission is responsible for drawing new district maps for the California Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization. This work will occur in 2011, from January 1 to September 15.

To carry out their work, the commissioners will do the following things:

- Hire staff, consultants, and attorneys. The staff, consultants, and attorneys will help the commissioners carry out their activities by providing data analysis, using software to draw district maps, and advising the commission on legal principles relevant to redistricting.
- Conduct meetings across the state to collect public input on how the new district maps should be drawn.
- Prepare draft maps. To do this, the commissioners will evaluate the public input they received, as well as data and statistical information relevant to redistricting. The maps must comply with various rules that the commission is required to follow in drawing the district maps.
- Collect public comment on the draft maps. This will include holding a second set of meetings across the state.
- Engage in discussion and negotiation with other commissioners about how the maps should be drawn. The commissioners will take a vote on each proposed map; nine of 14 commissioners must agree to adopt a map.

Question 2: How will the commissioners be selected?

The process for selecting the commissioners has several steps. The first step is for interested individuals to submit an application form between December 15, 2009 and February 12, 2010.

The California State Auditor is responsible for collecting the applications and screening out individuals who are not eligible to serve on the commission. To learn more about these eligibility requirements, go to our FAQs about who is eligible for the commission.

Next, the applications are reviewed by a panel of three of the State Auditor's auditors. The panel will select 120 qualified applicants to interview. The panel will then select 60 applicants to make it onto a final list.



The last series of steps involve eight commissioners being randomly selected from the final list of applicants, and those eight commissioners choosing the remaining six commissioners from the final list.

The entire process takes about a year. After the process is finished, there will be 14 commissioners, including five registered Democrats, five registered Republicans, and four commissioners who are registered with third parties or as decline-to-state voters.

This is just a summary of the various stages of the selection process. You can find a fact sheet at the California State Auditor’s website at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/application.html that provides a more detailed illustration of the process.

Question 3: What kind of time commitment is involved in applying for the commission?

From start to finish, the process of selecting the commissioners will take about a year. Eight commissioners will be selected by November 20, 2010, and the remaining six commissioners will be selected by December 31, 2010.

With regard to your own time investment in the selection process, the following table provides an estimate of how long it will take you to complete the various aspects of the application process (for a more detailed description of the application process, please go to the State Auditor’s website at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/application.html). Please note that these are only estimates; the actual amount of time it takes each applicant will vary depending on his or her circumstances.

Task	Estimated Time to Complete
Fill out the first part of the application form	1-3 hours
Fill out the second part of the application form (if eligible)	3-5 hours
Ask three people to send in recommendation letters (if eligible)	1-2 hours
Submit Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests (if invited)	1-2 hours
Participate in interview in Sacramento (if invited)	4-10 hours (including travel time)



Question 4: If I apply, what personal information about me will be made public, and what information will be kept confidential?

One of the goals of the application process is to create public trust in the commission by having the process for selecting the commissioners be open and public. For example, all of the applications and interviews will be posted on the State Auditor’s website.

At the same time, the application process provides safeguards to protect applicants from having sensitive information be made public. Specifically, the State Auditor may choose to leave out sensitive information from the materials that are posted on its website, including the following:

- Personal information such as residence addresses and telephone numbers.
- Information that does not have to be disclosed under California’s law governing disclosure of public records, as well as information that state or federal law prohibits state agencies from disclosing.

The State Auditor also has an affirmative duty to protect the confidentiality of any materials or information that is prohibited from being publicly released.

This is just a summary of the State Auditor’s protocols for what information will be made public, and what information will be kept confidential. To see the rule that the State Auditor is required to follow, please see Regulation 60842 on pages 17-19 of the State Auditor’s regulations, available at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/regulations.pdf. You can also contact the State Auditor and ask for more information about this, either by calling the State Auditor toll-free at 1-866-356-5217 or sending an email to votersfirstact@auditor.ca.gov.

Lastly, you can view the application form at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/application.html and see what kind of information applicants must provide in their applications.

Question 5: If I apply, what kind of financial information will I have to publicly disclose?

The State Auditor’s panel of reviewers will ask for a Form 700 from applicants who the panel deems to be likely candidates to make it onto the list of 120 applicants for interviews. The Form 700 is a “Statement of Economic Interests,” and requires applicants to disclose information about their personal assets and income.

The Form 700 requires applicants to disclose information about items such as:

- Investments in stocks and bonds.
- Investments in business entities and trusts.



- Interests in real property, including rental income.
- Income, loans and business positions.
- Gifts from non-family members.
- Travel payments from third parties (i.e. parties other than your employer).

To see what the Form 700 looks like, you can visit www.fppc.ca.gov/forms/700-08-09/Form700-08-09.pdf.

Question 6: Will the work of the commissioners be public?

Yes. One of the goals of the new commission process is to make the process of redistricting open and public.

The commissioners are required to conduct all of their meetings in public. They are prohibited from speaking about redistricting matters with members of the public, except during the commission's public meetings. Also, all of the commission's records will be publicly available.

In addition to these transparency requirements, the commissioners may be subject to a degree of public scrutiny because they are public officials.

Question 7: What kind of time commitment is involved in serving on the commission?

The term of service for the commissioners is 10 years. While this may seem long, the commission will complete the bulk of its work during 2011, from January 1 to September 15.

During these eight-and-a-half months, commissioners can expect to work between 10 to 40 hours per week on average. During busier periods, commissioners may have to work in excess of 40 hours per week.

The commission will set its own schedule, and it is likely that the commission will need to do some work during weekday evenings and on weekends. For example, to promote broad community participation at its hearings, the commission will need to conduct some hearings during evenings or on weekends.

After the commission adopts the final maps by September 15, the commission will have only a limited amount of work, occurring sporadically over the next nine years, including overseeing its attorneys in defending any legal challenges to the maps. The commissioners will also have the opportunity to recommend changes to either the process for selecting commissioners or the commission's process for drawing and adopting new district maps.



Question 8: Can I still keep my job if I'm on the commission?

Your ability to continue your current employment depends on the type of employment and the amount of flexibility you have in your work schedule. There is no precise estimate of the amount of time that the commissioners will spend on commission work. That said, the commissioners will likely need to spend a significant amount of time carrying out their duties in 2011, during the eight-and-a-half months from January 1 to September 15.

Proposition 11 provides that your employer may not terminate, threaten to terminate, or retaliate against you for attending a meeting of the commission. Also, as noted below in Question 9, commissioners receive compensation for their service.

Question 9: How much compensation can commissioners expect to be paid?

Commissioners will receive \$300 for each day they are conducting commission business, plus reimbursement of expenses. In comparison, many other state commissions in California provide \$100 per day to their members.

The total compensation provided to commissioners will vary depending on how many days the commission ends up working. During the eight-and-a-half months from January 1 to September 15, 2011, it is possible that commissioners may work an average of three days a week, and during busy periods, five or six days a week. However, because this is the first time that the new commission process is being implemented, it is unknown how much time the commission will actually need to carry out its duties.

Additionally, the commission will set its own schedule and make its own determination about how much time to devote to its work. The commission's level of activity may range from one day a week to seven days a week. As a result, the total amount of compensation that commissioners may receive during these eight-and-a-half months is likely to range from \$11,100 to \$77,700.

Question 10: Where will the commission meet? How often and where will commissioners have to travel?

The commission's goal is to facilitate broad public input in how the maps should be drawn, and the commissioners should expect to travel across the state to conduct public meetings. The commission will be able to set the number and location of these meetings to best meet this goal. Depending on available technology, the commission may be able to use videoconferencing and other technologies to reduce the amount of travel required.



Question 11: What are the qualifications to be on the commission?

Proposition 11 requires commissioners to have three qualifications:

1. The ability to be impartial.
2. An appreciation for California’s diverse demographics and geography.
3. Relevant analytical skills.

Question 12: What does it mean to have an “ability to be impartial”?

Under the State Auditor’s rules, an applicant for the commission who has strong views can still be considered to have the ability to be impartial. However, to have the ability to be impartial, an applicant must be willing and able to set aside those views when carrying out the commission’s duties.

For example, an applicant must demonstrate that he or she can set aside all of the following things:

1. Personal views and interests, including financial interests.
2. Biases for or against individuals, groups or geographical areas.
3. Support for or opposition to social and political interests, such as candidates, political parties, and social and political causes.

This is just a summary of the State Auditor’s definition of “ability to be impartial.” To see the definition itself, please see Regulation 60800 on page 1 of the State Auditor’s regulations, available at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/regulations.pdf.

Question 13: What does it mean to have an “appreciation for California’s diverse demographics and geography”?

Under the State Auditor’s rules, an applicant must understand the following things to have an appreciation for California’s diverse population and geography.

1. The applicant must understand that California’s population includes individuals with shared demographic characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status – and also understand that these characteristics may relate to their political preferences and views.
2. The applicant must understand that Californians reside in various regions that have distinctive geographic characteristics, such as areas that are urban, suburban, rural, industrial, agricultural, coastal, inland, arid, and temperate – and also understand that these characteristics may relate to the political preferences of residents in those regions.



3. The applicant must recognize the importance of having effective participation in California’s democracy from individuals of all demographic characteristics and residing in all geographic locations in the state – including those individuals who have had relatively little opportunity to participate in California’s democracy as a result of their shared demographic characteristics, such as race and ethnicity.

This is just a summary of the State Auditor’s definition of “appreciation for California’s diverse demographics and geography.” To see the definition itself, please see Regulation 60805 on page 3 of the State Auditor’s regulations, available at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/regulations.pdf.

Question 14: What does it mean to have “relevant analytical skills”?

Under the State Auditor’s rules, commissioners must have four kinds of analytical skills. These include the following:

1. Commissioners will have to obtain information relevant to redistricting, such as statistical information and testimony from members of the public. To do this, the commissioners will have to listen carefully to public testimony and ask the kind of questions that will elicit information relevant to redistricting.
2. Commissioners will have to evaluate the information they gather – in other words, make judgments about the information they collect. For example, the commissioners will need to determine which information is credible and separate relevant information from irrelevant information. The commissioners will also have to resolve issues that arise when members of the public make conflicting claims about facts.
3. Commissioners will have to understand the legal principles that govern redistricting, with the assistance of the commission’s attorneys. These legal principles are in essence the rules for drawing district maps and govern decisions about whether districts should be drawn one way or another. The commissioners will have to understand these rules, and apply them to the commission’s maps.
4. Commissioners will have to engage in group discussion and negotiation to reach consensus for the commission’s decisions. To do this, the commissioners will need to communicate effectively with each other.

This is just a summary of the State Auditor’s definition of “relevant analytical skills.” To see the definition itself, please see Regulation 60827 on pages 10-12 of the State Auditor’s regulations, available at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/downloads/regulations.pdf.



Question 15: Do I have to be a redistricting or mapping expert to get on the commission?

No. Commissioners do not have to be redistricting experts, and they are not required to be experts in mapping or Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The commission will be able to hire staff, consultants, and attorneys with redistricting expertise and mapping skills to help the commission in carrying out its duties.

Question 16: If I get on the commission, is there anything I won't be able to do as a result?

Yes. The following chart illustrates the things you cannot do if you serve as a commissioner:

Prohibited Activity	Length of Prohibition
Run for office at the federal, state, county or city level within California	Until the end of 2020
Be appointed to federal, state or local office within California	Until the end of 2015
Serve as paid staff for the California legislature or any individual legislator	Until the end of 2015
Register as a federal, state or local lobbyist within California	Until the end of 2015

Question 17: Will the commissioners receive any training?

Yes. The commissioners may decide to set up an orientation and training for themselves to reach a common understanding of the process of redistricting and the commission's operating protocols.

Question 18: How much money will the commission have to carry out its business?

At this point in time, the commission's budget is uncertain. The state legislature has provided \$3 million to the commission, State Auditor, and Secretary of State to carry out their duties for the 2011 redistricting process. It is possible that the legislature and the Governor may allocate more funding to the commission as necessary.

Question 19: What assistance will the commission have to carry out its duties?

The commission will be able to hire staff, consultants, and attorneys to assist the commission carry out its duties. The staff, consultants, and attorneys will help the commission set up meetings to take public input, prepare draft maps that comply with the required rules for drawing district lines, solicit and take public comments on the draft maps, and prepare final maps of the new district lines.