

APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 2 - April 23, 2020

March 2, 2020

Chair: Ms. Dickison

Vice Chair: Mr. Belnap

Call to order by Ms. Dickison took place at 8:34 a.m.

Roll call was taken and all members present: Mr. Belnap, Mr. Coe and Ms. Dickison

After soliciting comment from panel members and the public, Ms. Dickison then moved to adopt the minutes from the February 19-21, 2020 meeting, as written. Mr. Belnap requested one change to the minutes and all agreed with the change. Ms. Dickison moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Mr. Belnap seconded. After soliciting comment on the amended minutes and seeing none, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dickison welcomed everyone to the Applicant Review Panel (Panel) meeting and briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to begin interviews of 120 of the most qualified applicants, 40 individuals from each of the three pools (Democratic, Republican, and Not Affiliated).

Ms. Dickison then addressed standard housekeeping issues including, silencing cell phones, safety, and the need to take a break at least every 90 minutes. She then stated that public comments would not be taken until the end of the interview process on the last day. Those watching via livestream could submit comments to the applicant review panel email address, and on the website. Public comments already received were available in the back of the room.

Ms. Dickison then discussed the interview process including the check-in procedures for each applicant. She explained that each applicant had been provided the five standard questions that the Panel had adopted at the February 19-21, 2020, meeting, that Mr. Dawson would have 20 minutes to ask the five standard questions, and then each Panel member would have twenty minutes to ask their questions. This would be followed by a period for follow up questions and, if time is remaining, a closing



statement by the applicant. No interview could exceed 90 minutes. The Panel would recess for at least 15 minutes between interviews, and at the end of the day until the next scheduled interview.

Ms. Dickison provided a brief recap of the Panel's meetings held over the last six months and their progress to date in reducing the applicant pool to 120 applicants. For those who have, or will, be removed from the pool, she described the opportunities available to participate in numerous local redistricting commissions being established throughout the state.

Ms. Dickison moved to Agenda item 3 and noticed that the California State Auditor's Office (Office) counsel did not have a report. Moving on to Agenda item 4, she introduced Mr. Dawson, Panel Counsel for his report. Mr. Dawson described the assistance still provided by Office staff and thanked them for the support they have provided to the Panel and the applicants. He then briefly described the meeting interview timeline through April 22, and the following meeting scheduled for the first week in May.

Ms. Dickison noticed that the Panel had not received any requests for reconsideration under Agenda item 5. She then briefly recessed the meeting at 8:43 before beginning the first interview scheduled for 9:00 AM under Agenda item 6. The Panel commenced its schedule of four interviews each day for four days a week, recessing each day.

On March 19, 2020, prior to beginning interviews, Chair Coe introduced Mr. Dawson for a special Panel Counsel Report on behalf of the Chief Counsel and the Office to address issues affecting the Panel's interviews related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. He assured the Panel, vendors, the public, staff, and most importantly all applicants that he and the Office were closely monitoring the situation and were in close contact with California Human Resources (CalHR), the California Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Services, the Legislature and the Governor's Office. Under the latest guidance from CalHR, the meetings of the Applicant Review Panel are deemed essential and low risk. He explained that they were also putting a contingency plan in place to allow applicants to participate in interviews remotely, with a minimum of travel.

On March 20, 2020, following direction by Governor Newsom and public health officials to shelter at home due to the unprecedented public health threat of COVID-19, the Office placed the interview schedule on temporary hold until March 25. During that temporary hold, the office worked with the remaining applicants, staff, and vendors to put in place arrangements for all remaining interviews to be conducted remotely via teleconferencing technology. The schedule was resumed on Wednesday, March 25, and applicants originally scheduled for March 23-24 were rescheduled to the first two Fridays in April.



Over the course of the 8 week interview schedule, three applicants did not appear for their interviews. On April 15, Mr. Gurinder Aujla was unable to attend his interview and was rescheduled to April 23, 2020.

April 23, 2020

On April 23, 2020, the Panel conducted its last interview following which it recessed briefly. Ms. Dickison reconvened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. on that day to conduct closing business. She announced the completion of the interviews of 117 applicants and described the remaining phases of the Panel's process. She explained that the Panel would hold its final meeting from May 6 to May 8, at which time they would make the selection of 60 of the most qualified applicants consisting of 20 Democrats, 20 Republicans and 20 Not Affiliated. Those names would be provided to the Legislature for the final phase of the selection process prior to the random selection to be held in July.

Ms. Dickison then introduced Mr. Dawson, Panel Counsel, who announced that the notice and agenda of the following meeting would be posted soon after adjournment of the current meeting and discussed the process for receiving public comment under the circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 situation. He stated that the Office was working on a plan to receive live comments remotely during the upcoming meeting in May and that the meeting agenda would be updated as necessary. He then read into the record 12 public comments that the Panel had received by email to the Applicant Review Panel mailbox or the website since the last meeting.

Ms. Dickison, followed by Mr. Belnap and Mr. Coe then thanked all applicants for their participation and flexibility in attending the interviews, noting how impressed they were with the quality and expertise of the people they met. They thanked the Office staff and all contractors who worked tirelessly to complete the interviews under the current conditions of a global pandemic.

Ms. Dickison then adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

