



April 24, 2020

Applicant Review Panel
c/o California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic transmission

Re: Geographic diversity of the Citizens Redistricting Commission finalists

Dear Members of the Applicant Review Panel:

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) selection process on track under such challenging circumstances. We appreciate and commend the efforts undertaken by you and your colleagues at the Auditor's office to quickly transition to an entirely remote and seamless interview process. As that process concludes, we write to urge you to apply a nuanced view of geographic diversity as you make your decisions about the 60 finalists you will forward to the legislature next month.

As you are aware and have demonstrated through your thoughtful deliberations, your charge, under Article XXI, Sec. 2(c)(1) of the California Constitution, is to select a pool of finalists that are "reasonably representative of this state's diversity." California Government Code Section 8252 (a)(1) requires that "the State Auditor shall initiate an application process, open to all registered California voters in a manner that promotes a diverse and qualified applicant pool."

How is this diversity defined? At the last step of the selection process, the law provides that the final six appointees "shall be chosen to ensure the commission reflects this State's diversity, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity." We think that achieving diversity in the pool of 60 finalists should follow the same principles: looking for candidates who embody and appreciate the state's rich racial, ethnic, geographic and gender diversity.

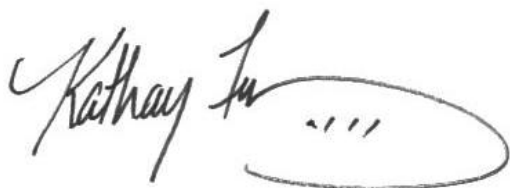
There has been some question about how to achieve geographic diversity. As you know, it is one of the several factors the ARP must balance in its evaluation of applicants. As you think about the geographic diversity of the applicant pool, it is important to think beyond simplistic county or regional representation. We know that a vast majority of Californians live in a handful of large urban counties, with 60% living in Southern California. We ask that you consider representation of geographic diversity even within counties and regions in order to create a representative pool. For instance, a populous county like Los Angeles has a broad range of communities, and the perspectives and experiences of people who live in coastal cities may be very different from those who live in ethnically diverse suburban valleys or urban neighborhoods.

Layered on top of the representative diversity are the statutory and regulatory requirements that emphasize creating a pool of candidates who demonstrate a deep appreciation and understanding of

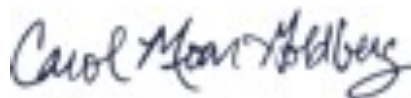
the state's "diverse demographics and geography." Cal. Gov. Code § 8252(d); *see also* 2 CCR § 60805. We appreciate the ARP's sensitivity to and application of this nuance to its deliberations as it determines the 60 finalists who best reflect California's broad and deep diversity.

Thank you again for the important and thoughtful work you have done thus far to ensure a transparent, fair, and independent selection and redistricting process. If you have any questions or need any follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact Lori Shellenberger, Common Cause Redistricting Consultant, at 917.226.0514, or Helen Hutchison, Redistricting Program Director for League of Women Voters of California, at 510.654.2216.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kathay Feng in black ink. The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kathay Feng
Interim Executive Director
California Common Cause

Handwritten signature of Carol Moon Goldberg in black ink. The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President
League of Women Voters of California

Cc: Margarita Fernández, CPA
Chief of Public Affairs and Quality Assurance
California State Auditor