

Citizens sought for redistricting board

From staff reports

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Offering a job that pays \$300 a day, Los Angeles County officials are encouraging residents to apply for a seat on the new state Citizens Redistricting Commission by Feb. 12.

The commission redraws legislative boundaries, as well as some local jurisdiction seats.

In California, the Legislature has historically drawn these district maps. But next year, a citizens commission, formed by the state auditor, will be in charge of redistricting.

At www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov, residents can view the application and find out more about the role they could play in the county and state redistricting process.

"Given that Los Angeles County represents at least one out of every four Californians, and that our cultural and community diversity is unique to any jurisdiction in the state, it is imperative that our county has an ample pool of qualified candidates to increase its prospects of representation," Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Gloria Molina said.

Every 10 years, the federal government counts every person through the census, providing a

snapshot of how many people there are and where they live.

Based on these figures, the state's population is divided evenly into districts for the Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization.

The commission will be composed of five Democrats, five Republicans and four others. These individuals will be drawn from a pool of candidates from across the state.

To qualify, candidates must be a registered voter in California for at least the last five years with the same party (or nonparty) affiliation, have voted in at least two of the past three statewide general elections and have the relevant analytical skills, be impartial and appreciate California's diversity, county spokesman Brian Lew said.

The 14 commissioners will be selected by Dec. 31. Once elected, the commissioners will hold meetings around the state to listen to residents describe their communities, neighborhoods and what issues are important to them. The commission will use this information and draw district maps with an equal number of people in each district.

The public hearing period runs from Jan. 1, 2011, to Sept. 15, 2011.

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