

# Boards and Commissions Application

## Profile

Jose  
First Name

Posadas  
Last Name

[Redacted]  
Email Address

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Charter Review Commission: Submitted

## Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes  No

## Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> \*

District 3

[Redacted]  
Street Address

[Redacted]  
Suite or Apt

San Jose  
City

CA  
State

95112  
Postal Code

[Redacted]  
Primary Phone

[Redacted]  
Alternate Phone

Santa Clara County  
Employer

Election Specialist  
Job Title

## Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

## Current Employer of Spouse

NA

**Address of Current Employer of Spouse**

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**Spouse's Job Title**

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NA

**If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.**

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**Demographics (Optional)**

The demographic information you choose to provide is **VOLUNTARY** and **OPTIONAL**. This information will be kept separate from your application and will not be used for evaluating applications or making appointments. The City of San José will use this information to solely conduct research and compile statistical reports regarding the composition of its Board and Commission applicants.

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**Interests & Experiences**

**High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.**

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San Jose State University, BA Political Science 1998. I am a product of the San Jose public education system since arriving here as an immigrant from Mexico at the age of 3. I graduated from San Jose High School in 1981 and went to San Diego State from 1983-1985. I was the first child in the family to go out of the area to college but my experience there was not a positive one. I dropped out and for a decade I did not consider returning but as my nephews and nieces entered high school I could not in good conscience encourage them to pursue higher education if I had not finished it myself. So, in 1995 I returned to college this time at SJSU and made the Dean's List while also working fulltime. I had completed my course of study in fall of 1997 but at the urging of Dr Terry Christensen I took an internship in the spring of 1998 in Sacramento with then Assemblymember Liz Figueroa.

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**List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates**

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I worked as a Policy Analyst for then City Councilmember Cindy Chavez from 1999-2001. I have served as a Boardmember on several nonprofit boards including Hispanic Charity Foundation (2002-2004), San Jose Beautification Committee (2002-2005), Exchange Club of San Jose (2005-2008), 13th Street Neighborhood Advisory Committee (2010-present), San Jose High Bulldog Foundation (2019-present), and La Raza Historical Society of Santa Clara Valley (2018-present) to name a few.

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**Languages Spoken**

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English - Spanish

## Special Awards or Recognitions Received

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**Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.**

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As a student of political science and specifically local government I want to continue to serve my community as a member of the Charter Review Commission. Since graduating from SJSU as an older student I have tried to bring both my life experiences and my training into every task I have set my goals on. Whether as an employee or as a volunteer I have strived to always act professionally, ethically, and fairly in a conscientious manner especially when dealing with the public. I am a public servant at heart and believe it is the responsibility of those representing government or nonprofits to be respectful, to be open and accessible in the course of one's work in the service of others. As a commissioner I would be dedicated to being impartial and professional in my actions and with the objective of providing opportunities for the community to participate in the process of reviewing and providing input on reforms to the City Charter.

**Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application**

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I am an employee of the Registrar of Voters and as a representative I am always mindful of my actions and words in the course of my work. I do not let my personal views influence my work serving the voters of Santa Clara County. Having the confidence of the public is the cornerstone of our job as election officials. That the public knows that we are an organization that is impartial and unbiased and that we serve every citizen and non-citizen equitably forms the trust on which we build relationships. As an Election Specialist responsible for implementing the Voter's Choice Act for the first time in Santa Clara County this year I worked to build relationships with local government officials, school districts and principals, community groups and faith-based organizations. The importance of these relationships could not have been more critical than when we had to adapt to the COVID pandemic and turned to our community partners to work together and collaborate on how we could address the concerns of the public and the staff whose buildings we would be using as vote centers during the General Election. This same approach to relationship building, collaboration, communication and leading by example would be the same approach I would bring to the Charter Review Commission.

**Do you own property in the City of San José?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, please list the addresses here.**

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**Do you rent property in the City of San José?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?**

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Yes  No

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State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes  No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

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**Reference 1 Name**

Terry Christensen

**Reference 1 Address**

[REDACTED]

**Reference 1 Phone**

[REDACTED]

**Reference 2 Name**

Fred Buzo

**Reference 2 Address**

[REDACTED]

**Reference 2 Phone**

[REDACTED]

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**Supplemental Questions**

**If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?**

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Yes  No

**Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?**

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Yes  No

**Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.**

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As mentioned earlier I have served on various boards and understand the responsibility of representing the organization in a faithful, transparent and equitable manner. As a boardmember I have to follow a code of conduct that reflects the vision and values of the organization I represent. Every organization I have been a part of has been intrinsically rewarding to me and has, I believe, benefitted from my life experiences, talent and contributions.

**Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).**

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My training in local government from SJSU, my internship in Sacramento and subsequent work in City Hall and my work at Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters has given me the knowledge and training I will need to perform the job of researching, analyzing and offering substantive recommendations to this Commission. In addition, my experience working with various organizations, speaking with the public, addressing their concerns and building rapport with individuals of diverse opinions and backgrounds has given me the confidence to work with all communities.

**What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?**

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My understanding of the Commission is for it to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide learned recommendations to the City Council. The Commission will also base such recommendations through the gathering of community input, educate the community of this process and of the scope of the work of the Commission, and to provide deliverables to the City Council so that they may make informed decisions.

**Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.**

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The Commission should address the following issues: mayoral executive authority as it relates to reasonable governance, changes to the election cycle of the mayoral seat, and changes to the election cycle for city council districts.

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### **I would like to say . . .**

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As a lifelong resident of San Jose, I have endeavored throughout my professional and personal life to give back to my community whether it be time, talent or resources. I have participated in my local government as a resident and as a naturalized citizen and have advocated that other residents (citizens or not) to do likewise because participating in local government is the foundation of our democratic process. It is in this spirit of participatory government that I respectfully submit my name as a candidate for this Commission and if selected will perform the job without prejudice and with the highest of integrity and professionalism.

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(Optional) Please upload a resume.

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### **Retirement Board Questions Only**

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### **Verification**

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

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I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

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I Agree \*

# Boards and Commissions Application

## Profile

Elly  
First Name

Matsumura  
Last Name

[Redacted]  
Email Address

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Suite or Apt

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City

CA  
State

95112  
Postal Code

[Redacted]  
Primary Phone

[Redacted]  
Alternate Phone

Partnership for Working Families  
Employer

California Director  
Job Title

## Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

## Current Employer of Spouse

Youth Organize California, fiscally sponsored by Californians for Justice

## Address of Current Employer of Spouse

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## Spouse's Job Title

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Co-Director

## If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

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My spouse and I are not receiving pensions. However, my spouse has a second employer: Center for Empowered Politics, 1042 Grant Avenue, Suite 5, San Francisco CA 94133-5025.

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## Demographics (Optional)

The demographic information you choose to provide is **VOLUNTARY** and **OPTIONAL**. This information will be kept separate from your application and will not be used for evaluating applications or making appointments. The City of San José will use this information to solely conduct research and compile statistical reports regarding the composition of its Board and Commission applicants.

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Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs September 2001 - June 2002 Non-degree, post-baccalaureate program in public policy and cross-sectoral leadership (government, business, labor, nonprofit, and politics) Stanford University Attended September 1996 - June 2001 (took one year off in 1998-99) Bachelor's degree in Feminist Studies conferred with distinction in June 2001 Head-Royce School Attended high school September 1992 - June 1996 Graduated June 1996 with high school diploma

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### List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

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Professional: - Partnership for Working Families: California Director (October 2018-present) - County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: Consultant for 2020 Census program and Women's Equality 2020 Leadership Task Force (March-August 2018) - Working Partnerships USA: Consultant (December 2017-November 2018), Managing Director and other roles (February 2005-November 2017) - Coro Northern California: Youth Programs Manager (January 2003-January 2005) Civic/Charitable Organization Board Memberships: - Silicon Valley Rising Action: Board Member (2018-present) - Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice: Board Member (2006-2009) - SaverLife (formerly Earned Assets Resource Network): Board Member (2004-2008) - Stanford Pride (LGBTQ alumni association): Board Member (approx. 2003-2008)

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## Languages Spoken

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English, Spanish



## Special Awards or Recognitions Received

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- Assembly District 27 Leadership in Advocacy Award - 2020 - Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club Community Partner of the Year - 2017 - James W. Lyons Award for Service at Stanford University - Civic Award from Stanford in Government - Public Service Scholarship from the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University - Stanford University President's Scholarship

**Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.**

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I remember being a little kid, dragged along by my mother through the parking lot of Payless Drugstore, when I pointed out a bumper sticker that said, "I love my country but I fear my government." My mother said to me, "I don't agree with people who say that government itself is bad. In a democracy, we \*are\* the government. If we don't like it, we fix it." I have replayed this memory in my mind often, and I profoundly agree with the values behind her statement. And at the same time, government has failed time and again to live up to these values because the barriers to achieving full, authentic democracy are barriers to achieving policy and programs that truly and equitably work for all. At its best, government will be an extension of the will of the people and a level playing field for diverse stakeholders to contest over and collaborate on the solutions to meet the problems of our day. I write this application as votes continue to be counted in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and North Carolina - as well as right here in California. Never has it been clearer that the rules of engagement have massive implications for the outcomes and that impeded access to participation can disenfranchise a majority of the population. We must expand democracy in order to have people believe in government - to have a government worthy of their trust and engagement. As a member of the Charter Review Commission, my objectives would be: 1) Providing a consistent voice advocating revisions to maximize the power of San Jose's diverse residents and grassroots stakeholders to make democracy real by participating in governance - drawing from my extensive background in this area of public policy and engagement. 2) Engage diverse stakeholders directly in the process of the Commission's deliberations and ultimately the City Council decision on its recommendations. No amount of diversity or expertise on the Commission (or Council) itself can match the diversity and expertise of the community. This area of policy is complex with significant risk of unintended consequences if we don't have assistance from stakeholders analyzing proposals from every possible perspective to identify impacts across the diverse sectors of our city. We need a tremendous amount of democracy in this process in order to achieve an outcome of expanded democracy. 3) Study the options for revisions and review models that we can adapt or replicate from jurisdictions across the world. US democracy has a long and fraught history; we will need to review the charter carefully, think outside the "box" of past practice, and innovate in the Silicon Valley tradition.

**Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application**

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Thank you for the important supplemental questions. They have provided me the opportunity to lay out additional information about my interest in and qualifications for this Commission, so I do not need to provide any here.

**Do you own property in the City of San José?**

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Yes  No

**If yes, please list the addresses here.**

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[REDACTED]

**Do you rent property in the City of San José?**

Yes  No

**If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?**

Yes  No

**State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.**

I served on the board of directors for Silicon Valley Rising Action, a civic organization that engages in elections and public policy advocacy. If the City Charter revisions affect rules governing engagement in elections and public policy advocacy, Silicon Valley Rising Action may need to shift its activities.

**Reference 1 Name**

Terry Christensen

**Reference 1 Address**

[REDACTED]

**Reference 1 Phone**

[REDACTED]

**Reference 2 Name**

Michele Lew

**Reference 2 Address**

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

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**Supplemental Questions**

**If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?**

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Yes  No

**Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?**

---

Yes  No

**Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.**

---

I have served on three boards of nonprofit organizations, providing strategic leadership and guidance and fiduciary oversight. In the public sector, I have not served on an appointed body but have engaged with them extensively. I provided strategic consulting to the County of Santa Clara in designing the Women's Equality 2020 Leadership Task Force and its draft work plan and implementing its recruitment and selection process. In addition, I have organized community members to engage in the public process with a number of boards, commissions, and task forces; provided staffing support to colleagues serving on such bodies; and collaborated with members of such bodies on carrying out initiatives. Examples include the City of San Jose Sunshine Reform Task Force and the County of Santa Clara Human Relations Commission.

**Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).**

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For over 15 years, I have worked to engage members of the public - from fast food workers, to small business owners, to clergy members, to residents coming home from incarceration, and many others - in the democratic process, including elections and policymaking and implementation. This experience has both taught me what it takes to achieve engagement and exposed me to the significant barriers that the public faces. I continue to have a deep and wide set of relationships with key stakeholders in San Jose, the community I have called home for over 15 years - but perhaps more importantly, I have the skills, commitment, and track record to build new relationships and engage a broader set of residents and stakeholders in these important decisions around our City charter. In addition to directly organizing members of the public to engage, I have trained hundreds of community advocates and stakeholders, board or commission members, and elected officials across the country as well as youth on the democratic process, how to make it more effective, and how to operate more effectively within it. Training programs that I have designed and run have been replicated extensively and showcased in a report on developing leaders for democratic governance by the University of Southern California Equity Research Institute (formerly the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity). I have coauthored three research reports on the issue of expanding community members' democratic engagement with government systems and reforming government to improve equity and engagement. I have also developed programs to achieve community engagement in public and democratic processes; among other work, I served as the consultant to the County of Santa Clara spearheading the launch of its 2020 Census program, including the design and implementation of its Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program and the crafting of its 2020 Census strategic plan. I have worked with not only the policy process but also the content, having played leadership roles in crafting policy proposals such as the County's living wage policy and wage replacement for undocumented workers. In my current job, I convene a national committee of public policy and community organizing leaders collaborating to establish new initiatives to expand democracy at the local level. Finally, issues of representation and the power of marginalized communities are personal to me as a queer, Jewish mother of color, the daughter and sister of immigrants. I am a member of some of the communities who are pushing to come to the table, and my lived experiences form a basis of connection and common struggle with many others. Our communities have a long history of leading San Jose towards justice. I have a direct stake in running with that baton until we arrive at a place where democratic government provides a vital tool for families like mine, our elders and my children's generation to share the power to make our city one that works for everyone.

**What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?**

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The Commission was established by the City Council and Mayor to study and provide recommendations on possible revisions to the City charter and the governance structures and processes that it creates, including but not limited to the Mayor-Council vs. Council-Manager or hybrid governance structure and the timing of elections for City Council and mayor. Its broad aim is to expand the City of San Jose's democratic accountability, representation, and inclusion.

**Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.**

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The charter underlies every issue that the City faces during this high stakes, unprecedented moment - jobs, housing, climate, pandemic response, transportation, infrastructure and services, budget, police practices, community safety, and more - because it sets the rules and therefore determines who has inherent advantages and disadvantages getting to and sitting at the decision-making table to shape policy and programs. The Commission's scope as defined so far takes on pieces of the charter that are critical for addressing the City's ability to take on these issues of the day effectively, with more democratic processes. The Mayor-Council structure has been proposed as a means to increase democratic accountability - but this doesn't refer to just one type of structure. There are many facets of how a charter dictates the powers of the mayor, council, and managerial staff, and done wrong, revisions will decrease democratic accountability, representation, and inclusion. It is incumbent upon the Commission to sharply define the exact nature of the problems that we aim to solve and bring forth nuanced and comprehensive solutions. What role, powers, accountability, and other mechanisms surrounding our elected decision-makers will maximize democracy and infuse it through effective governance? How do other structures within government work complementarily to the elected official governance structures? Reviewing how the charter sets the rules of elections will be critical as well. As many have reminded us in the wake of the 2020 general election, voters must pick their elected officials, not the other way around - but elected officials are picking voters any time they set policies - including but not limited to election timing - that result in anything but maximum enfranchisement and engagement of the electorate. Residents must be maximally enfranchised in order to select and hold accountable the elected officials who will represent their perspectives in the policymaking process. Finally, given the charter's behind-the-scenes but foundational role in every arena of City policy, it is wise to review its entirety for other opportunities to expand democracy in San Jose and address issues where existing processes are not producing equitable engagement and outcomes.

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**I would like to say . . .**

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Commitment to expanding democracy has defined my career. I have engaged in the democratic process myself - electoral, legislative, regulatory - and reached out to thousands of others to engage. I understand what democracy and failures of democracy look like. I have the community and labor relationships to bring key stakeholders into this process as well as the skills in public policy and engagement to help make this process effective. Finally, I understand the stakes of this Commission's work at a time when our country has faced unprecedented threats to voter enfranchisement and voters' ability to choose elected officials and is having a reckoning about and renaissance of democracy.

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

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## Retirement Board Questions Only

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### Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

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I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

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I Agree \*