

Hi, this is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Today's podcast is on the California Citizens Compensation Commission. In 1990, statewide voters created the California Citizens' Compensation Commission and placed it into state government. They passed Prop 112 and its purpose was to set the salaries, as well as the benefits, of California's elected officials and take it out of the Legislature's and Governor's hands. So in 2009, the statewide electorate also adopted a ballot measure to preclude the Citizens' Compensation Commission from increasing the salaries of elected officials during the years in which the state has a budget deficit. The Commission is comprised of seven members. They are all appointed by the Governor for staggered six year terms and state law requires the Commission to meet by June 30th each year to decide what changes in compensation and benefits are to be made.

And then those decisions are effective in December of that same year that they meet. The Commission is found in Article III, Section 8 of the California State Constitution. And in Subdivision A the Commission itself is created and specifies the membership seven members, again, and that they're appointed by the Governor. And specifically the Commission is charged to establish the annual salary and the medical/dental insurance, and other similar benefits of state officers. And then in Subdivision B of Section 8 of Article III, it specifies the Commission's membership to be three public members with specified areas of expertise. And then two members who have experience in the business community and two members who are either officers or members of a labor organization. Subdivision C requires the Governor to strive in so far as practical to provide a balanced representation of the geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state of California when he or she appoints the Commissioners.

And then Subdivision D requires the appointment and the designation of a Chairperson by the Governor and pursuant to Subdivision E of Section 8, current and former officers and employees of the state are ineligible to be appointed to this Commission. Subdivision F then requires public notice of all the Commission meetings and that all of these meetings are open to the public and that a majority vote of the Commission is required to adjust the benefits and salaries of all state officers. Subdivision H specifies for specific considerations or factors that the Commissioners must utilize in order to determine the annual salary and the benefits of elected and appointed officers and officials in the state. Subdivision I defines the term state officer, and it includes the following, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Treasurer, the members of the State Board of Equalization, and then the members of the Legislature. And finally, the last two subdivisions J is the Commissioners are paid for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties. And then finally in Subdivision K the DPA, the Department of Personnel Administration for the state, actually furnishes the staff and resources to the Commission in order for the Commission to properly perform its duties. So those are the constitutional provisions in the establishment of the California Citizens' Compensation Commission, and the role that they play. Thanks for joining today's podcast.