

County of Sonoma  
 Board of Supervisors  
 Boards/Commissions/Committees Application

Return Completed Application to:  
 575 Administration Drive, Rm. 100A  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
 (707) 565-2241  
 (707) 565-3778 FAX

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE OF INTEREST Independent Citizen's Pension Committee

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED A MEETING OF THIS BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE? YES  X

IF SO, HOW MANY? virtual attendance & review of previous meetings – next meeting is 10/1/2020

NAME Benjamin Peters

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]

HOME PHONE [REDACTED] CELL PHONE [REDACTED]

BUSINESS PHONE [REDACTED] EMAIL [REDACTED]

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU RESIDED IN SONOMA COUNTY? 28 years

PRESENT OCCUPATION Energy Consultant

EDUCATION:		
SCHOOL	MAJOR	GRADUATION DATE/DEGREE
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Economics	Business Administration and Finance

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE:		
ORGANIZATION	DATES SERVED	POSITION
California Solar and Storage Association	2014-2020	volunteer coordinator & member
350 Petaluma	2019-2020	member

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE:**

Participated in city of Petaluma Pension workshop and budget review

**WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE?**

Provide recommendations to Sonoma County Supervisors for an equitable and sustainable County pension system. Increase community engagement while increasing the understanding of the current pension liabilities and opportunities for improvements.

**WHICH ACTIVITIES OF THIS BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE INTEREST YOU THE MOST?**

Maintaining a healthy and sustainable county budget while attracting and retaining the best employees.

Review recent California Supreme Court cases regarding "Pension Spiking" as well as recent legislation, including AB2473.

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**WHICH ACTIVITIES INTEREST YOU THE LEAST?**

Repeating the same mistakes as previous efforts and committees. Work with beneficiaries and their representatives to bargain, and negotiate, and avoid needless conflict.

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**WHAT WOULD BE YOUR GOAL AS A BOARD BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEMBER?**

Turn over every stone and uncover every opportunity to ensure our pension system is well funded, and paying fair and accurate benefits, while supporting state efforts to better manage unfunded liabilities.

Review the recent "pension spiking" decision to ensure Sonoma County is accurately paying its pension liabilities.

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**WHAT DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SEE THESE GOALS REALIZED?**

I am well versed in budgets and finances as well as investment programs. I have reviewed all recent rulings on the California pension system and the potential impacts these decisions have on our local pension situation.

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/dan-walters/2020/08/california-court-pension-debt-unfunded/>  
<https://calmatters.org/economy/california-pension-crisis/2020/07/court-spiking-pension-protections/>

In the 90-page opinion written by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, the court found that "closing loopholes and preventing abuse of the pension system" was consistent with state law that otherwise makes it exceedingly difficult to renege on promised pension benefits for future work.

All seven justices agreed with that logic, with Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar writing his own concurring opinion.

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**USE ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NECESSARY**

**PLEASE LIST TWO LOCAL REFERENCES AND THEIR PHONE NUMBERS:**

Nicole Camarda [REDACTED]

Brian Barnacle [REDACTED]

*Appointees will be required to take an Oath of Office & may be subject to filing an annual Statement of Economic Interest*

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*benjamin peters*

**SIGNATURE**

09 / 18 / 2020

**DATE**

**Applications will be kept on file for two years. All applications are available to the public.**

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