



JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE  
RUDY SALAS JR., CHAIR

August 10, 2022

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

With the retirement of the prior State Auditor Elaine Howle, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee has been tasked with nominating three qualified candidates to be the next State Auditor. In accordance with Section 8543.2(a) of the Government Code, you as Governor are responsible for appointing one of the three to this important position.

Below please find the three qualified candidates that the committee has nominated after conducting a nationwide search and after much vetting and consideration:

- Ben Belnap, Deputy State Auditor, California State Auditor's Office;
- Grant Parks, Principal Manager of Audit Services, Judicial Council of California; and
- Courtney Ruby, City Auditor, City of Oakland.

The California State Auditor position requires expertise, passion, rigor, integrity and trust. The audit committee found that all three candidates possess these characteristics. Moreover, they exhibited a true passion and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Should you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rudy Salas Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable Rudy Salas Jr., Chair  
Assemblymember, 32<sup>nd</sup> District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Laird", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable John Laird, Vice Chair  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District