



DEBRA BOWEN

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Who Would California Students Nominate for President?

*Secretary of State Debra Bowen Announces
MyVote California 2008 Student Mock Election results*

SACRAMENTO – If you ask California’s students, candidates Barack Obama and John McCain should be their parties’ presidential nominees, California shouldn’t adopt a mandatory voting law, and people shouldn’t pay higher vehicle registration fees for cars that produce more pollution.

Those are among the preliminary results of the 2008 MyVote California student mock election, which Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today.

“The MyVote mock election wasn’t just about taking the political pulse of California students; it was about engaging them in our democracy,” said Secretary Bowen, California’s chief elections officer. “I wanted to see how students would feel about issues that would directly affect their lives and their wallets, which is why MyVote included three simulated ballot initiatives dealing with issues that legislators are actually grappling with today.”

Launched in November by Secretary Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell, MyVote California is a hands-on civic engagement project for high school students that culminated in the statewide mock election, held this week. More than 240,000 students from 450 middle and high schools across the state took part in the election to vote for the presidential nominees. They also partook of another critical part of California democracy, voting on three simulated ballot initiatives that were specially written to pique the interest of young people.

“Some California high school seniors will cast their first ballots next week and many more students will become voters by the November general election,” said Secretary Bowen. “The MyVote mock election gives the next generation of California voters hands-on exposure to our democracy, and I hope they’re inspired to make voting the habit of a lifetime.”

In the election, students received one ballot that listed all 48 of the candidates that Secretary Bowen has certified for this election. The students then chose only one candidate.

Listed below are results listing the top vote-getters in the Democratic and Republican parties, and on the three ballot measures. Students had the option of voting for a candidate in any of the state’s six recognized political parties.

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President	Votes	Percentage of those who voted Democratic	Percentage of total vote
Barack Obama (D)	27,845	55.6%	35.1%
Hillary Clinton (D)	17,813	35.6%	22.5%
John Edwards (D)	2,945	5.9%	3.7%

President	Votes	Percentage of those who voted Republican	Percentage of total vote
John McCain (R)	3,773	29.9%	4.8%
Mike Huckabee (R)	2,822	20.1%	3.6%
Rudy Giuliani (R)	2,345	15.2%	3.0%

Ballot Measures	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
Ballot Measure 1 Should the registration fee that every car or truck owner is required to pay each year be based, in part, on the amount of pollution the vehicle emits?	28,341	45.0%	34,665	55.0%
Ballot Measure 2 Should every eligible citizen be required to vote?	25,232	40.4%	37,204	59.6%
Ballot Measure 3 Should people who use e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging and the social networks to bully or harass others be allowed to do so as part of their constitutionally protected right to free speech?	26,474	41.4%	37,529	58.6%

These preliminary results are based on returns from 280 of the 450 schools participating in MyVote.

Complete Mock Election results are available on the Secretary of State's MyVote California website at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm>, and will be updated as schools report their results to the Secretary of State.