



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB10:085

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2010

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California Election and Education Chiefs Invite Schools to Participate in Statewide Student Mock Election

SACRAMENTO – As students head back to school and the fall election season gets under way, Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell have partnered again to give California students the chance to test-drive democracy October 26 and vote on mock ballots that mirror some of the choices the state’s voters will face this November.

“High school and middle school students will be eligible to vote before they know it,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “Now is the time to inspire young people with the power of democracy so they make a habit of voting for the rest of their lives.”

“This year’s mock election takes civics lessons beyond textbooks and lectures, giving students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with an important right and responsibility before they turn 18,” Superintendent O’Connell said.

The mock election, which will be held on hundreds of school campuses throughout California on October 26, will give students the chance to voice their opinions on gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates, as well as the nine ballot measures on the November ballot. Once their votes are counted, students can compare their choices to those of their peers around the state, and then to the decisions made by adult voters in the statewide election held only a few days later.

The California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is collaborating with the California Student Mock Election to provide engaging, standards-based lesson plans and activities designed especially for students participating in the mock election. Participating schools will receive printed ballots and other materials, and report their results to the Secretary of State’s office.

In 2008, more than 275,000 students from 644 schools cast ballots in California’s mock presidential election.

School registrations for the 2010 California Student Mock Election are due September 20. For more information about the mock election, including teacher resources and prior-year results, visit www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm.

For more information about the November 2 General Election, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections.

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