



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

### NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **State's Election & Education Leaders Urge Teachers to Sign Up for Student Mock Election**

**WHAT:**

Secretary of State Debra Bowen and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson are inviting high school and middle school teachers to sign up for the 2012 MyVote California Student Mock Election. Participating students will cast their unofficial votes for U.S. President and U.S. Senator, as well as the 11 statewide propositions on California's November 6 General Election ballot.

The statewide mock election gives teachers and students an opportunity to explore the importance of voicing opinions in a democracy. The program offers a teacher's guide, election materials, and tips for broadening civics lessons. Registration information and teaching resources are at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm).

"I love these mock elections because they prepare students to become active voters and encourage them to make voting a lifelong habit," said Secretary Bowen, California's chief elections officer.

"These mock elections can make the upcoming election a teachable moment in California's classrooms, and help students make the connection between the principles of democracy and their own lives. I hope every eligible school takes advantage of this wonderful opportunity," Superintendent Torlakson added.

**WHEN:**

School sign-up deadline: September 21

Students cast ballots: October 30

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