



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Contact: Doug Stone
Terri Carbaugh
916/653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Launches Independent Audit of California Voting Systems

Wants to ensure compliance with state and federal security standards

SACRAMENTO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that he will seek an independent audit of all California voting systems. This audit was triggered when allegations surfaced that uncertified software was installed in touch screen voting systems in Alameda and Plumas counties.

“There is no lack of confidence in the ability of the software currently in use to record a vote cast in an election,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. “However, to ensure that the integrity of California’s elections process has not been compromised, I will make certain that all California systems are in compliance with state security standards.”

The audit will consist of a comprehensive inventory of all voting systems to determine which systems are currently in use, and if they are certified. Beginning in 2004, the Secretary of State’s office will conduct random audits to ensure compliance. Every county will be audited at least once during each two-year period.

Secretary Shelley’s office will further require that as part of each certification application, the CEO of each vendor will affirm, under penalty of perjury, that upon system certification, the vendor will not make any modification to the system or component without first obtaining written approval. Failure to do so may result in decertification of the voting system, and possible criminal penalties.

In addition, the Secretary of State is reviewing changes to procedures to impose a year-long debarment of any vendor that materially violates certification laws. This debarment would preclude certification of any new system proposed by that vendor during the debarment period.