



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's Office to Sponsor National Student/Parent Mock Election *53 Counties, 620 Schools, 188,000 Participants Enrolled*

SACRAMENTO – In an effort to better educate our future leaders on the democratic process and to make them aware of the importance of voter participation, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley has announced that his office is proud to sponsor the National Student/Parent Mock Election on October 28, 2004. This program is designed to encourage children, young adults and parents to work together and discuss election issues and concerns. The Secretary of State's Office has sponsored this event in each presidential general election since 1984.

“The students of California have the special opportunity to study and vote on actual candidates and measures appearing on the November 2, 2004 general election ballot. I encourage all students in every school to take part in learning how the electoral process works, so when these students turn 18, they will exercise their right to register and vote,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

To date, 188,000 students in 620 schools representing 53 of the 58 California counties are enrolled. Nationally, over 10 million students, parents and teachers from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and 14 countries/territories around the world where Americans are based have participated in the past two presidential elections. Participation has surpassed 40 million since the project began in 1980.

On Thursday, October 28, 2004, all participating schools and students will report their results to California's mock election headquarters, where the results will be counted and posted to the mock election website. The results are also reported to the National Mock Election headquarters located in New Jersey, which are compiled and reported to CNN. Mock Election information packets will be sent to all participating schools, which include: Ballots, pledge cards, voting posters and reporting forms.

The program is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grades and there is no cost to participate. The deadline to enroll in the program is Tuesday, October 12, 2004.

For more information or to enroll your child's school, please contact Evelyn Mendez, mock election coordinator at 916-657-2166 or enroll online at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/mockelection_04.htm.