



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS04:079

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, November, 1, 2004

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## **Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Reminds Public of Restrictions on Electioneering and Offering Incentives for Voting**

*Federal Law Prohibits Tangible Rewards for Voting*

SACRAMENTO -- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today reminded voters, pollsters, campaigners, and businesses of the legal restrictions to which they must adhere when in and around polling places or dealing with voters who have already cast their ballots.

"I remind campaign operatives that they must restrict their electioneering activities to a minimum of 100 feet from the polling place," Shelley said. "Public opinion pollsters must not talk to voters who are entering or leaving the voting location unless they are at least 25 feet from the polls. Finally, although encouraging people to participate in elections is a worthy motive, it is important that businesses and organizations be aware that federal law prohibits them from offering any kind of incentive or reward for voting on election day."

Election activities prohibited by state law to occur within 100 feet of a polling place include circulating petitions, speaking to voters about marking their ballots, questioning voters about their qualifications to vote, or advocating votes for or against any candidate or measure.

Both state and federal law have prohibitions against offering any incentive or reward for registering or for voting. Federal law applies to elections with federal candidates on the ballot. State law prohibits incentives for agreeing to vote, refraining from voting, or voting or refraining from voting for any particular candidate or measure.

Shelley encouraged any voters who observe violations of these protections to call the election official in the jurisdiction where the violation occurs, or to report it via his toll-free hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE.