



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Urges Overseas Voters to Vote in Nov. 8 Special Statewide Election

Applications and Registration Forms Available Through Website

Sacramento – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today urged military personnel and citizens who are living abroad and are registered or eligible to register to vote to participate in the next election. Overseas voters are encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot and cast their votes in the upcoming statewide special election on November 8.

"I urge all eligible voters to take part in this election, including those who are currently living and serving abroad," Secretary McPherson said. "I am working to improve the process for overseas civilian and military voters to fully take part in the election. The right to vote is the basic right of all Californians and all Americans."

Due to possible delays of mail delivery for military personnel and overseas voters, Congress and the California Legislature have enacted laws to make it easier to get a ballot, vote, and return it in time to be counted on Election day.

These laws include:

Permission to apply for a "special absentee ballot" right now, instead of having to wait until October 10, as is required for "regular" absentee voters.
Permission to use a single form to register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot. Those eligible to vote but are not yet registered must submit their registration forms to the elections office by October 24 in order to vote in the special statewide election.

Both federal and state laws allow California military personnel and those who are visiting or living abroad to register to vote by mail or fax. In addition, overseas voters may return their ballots by mail or fax.

The elections office must receive all voted ballots, including those voted by overseas and military citizens, no later than the close of polls or 8 p.m. on November 8.

Voters can obtain details about their right to vote and download the appropriate forms by visiting the Secretary of State web site at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm.

Forms for registering to vote and applications for absentee ballots are also available from the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html>.