



DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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December 31, 2010

Mr. Gregory Schmidt
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is my office's report on student voter registration efforts carried out over the past calendar year, which is required by California Elections Code section 2146(d). If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Bowen".

Debra Bowen
Secretary of State

DB:elg:pc:op

Attachment

cc: Ms. Diane Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel

December 31, 2010
Secretary of State
Annual Report to the Legislature on Student Voter Registration

California Elections Code Section 2146(d) requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to the Legislature on student voter registration efforts the office has undertaken pursuant to Article 3.5 of the Code, the Student Voter Registration Act of 2003. The Act states that it is the intent of the Legislature that every high school and college student receive a voter registration form with their diploma and that every school do all in its power to ensure students are provided with the opportunity to register to vote.

SB 854, Chapter 481, Statutes of 2007, amended Elections Code 2146 to require every California Community College (CCC) and California State University (CSU) that operates an automated class registration system to, in coordination with the Secretary of State, permit students during the class registration process to receive a voter registration form that is preprinted with personal information relevant to voter registration by January 1, 2010. The University of California (UC) is encouraged to comply with the section.

In response to this legislation, and working with the CCC, CSU, and UC systems, the Secretary of State created an enhanced version of the online national voter registration form that students can fill out online, print at home or on campus, and mail directly to their elections official. The appropriate county elections official's address is automatically added to the form based on the voting address provided by the applicant. Every CCC, CSU, and UC campus, regardless of what type of class registration system the school has in place, is able to link to this dedicated website. The system was launched in October 2009 and in 2010, the first full year of implementation, 10,330 students have visited the site and filled out a voter registration form.

The Student Voter Registration Act of 2003 also requires the Secretary of State to provide every high school, CCC, CSU and UC campus with voter registration forms. As stated in this office's January 1, 2009, annual report to the Legislature, this program has not been cost effective. In 2008, the Secretary of State's office printed and mailed over 2.5 million student voter registration forms to high school and college campuses and only 16,489, or 0.66%, were completed by student wishing to register to vote and returned to the Secretary of State. The average cost of a returned student voter registration form was \$12.68.

Given the cost of the program, the budget cutbacks the Secretary of State's office was required to absorb, and feedback from many schools that they did not need additional voter registration forms, the Secretary of State's office proactively contacted all public and private high schools, and all CCC, CSU, and UC campuses to ask how many, if any, voter registration forms the campuses would like to receive.

Of the 207 responses from high schools, 156 requested voter registration forms and of the 38 responses from colleges and universities, 12 CCC campuses requested voter registration forms. The cost of mailing the student voter registration forms to high schools and college campuses in 2010 was approximately \$750.00. The cost for return postage of the voter registration forms was \$6,095.76.

In addition, all high schools contacted were encouraged to provide a link on their school website to the Secretary of State's "Register to Vote" website. This site is virtually identical to the site created for the CCC, CSU, and UC campuses under SB 854. It provides students and staff with the ability to fill out a voter registration form online, print it out from their computer, sign it, and mail it directly to their local elections official.

Attachment A reflects voter registration data for 2010 pursuant to the Student Voter Registration Act of 2003.

2010 STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

Figure 1: The number of students who have completed a voter registration form under the program campuses adopted to comply with SB 854 in 2010.

	Number of Students Who Have Completed a Voter Registration Form Under the Program Adopted to Comply With SB 854 in 2010
California Community College	4,138
California State University	3,313
University of California	2,879
Total Number of Students	10,330

Figure 2: The number of student voter registration forms mailed to high schools, CCC, CSU, and UC campuses and the number of student voter registration forms that were returned to the Secretary of State in 2010.

	Number of Student Voter Registration Forms Requested in 2010
High School Campuses	21,304
Community College Campuses	10,500
CSU Campuses	0
UC Campuses	0
Total Number of Student Voter Registration Forms Distributed	31,804
Total Number of Student Voter Registration Forms Returned to the Secretary of State ¹	13,854

¹ The student voter registration form distribution process is completed during the fall of each year. Therefore, the number of forms returned each year is most likely a result of the previous year's mailing.