



DEBRA BOWEN

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Elections and Schools Chiefs Encourage Student Civic Engagement Through MyVote California Student Mock Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell today reminded schools to sign up by Friday for the MyVote California Student Mock Election, a civic engagement program that helps students understand the democratic process and builds electoral enthusiasm among the voters of tomorrow.

“The MyVote mock election gives students a chance to learn about candidates and issues, while steeping them in the core principles of our democracy,” said Secretary Bowen, California’s chief elections officer. “On November 4, some high school seniors will vote in their first election ever. Millions of other high-schoolers will be eligible to vote soon enough. The mock election will give them the first-hand training they need to become lifetime voters.”

The MyVote mock election offers students hands-on lessons in politics and public policy. Participating schools and teachers can use the mock election curriculum to inspire classroom discussions about the candidates and their platforms.

Working with the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and in coordination with the National Student/Parent Mock Election, the MyVote California Student Mock Election aims to develop students’ civic engagement habits early and reinforce the importance of voting in a democracy. The mock election is most popular at middle and high schools, but some elementary schools will also participate.

The school registration deadline is September 19. The mock election will take place on October 30, when students will vote for one of the presidential tickets and on Propositions 1A through 12. The Secretary of State will announce the mock election results on October 31.

Some 450 schools statewide registered more than 240,000 students to take part in the presidential primary mock election that was held in January.

More information about the MyVote California Student Mock Election is at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm>.

The last day for eligible Californians to register to vote in the November 4, 2008, General Election is October 20. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 28.

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