



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS03:021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 23, 2003

Contact: Terri M. Carbaugh
Shad Balch
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Praises Assembly Elections Committee's Approval of his Legislative Package

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley issued the following statement in response to the Assembly Election Committee's approval yesterday of three measures Shelley is sponsoring that will improve elections in California:

"I'm pleased that the Assembly Elections Committee voted to approve a legislative package that will improve the elections process in California.

"When I took office just four months ago, I pledged to work hard to increase access to the polls and to increase voter participation. While we've only cleared the first of many hurdles in this process, I'm confident the Legislature and Governor understand the importance of this legislation that, when signed into law, will ensure that every citizen has the ability and information they need to cast their ballot with confidence on Election Day."

The measures that were approved by the Assembly Elections Committee are:

- * AB 593 (Ridley-Thomas): Requires the Secretary of State to provide schools voter registration forms to be distributed with high school diplomas.
- * AB 714 (Leno): Ensures that visually and mobility impaired persons can vote independently and without assistance at every California polling place.
- * AB 1687 (Longville): Permits the Secretary of State to take corrective action if the integrity of a local election is determined to be in jeopardy.

-30-