NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Shelley Sponsored Bill

More Students to Work at California Polling Places

Passes Crucial Fiscal Hurdle

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today announced that his sponsored legislation to increase the number of high school students working in California polling places on Election Day passed a crucial legislative hurdle. In a bipartisan 8-1 vote, the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday approved Senate Bill 610 authored by Martha Escutia (D-Whittier).

SB 610 increases the statutorily defined number of high school poll workers authorized per precinct, from two to not more than five students. In addition, SB 610 authorizes Secretary of State Shelley to develop uniform poll worker training standards, including: rights of California voters, election challenge procedures, instruction about voting systems, poll hours, cultural competency, and provisional voting.

"I am pleased Senate Bill 610 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "With adequate training, high school students routinely prove themselves to be capable and conscientious poll workers. Engaging high school students in the electoral process is a practical way to increase life-long civic participation while also addressing a poll worker shortage."

"I am confident the Legislature and Governor agree with me and will approve this measure," Shelley concluded.

SB 610 is supported by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of Women Voters of California (LWV).

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