



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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## **Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's Election Reform Legislative Package Advances in Legislature**

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today announced that his election reform package has advanced in the Legislature, moving closer to the Governor's desk. Combined, the five bills moving forward will improve the integrity of California's election process and help restore voter confidence.

AB 177 (Oropeza), approved by the state Assembly today, requires the new Voter Bill of Rights to be posted in every polling place in California.

AB 714 (Leno), also approved by the Assembly today, will improve access to the polls for disabled voters by providing one Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machine in every polling place.

"AB 177 will, for the first time ever, inform every voter of the rights they have when they go to the polls and vote on Election Day," said Secretary Shelley. "When signed into law, AB 714 will increase polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities who, otherwise, may have chosen not to vote at all," added Shelley.

AB 593 (Ridley-Thomas), approved by the Assembly yesterday, will require the Secretary to provide schools with voter registration cards to be included with high school diplomas.

"Only one in five of California's young people participate on Election Day," said Shelley. "If signed into law, AB 593 will remind students of the importance of registering to vote when they are handed a voter registration card with their high school diploma."

SB 610 (Escutia), approved by the Senate last Thursday, will require the Secretary of State to establish uniform standards for poll worker training, ensuring that the problems Florida voters faced in 2002 with under-trained poll workers doesn't occur in California.

The final piece of Secretary Shelley's election reform package, AB 1687 (Longville) approved by the Assembly today, will permit the Secretary to appoint a trustee to oversee local elections in certain circumstances.

"This election reform package not only ensures the integrity of our elections, but will also increase accessibility to disabled voters and help reengage our youth in the democratic process," concluded Shelley.