



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Contact: Doug Stone
Terri Carbaugh
916/653-6575

Secretary Shelley Statement on Ninth Circuit Rehearing

Sacramento – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today issued the following statement on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision to grant en banc review in *Southwest Voter Registration Education Project*.

“I welcome the court’s action and I urge a speedy decision. It is very important that we reach finality on this matter as soon as possible.

“Regardless of what the court decides to do, voter participation will not be helped by prolonged uncertainty. Nearly half a million people have voted in this election and they are naturally concerned about what will happen to their votes. In addition, state and county election officials have spent nearly \$50 million, and there are at least 2 million absentee ballots in the mail on their way to voters. Out of respect for the voters of this state, I hope the court rules soon after it hears the case.

“I want to encourage voters to continue to request their absentee ballots, and, if they have made their choices, to fill out those ballots and mail them in. There is still an election scheduled for October 7 and nothing the court has done changes that.”

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