



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Shelley Reviews Critical County Elections Preparations for Tuesday's Statewide Special Election

More than 1.1 Million Absentee Ballots Already Cast

SACRAMENTO — Highlighting the critical preparations that are underway at county elections offices across the state, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today met with Sacramento County Registrar of Voters Jill LaVine to discuss Sacramento's efforts leading up to next Tuesday's Statewide Special Election.

"It's here at the county level where the rubber hits the road," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "To truly get a sense of what preparation goes into an election you need to see first-hand all the different moving pieces – poll worker training, absentee ballot processing and helping voters locate their polling places."

Shelley noted that at the state level, his office is putting additional poll workers in place, especially bilingual poll workers where they may be needed, and making sure that counties have emergency staff on hand to trouble-shoot if problems arise.

In addition, Shelley has been encouraging voters to vote by mail to take advantage of reviewing this unique ballot from the comfort of their homes while avoiding potential lines at the polls on Election Day.

"Over the past few weeks we've been emphasizing to voters that they should take advantage of voting by mail – and by all accounts, our efforts have paid off," Shelley said. "As of this morning, 1, 139, 017 million Californians have voted by absentee ballot – a record level of returned absentees at this point before the election. This is a clear indication of the unprecedented interest in this election.

Shelley emphasized that while state and county elections officials are doing their part to prepare for the October 7th election, voters, too, should prepare.

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“I urge all California voters to study the issues, mark their sample ballots and mail their absentee ballots today. For voters planning to vote at the polls, your county sample ballot is a voter’s road map to a successful voting experience. Read it, mark your choices and bring it with you to the polls.

“It’s like the famous American Express slogan says, don’t leave home without it,” Shelley added.

Shelley also offered support and complimented Sacramento County Registrar of Voters Jill LaVine and her staff for the professional job they are doing in preparation for next Tuesday’s election.

“In the face of daunting deadlines and a shortened time frame the likes of which no one has ever experienced, our county elections officials are getting the job done,” said Shelley.

The Secretary reiterated the comprehensive media campaign that his agency has initiated to educate voters about the October 7th election. Some of those activities include:

- Public Service Announcements being aired statewide on TV and radio along with informational ads appearing in newspapers and community newsletters;
- A new web site-- www.myvotecounts.org --that provides all the information voters need including links to each county web site so that voters can locate their polling place;
- Toll-free voter assistance hotlines in seven languages, including Chinese (Mandarin), English, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese; and
- Election specialists dispatched statewide to assist county officials.