NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

KS03:088

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 2, 2003

Contact: Doug Stone
916/653-6575

Secretary Shelley Reminds California Businesses of Law Allowing Employees Time Off to Vote on Election Day

California Law Allows Workers up to Two Hours of Paid Time Off to Vote

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today reminded public and private employers throughout California that notices should be posted in their businesses explaining the provisions for employees to receive paid time off to vote on Election Day.

"By law, a voter may take up to two hours off without loss of pay to vote in the October 7th statewide special election. This is designed to assist those who do not have sufficient time outside their regular working hours to do so," Shelley explained.

Pursuant to Elections Code Sections 14000 & 14002, workers who need time off to vote must provide their employers with a two-day notice before the election. No more than two hours may be taken off to vote and the time must be taken at the beginning or end of the employee's regular work shift.

"Most California voters can cast ballots within their normal work hours," continued Shelley. "But time off for voting especially helps employees with non-traditional work schedules."

For copies of the time off for voting notices, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 916/657-2166

-30-