



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS03:092

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 6, 2003

Contact: Doug Stone
Terri Carbaugh
916/653-6575

Shelley Urges Media to Withhold Exit Polling Results until Polls Close

Encourages All 15,380,536 Registered Voters to Participate on Election Day

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today urged members of the media to refrain from releasing all exit polling data until after the polls close at 8:00 p.m.

“I’m concerned that the release of early, unofficial exit polling results could discourage voters from casting ballots on Election Day,” expressed Shelley.

Secretary Shelley made his request in a letter to the presidents of the major network television stations.

“I don’t want voters to hear about projected winners before the polls close and then decide not to go to the polls and vote,” said Secretary Shelley. “I want to make sure every eligible California voter can participate in a process that doesn’t interfere with their rights to cast their ballots with confidence.”

A copy of Shelley’s letter to the network presidents is attached.

-30-