



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Predicts Voter Turnout

Releases Latest Report of Registration and Encourages Voter Participation

SACRAMENTO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today predicted that 43% of the state's registered voters will turn out for the March 2nd Presidential Primary Election next Tuesday. He also released the latest report of voter registration figures, indicating that 15,091,160 voters are registered for the election.

The predicted turnout is shaping up to be similar to recent presidential primary years. In 1988 the turnout was 48%; in 1992 it was 47%; and in 1996 it was 42%. In the March 2000 presidential primary the turnout was 54% of registered voters. The higher turnout was due in part to an extremely competitive Republican presidential primary between Bush-McCain and the Democratic presidential race between Gore-Bradley that energized voters across the political spectrum.

"I urge every registered voter to cast their vote on Election Day," said Shelley. "The primary is an opportunity for every voter to make a difference in the community, in California, and in the United States."

The Secretary of State's Office has traditionally provided predictions for voter turnout for the primary and general election. This prediction was not made for the October 2003, recall election due to the nature of the historic special election and the absence of comparable voting trend information.

Secretary of State Shelley based his prediction on a number of factors, such as:

- The number of requests for absentee ballot applications;
- Voter turnout in past similar elections;
- The number of contested candidate and ballot measures;
- Competing events on or near election day; as well as,
- The last minute voter registration activity.

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The Secretary of State has been implementing a comprehensive voter outreach and education campaign. Elements in the Secretary's program include:

- The creation of a new web site, www.myvotecounts.org, and in Spanish at www.mivotocuenta.org, that provides essential information regarding the election including what voting systems will be used by each county, polling place information and more
- Toll-free voter assistance hotlines in seven languages, including Chinese (Mandarin), English, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese
- Consultation and cooperation with thousands of community-based organizations on voter outreach aimed at disseminating key election information
- Preparation of multi-lingual materials to reach California's diverse communities
- Video and radio Public Service Announcements in English, Spanish and Chinese encouraging people to get out and vote.

The following chart compares past and current voting trends for Presidential Primary Elections:

Registration and Turnout Totals for Past Presidential Primary Elections

Date	Total Registered	%	Total Votes Cast	%
Mar. 2004	15,091,160	68.9%		
Mar. 2000	14,631,805	68.9%	7,883,383	53.8%
Mar. 1996	14,423,363	75.1%	6,081,777	41.9%
June 1992	13,569,248	70.1%	6,439,629	47.5%
June 1988	12,537,207	66.3%	6,037,468	48.2%
June 1984	11,529,769	70.0%	5,609,063	48.7%

To receive a copy of the latest report of registration, please visit the Secretary of State's website <http://myvotecounts.org/>.