NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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New Management for Federal Voter Funds in California

Secretary Shelley Re-Vamps HAVA Administration

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today unveiled new measures to strengthen the management of federal voter education funds in California. The directives are aimed at ensuring the funds are used for non-partisan voter education, for modernizing voting systems and for training local elections officials.

"There have been a number of problems associated with HAVA and it is my responsibility to take immediate action to address these problems," said Shelley. "I am the Secretary of State and the chief elections officer for the State of California, and the buck stops here."

The Secretary of State's office is responsible for distributing funds allocated to states under "HAVA" or "Help America Vote Act," which Congress passed in 2002, allocating $3.8 billion to states for improvement to voting system infrastructure, voter education, and training of election officials.

"We are centralizing our management structure, creating new work processes, establishing new reporting procedures, and developing more detailed compliance rules," said Shelley. "The combination of these measures will ensure our procedures are strict, our processes are clear, and our personnel are more effectively supervised."

New directives announced by Secretary Shelley include:

- All contractors in the field offices have had their contracts terminated pending further review of HAVA protocols, after which some contracts could be renewed;
- Weekly reporting on HAVA activities by regional directors will be established;
- Reporting of work hours by any new HAVA contractors will be completed on specific timesheets and will be reviewed to ensure charges are appropriate;
- Immediate and long-term corrective procedures, practices, and protocols for HAVA are being developed by an independent auditor – and will be implemented;
- Contracts for staff paid partially or fully with HAVA funds will be reviewed for duties and pay;
- Recommendations from other state agencies will be implemented immediately.

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