NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

KS04:071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 28, 2004

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Predicts Voter Turnout

Releases Latest Registration Figures and Encourages Voter Participation

SACRAMENTO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today predicted 73% of the state's registered voters will cast ballots in the November 2nd Presidential Election next Tuesday. If this proves to be accurate, a record 12 million California voters will decide contests and issues ranging from President, US Senate and 100 legislative races to 16 state ballot measures and numerous local election choices.

Shelley also released the latest report of voter registration figures indicating a record 16.5 million voters are registered to vote in this election. The previous record was 15.7 million voter names on the rolls in the 2000 presidential election.

The turnout is shaping up to be one of the highest in the last 20 years. In 1984, turnout was 74.9%; in 1988 it was 72.8%; in 1992 it was 75.3%; and in 1996 it was 65.5%. In the November 2000 Presidential Election, turnout was 70.9%. In California, the presidential election traditionally generates the highest voter turnout among all statewide elections. Two factors making the prediction process more fluid than normal are that local elections officials continue to process voter registration cards and registrars are still tallying the number of absentee ballots they have sent to voters.

"By all accounts, there is tremendous interest in this presidential election, and I urge every registered voter to cast their vote in this election," said Shelley. "There are compelling candidates and issues to be decided at every level of local, state and federal government."

In the 45 days prior to the close of registration on October 18, voter rolls surged with nearly 1 million people registering to vote, pushing registration above 16 million for the first time in California. More than 1.5 million new voters registered since the March 2, 2004 Primary Election. Final registration figures are not yet available from county election officials who are still entering voter data into their databases. Under a law that went into effect in 2001, voters can now register up until 15 days prior to an election. This is the first time that eligible Californians have been allowed to register this close to a presidential election; for the 2000 presidential election, the registration deadline was 29 days prior to the election.

At mid-week, local elections officials in California's 58 counties reported issuing more than 4.3 million absentee ballots, compared to some 3 million absentee ballots issued for the presidential election of 2000. This election's mail ballot rate far surpasses any previous absentee ballot use in the state's history.

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Secretary of State Shelley based his voter turnout prediction on a number of factors, including:

- Traditionally higher turnout among California voters in presidential elections;
- The high number of requests for absentee ballots;
- The high number of permanent absentee voters now on the records;
- The high number of contested candidate races and ballot measures;
- The last minute voter registration activity; and
- Expected moderate weather conditions across the state on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

The following chart compares California's historical voting patterns for presidential general elections:

Voter Registration and Turnout Totals for Past Presidential General Elections

Date of Election	Total # Registered	% Registered of Eligible Citizens	Total Votes Cast	% of Registered Voters Who Voted
Nov. 2004	16,500,000			
Nov. 2000	15,707,307	73.2%	11,142,843	70.9%
Nov. 1996	15,662,075	80.2%	10,263,490	65.5%
Nov. 1992	15,101,473	72.4%	11,374,565	75.3%
Nov. 1988	14,004,873	73.5%	10,194,539	72.8%
Nov. 1984	13,073,630	78.8%	9,796,375	74.9%

To receive a copy of the latest report of registration or to find your polling place, please visit the Secretary of State's website at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_u.htm. County registration figures are being updated as they are received.

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