



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Encourages Voter Participation

Outlines Voter Information and Resources for Election Day

SACRAMENTO -- California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today encouraged every registered voter to cast their vote in Tuesday's presidential election, and outlined several resources to inform voters about the candidates and issues on the ballot, to assist voters in finding their polling locations, and to expedite the voting process as record numbers of voters are expected at the polls.

"I urge all registered voters to go to the polls on Election Day or to cast their vote by mail so that it arrives by the close of polls on November 2nd," said Secretary of State Shelley. "This Presidential Election has generated significant voter interest, there are crucial races and issues at stake, and indeed, voters should take advantage of the elections information that can assist them in making their ballot choices."

A comprehensive resource for online information can be accessed at the Secretary of State's voter information website www.myvotecounts.org or at www.mivotocuenta.org for the Spanish-language version. The websites contain answers to questions voters may have concerning how to find their polling place, how to get local elections assistance, and how to access voting information in seven different languages.

With a record 16.5 million voters registered in California, voters can expedite the voting process by voting during off-peak times, reviewing and marking their sample ballots in advance of arriving at their polling places and bringing the sample ballots with them into the voting booth to enable them to more quickly cast their ballots.

Secretary Shelley is reminding voters that the polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Peak voting times usually occur in the morning hours before work (from 7 to 8 a.m.) and after traditional work shifts end until the polls close (between 6 and 8 p.m.).

Voters using the convenience of voting by mail are also reminded that their absentee ballots must be received by the county elections official by the close of polls on election eve; a timely postmark is not sufficient to qualify a ballot to be counted. Sufficient postage should be placed on the return envelopes to guarantee delivery, although the Secretary of State and county officials have worked with the postal authorities to ensure all voted absentee ballots will be delivered even if postage is insufficient. Special postal accounts are established in all counties for such purposes. If voters have not mailed their absentee ballots back by Saturday evening, Shelley is encouraging voters to hand-deliver the ballots to the county elections office or to any polling place within the county.

(more)

Voter information hotlines to the Secretary of State's Office are available in seven different languages:

- Chinese (800) 339-2857
- English (800) 345-VOTE (8683)
- Japanese (800) 339-2865
- Korean (866) 575-1558
- Spanish (800) 232-VOTA (8682)
- Tagalog (800) 339-2957
- Vietnamese (800) 339-8163

Six Things Voters Should Know On Election Day

1. **Voters should not forget their ID** – If voters are voting for the first time, they may be asked to show identification. For more information about acceptable forms of identification in California, go to: www.myvotecounts.org.
2. **Don't worry if a voter's name can't be found** – If a voter's name is not on the roster of voters, they have the right to vote a provisional ballot or they can choose to get directions to the correct polling place in their neighborhood.
3. **It's okay to make a mistake** – If voters make a mistake on their ballot when voting, they have the right to exchange that ballot for a new one.
4. **It's okay to ask for help** – If voters need help using voting machines, finding their correct polling place or getting a provisional ballot, they should ask the poll workers. It's a poll worker's job to help voters.
5. **Don't leave without voting** – If voters are waiting in line when the polls close at 8 p.m., they still have a right to vote. Don't leave without voting.
6. **Voters have rights** – The Voter Bill of Rights is posted at each polling place, in the Voter Information Guide, and at www.myvotecounts.org. If any of the listed rights have been violated, voters should not hesitate to contact a poll worker or their county elections office, or to make a complaint to the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-345-VOTE.

For more information about voting, the candidates, voters' rights, or the elections process, go to www.myvotecounts.org.