



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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## **Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Reports the Numbers Behind the Conduct of Elections in California**

*Thousands of Precincts, Workers, Ballots in Elections*

SACRAMENTO -- In Tuesday's presidential election, California's 16,557,273 registered voters are assigned to 24,072 precincts and will be assisted by more than 80,000 poll workers handing them ballots or encoders for use in casting votes on more than 18,000 different ballot styles throughout the state, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley reported today (Oct. 31).

"It takes more than a hundred thousand people to put on an election, from the most visible state and county election officials and their staffs and volunteers, to the 80,000 precinct officials who put in 15 or 16 hour days for minimal pay," Shelley pointed out.

Poll worker salaries are actually set by county boards of supervisors, so their pay varies, but all agree they do the job because of a civic commitment, not as a means of earning money. In some counties, successful programs to recruit clubs and organizations or businesses to voluntarily staff polling places have helped reduce election costs. So have programs to staff polling places with high school students earning academic or community service credit.

The sizeable precinct configuration for California is necessitated by the vast combination of offices on our ballots. Because there are contests that differ from the local level, with school district and some city council and county supervisor races included in state-level election day ballots, and state legislative and congressional races are defined by district boundaries, even in a general election with no party-specific ballots there are thousands of different ballot styles. In addition, several counties are required by federal law to provide ballots in alternative languages; in Los Angeles County, voters can see their ballots in seven languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese).

At the state level, voters face decisions on President/Vice-President, one US Senate seat, all 53 congressional district contests, 20 state senate and 80 assembly district decisions, along with 16 statewide ballot measures.

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There will be election returns reported to the Secretary of State's headquarters beginning shortly after the polls close at 8 p.m., and fed through computer lines, telephone calls and fax phone lines from 58 county offices. Results for California's federal, state and ballot measure races will be updated throughout the night on the Secretary of State's web site at [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

Shelley has estimated that 73% of the registered voters will cast ballots in the up-coming election, setting record-number 12,000,000 voters. Roughly 2/3 will vote at polling places and 1/3 will have cast votes by absentee ballot.