NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Voting Trend Reveals Two Counties Often Pick Presidents

But No California County Has Perfect Record for Selecting Winning Presidential Candidate

SACRAMENTO, CA – Merced and Ventura counties appear as close to bellwether counties in a presidential election as California has, according to a new analysis conducted by Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's office. The two counties have voted for the winning candidate in 22 of the past 24 presidential elections including this year's contest between President George W. Bush and US Senator John F. Kerry. The analysis revealed there were no California counties that could boast a perfect record in selecting the candidate who went on to win the presidency.

The analysis, which compared the presidential candidate receiving a majority of votes in each of California's 58 counties with the winning candidate for president, found voters in the two counties had the best track record (92 percent incidence) for selecting the US president dating back to and including the election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912.

"The counties of Ventura and Merced are the closest we have to national bellwether counties in California," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "Registration for the two principal parties in these counties is evenly balanced, making them look very much like an Ohio or a Pennsylvania when it comes to voting for the president."

In contrast to those near-bellwether counties, the analysis revealed voters in Alpine County, were the least likely (58 percent incidence) to vote for the presidential candidate who won the election. In 14 of the past 24 contests for president, a majority of voters in Alpine County, the state's least populous county, voted in favor of the winning candidates on Election Day.

In another statewide analysis, voter trends revealed two coastal counties, Monterey and Santa Barbara, most often voted with the majority of California voters in selecting their choice for US president dating back to 1912. Voters in these counties had a near perfect record, voting in 23 of the past 24 presidential elections (96% incidence) for the presidential candidate who eventually garnered the most votes in California. The lone exception was in 1948, when a majority of voters in both counties voted for Thomas Dewey, while the majority of Californians voted for Harry S. Truman, who eventually won the election by five percentage points.

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In contrast to these two counties, the analysis revealed Plumas County most often votes against the state trend (50 percent incidence) when selecting a presidential candidate, compared to the state's other 57 counties.

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California Voting Trends by County Compared to State Voting Trends 1912-2000

COUNTIES	04 KERRY (Bush)	00 GORE (Bush)	96 CLINTON	92 CLINTON	88 GHWBUSH	84 REAGAN	80 REAGAN	76 FORD (Carter)	72 NIXON	68 NIXON	64 LBJOHNSON	60 NIXON (JFK)	56 EISENHOWER	52 EISENHOWER	48 TRUMAN	44 FDR	40 FDR	36 FDR	32 FDR	28 HOOVER	24 COOLIDGE	20 HARDING	16 WILSON	12 T. ROOSEVELT	TOTAL Out of 24 elections
PARTY	D	R	D	D	R	R	R	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	D	D	
Alameda	☑	☑	☑	☑							☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Alpine	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Amador					☑	☑	☑		☑		☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		13
Butte				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		18
Calaveras					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		18
Colusa					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		19
Contra Costa	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Del Norte			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
El Dorado					☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		15
Fresno				☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		15
Glenn					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18
Humboldt	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	20
Imperial	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	22
Inyo					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		17
Kern					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		19
Kings					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		15
Lake	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18
Lassen					☑	☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		13
Los Angeles	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	20
Madera					☑	☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		14
Marin	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
Mariposa				☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18
Mendocino	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			18
Merced			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		17

☑ Indicates a majority of votes cast for the winning presidential candidate

California Voting Trends by County Compared to State Voting Trends 1912-2000

COUNTIES	04 KERRY (Bush)	00 GORE (Bush)	96 CLINTON	92 CLINTON	88 GHW BUSH	84 REAGAN	80 REAGAN	76 FORD (Carter)	72 NIXON	68 NIXON	64 LBJ OHNSON	60 NIXON (JFK)	56 EISENHOWER	52 EISENHOWER	48 TRUMAN	44 FDR	40 FDR	36 FDR	32 FDR	28 HOOVER	24 COOLIDGE	20 HARDING	16 WILSON	12 T. ROOSEVELT (Wilson)	TOTAL Out of 24 elections
Modoc					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		19
Mono	TIED				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		16
Monterey	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	23
Napa	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			20
Nevada					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		16
Orange					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Placer					☑	☑	☑		☑		☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	14
Plumas				☑	☑	☑	☑				☑				☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	12
Riverside				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	17
Sacramento	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑		16
San Benito	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		21
San Bernardino			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	20
San Diego				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			17
San Francisco	☑	☑	☑	☑							☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		15
San Joaquin			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		20
San Luis Obispo				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
San Mateo	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
Santa Barbara	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	23
Santa Clara	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	19
Santa Cruz	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	19

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Shasta					☑	☑	☑				☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		13
Sierra					☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		14
Siskiyou				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		18
Solano	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		17
Sonoma	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			18
Stanislaus			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑			☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	17
Sutter					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		16
Tehama				☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18
Trinity				☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		16
Tulare					☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		19
Tuolumne				☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		16
Ventura			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
Yolo	☑	☑	☑	☑							☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		15
Yuba					☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18

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PARTY	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	D	D	
Alameda			☑	☑				☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			15
Alpine		☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			13
Amador	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	18
Butte	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	19
Calaveras	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	19
Colusa	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Contra Costa			☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		17
Del Norte	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
El Dorado	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	20
Fresno	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Glenn	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	19
Humboldt			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
Imperial			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		17
Inyo	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	18
Kern	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Kings	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	18
Lake			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	17
Lassen	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	18
Los Angeles			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
Madera	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	18
Marin			☑	☑			☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Mariposa	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	21
Mendocino			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			18
Merced	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	22

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Modoc	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Mono	TIED	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	16
Monterey			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	19
Napa			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	17
Nevada	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	17
Orange	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			15
Placer	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		17
Plumas	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑			☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑		15
Riverside	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑			16
Sacramento			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	17
San Benito			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	18
San Bernardino	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			19
San Diego	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	18
San Francisco			☑	☑				☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	16
San Joaquin	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	21
San Luis Obispo	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		19
San Mateo			☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Santa Barbara			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		18
Santa Clara			☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑		☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			14
Santa Cruz			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		16

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California Voting Trends by County Compared to National Voting Trends 1912-2000

COUNTIES	04 GW BUSH	00 GW BUSH	96 CLINTON	92 CLINTON	88 GHW BUSH	84 REAGAN	80 REAGAN	76 CARTER	72 NIXON	68 NIXON	64 LBJ OHNSON	60 JFK	56 EISENHOWER	52 EISENHOWER	48 TRUMAN	44 FDR	40 FDR	36 FDR	32 FDR	28 HOOVER	24 COOLIDGE	20 HARDING	16 WILSON	12 WILSON	TOTAL Out of 24 elections
Shasta	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	18
Sierra	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	19
Siskiyou	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	21
Sonoma		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	16
Solano		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	19
Stanislaus	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	21
Sutter	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	17
Tehama	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	21
Trinity	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	21
Tulare	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	20
Tuolumne	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	21
Ventura	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	22
Yolo		☑	☑				☑			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	17
Yuba	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	21

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