



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS05:015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, March 4, 2005

Contact: Caren Daniels-Meade  
Carol Dahmen  
916-653-6575

## **Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Removes Need to File Duplicate Lobbying Disclosure Reports**

Sacramento -- Lobbyists, lobbyist employers and lobbying firms who file their quarterly financial disclosure reports electronically or online will no longer need to file a paper copy of the same report due to a decision announced by Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today (March 4).

In a letter to the lobbying community sent this week, Secretary Shelley noted that, beginning with the first quarter reports due by May 2 for the 2005-2006 legislative session, "e-filers will no longer be burdened with the duplicative paper filing requirement."

For the past four years, lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers registered with the Secretary of State's Office have been filing quarterly financial disclosure reports in both paper and electronic formats. The reports filed electronically or online are posted on the Secretary of State's Cal-Access web site. The paper versions—nearly 400,000 pages collected every two years—are stored in file cabinets.

The Online Disclosure Act of 1997 authorizes the Secretary of State to eliminate the duplicative paper filings once it is determined that the online and electronic filing systems are operating "securely and effectively." Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, after consultation with the affected community of filers and the Fair Political Practices Commission, has determined that the system is working as intended and that qualified e-filers will no longer have to submit redundant paper filings. The new paperless filing policy will become effective with the first quarter, 2005-2006 lobbying reports, which are due no later than May 2, 2005. Nearly 4,000 e-filers will benefit from the new policy.

On November 9, 2004, the Secretary of State and the Fair Political Practices Commission jointly sponsored an interested persons forum to receive comment on the paperless filing issue as it affects lobbying entities. Unanimous support for a paperless filing system was expressed. The Commission formally endorsed the concept at its January 20, 2005 meeting.

These filings are viewable on the Secretary of State's Cal-Access web site at <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov/Lobbying/> in summary and pdf formats, and portions are searchable under the Advanced Reports section of the site at <http://dbsearch.ss.ca.gov/>.