



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Contact: Caren Daniels-Meade
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Appoints Undersecretary of State

Sacramento – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced he has appointed William P. Wood to serve as Undersecretary of State in his new administration. Wood has most recently served as Acting Corporations Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corporations, California's Investment and Financing Authority. Previously, he was the Chief Legal Counsel under former Secretary of State Bill Jones. He assumed the Undersecretary of State position today.

"Bill Wood brings a keen mind, extensive knowledge of the agency's programs, and an approachable style that will serve me and the employees of this office well as we move forward to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), certify voting systems and define our major policy priorities for the remainder of this term," Secretary McPherson said.

As Undersecretary of State, Wood will be responsible for the agency's overall policy direction, administrative oversight, and principal liaison to other governmental bodies and regulators. He will assist Secretary McPherson in ensuring California receives its full entitlement of federal HAVA funds, provides viable options for county election officials in their ability to purchase fully compliant voting systems, and operates within the legal restrictions established for purchasing goods and services and hiring staff. Wood will chair the Voting Systems and Procedures Panel.

As Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State, Wood was directly responsible for legal and policy matters in the Elections and the Business Programs divisions. He directed the agency's legal strategy and litigation management in all cases in state and federal courts, including the defense of California's Open Primary before the United States Supreme Court. He also had responsibility for the legal structure developed to implement Proposition 41, the Voting Modernization Bond Act, which allocated up to \$200 million for the modernization of California's voting equipment.

Prior to his state service, Wood served on the senior staff of the California District Attorneys Association while working as a deputy district attorney in Sacramento County handling misdemeanor and felony cases.

He is a graduate of Middlebury College and the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

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