



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Hosts Foreign Delegation to Discuss Voting & Election Issues

Secretary McPherson Welcomes Legislators from the Gulf Region to Sacramento

Sacramento, CA --- Today, Secretary of State Bruce McPherson hosted a delegation of legislators from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. The legislators arrived in Sacramento as part of a study tour sponsored by the International Republican Institute (IRI), the United States State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute for Representative Government. The focus of the delegation's study tour is strengthening legislative systems and building cooperation among regional parliamentarians. Secretary McPherson welcomed the delegation and hosted a discussion about statewide voting, the California election process and doing business in California.

"It is an honor to host these distinguished guests," said Secretary McPherson. "I am so pleased to be able to meet with these leaders from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain and discuss the importance of a fair and impartial election process and ensuring the integrity of every vote cast in every election."

Prior to arriving in Sacramento, the delegation spent five days in Washington, D.C. in meetings with their congressional counterparts, relevant committee members and staff, nongovernmental organizations and think tanks. The group then traveled to California to meet with Secretary McPherson as well as members of the legislature to observe the relationship between the states and the federal government and to learn about California's voting process.

Members of the Delegation:

Saudi Arabian Delegates

H.E. Falah Bin Faraj Al-Subaiea
H.E. Eng. Farhan Bin Raghyan Al-Bulwi

Omani Delegates

H.E. Sa'ad Mohammed Sa'id Al Mardhuf Al Sa'di
H.E. Mohammed Nasser Mohammed Al Lamki

Bahrain Delegates

H.E. Abbas Hasan Ebrahim Salman

For more information on the delegation contact: Anne Marie Mullen (202) 408-9450 (IRI)