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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces Creation of The Secretary of State's Task Force for Online Disclosure Reform

Sacramento, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today announced the creation of the Secretary of State's Task Force for Online Disclosure Reform. The newly formed advisory group will make recommendations to Secretary McPherson on technical and policy issues aimed at providing California voters more frequent and accurate campaign finance information. The task force will work toward providing recommendations that will result in a greater reliance on electronic and online submissions of electronic campaign filings.

"I think everyone agrees that the timely disclosure of contributions that fuel California's elections is the best political reform," said Secretary McPherson. "I want to streamline and improve the process so that voters promptly receive the information they need to make informed choices at the polls."

The members of the task force will examine whether it is timely to invest in new, user-friendly online and electronic filing technology that will simplify the process of transmitting campaign finance data to his office for display on the Secretary of State's web site.

McPherson explained that e-filing systems in place for the past five years are closely related to 30-year-old paper filing forms, and are difficult to use and maintain. He said newer data-driven systems that guide filers through the process might be a preferable alternative. He added that if filing campaign finance information can be simplified, it follows that more frequent disclosure of political fundraising activity could be examined as well.

The panel is composed of experts in the fields of political reform law and computer technology. Those on the task force who will consider new technical, administrative and legislative initiatives include: co-chairs **Colleen McAndrews** and **Michael Bustamante**; **Liane M. Randolph**, chair of the Fair Political Practices Commission; **Robert Stern**, president of the Center for Governmental Studies; **Tony Quinn**, editor of the California Target Book; **Steven Lucas**, political attorney; **Stephen J. Kaufman**, political attorney; **J. Richard Eichman**, political treasurer; **Susan Swatt**, State Senate legislative aide; **Wayne Ordos**, political attorney; **Kathay Feng**, president, California Common Cause; **Mike Auman**, chief State Department of Finance Information Services; and **Ted Prim**, Deputy Attorney General.