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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Reminds Employers of Law Allowing Employees Time Off to Vote

California Law Allows Workers up to Two Hours of Paid Time Off to Vote

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson issued a reminder today to public and private employers to allow their employees time off to vote if needed in the November 8th Special Statewide Election, as required by state law.

“A voter may take up to two hours off without loss of pay to vote in next Tuesday’s election if he or she does not have sufficient time outside their regular working hours to do so,” said McPherson. “Time off for voting especially accommodates employees with non-traditional work schedules and enables them to participate in the election.”

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 14000 & 14001, time off for voting notices should be posted in a visible location by every employer at least 10 days before the election so that employees are informed of their rights. Workers who need time off to vote must provide their employers with a two-day notice before the election. Employees are eligible to receive a maximum of two hours paid time off to vote. Preprinted notices explaining the time off provisions are available in both English and Spanish from the Secretary of State's office, free of charge.

“I’m not only reminding employers of their obligation under the law, but also encouraging them to support their employees’ right to take advantage of the opportunity,” added Secretary McPherson.

For copies of the time off for voting notices, please contact the Secretary of State’s Elections Division at (916) 657-2166 or visit the Secretary of State’s website, www.ss.ca.gov.

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