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**Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Predicts 42% Turnout for the November 8<sup>th</sup> Special Statewide Election**

Sacramento, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today predicted 42% of the state’s registered voters will cast ballots in the November 8<sup>th</sup> Special Statewide Election.

“There are a variety of factors that we take into consideration to help us arrive at our turnout prediction for next Tuesday’s election, including the number of absentee ballot requests received by county elections officials, past experience with similar types of elections, level of increase in the number of registered voters in recent weeks leading up to the election, and even the anticipated weather,” explained McPherson.

The latest report of registration figures released by Secretary McPherson’s office indicate 15.8 million voters are registered to vote in next Tuesday’s election. As of today, county elections officials report issuing more than 4.5 million absentee ballots. They also report receiving approximately 1.8 million mail ballots as of last night.

Secretary McPherson noted several local measures are generating high interest in several counties that may compel voters to head to the polls. Additionally, record amounts of money are being spent on advertising for and against the propositions on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot.

The following chart lists the turnout percentage of registered voters for past special statewide elections:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Vote Cast</u>
2003	61.20 %	15,383,526	9,413,494
1993	36.37 %	14,524,623	5,282,443
1979	37.38 %	10,006,957	3,740,800
1973	47.62 %	9,089,819	4,329,017

Voters are encouraged to visit the Secretary of State’s non-partisan election information site at <http://vote2005.ss.ca.gov> (no “www” required). The site allows voters to research information about the propositions, locate their polling place, study campaign finance reports, and watch the results tabulated live on election night.