



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM07:001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 3, 2007

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Two Sentenced in Major Orange County Voter Fraud Case

SACRAMENTO, CA -- The first two people were sentenced today in the major Orange County voter fraud case investigated by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. Both individuals plead guilty in November. Jason Holley, 36, and Jessica Sundell, 23 were sentenced for the felony crime of unlawfully registering voters without their knowledge.

Twelve people were charged with the fraudulent completion of affidavit of registration after a 5-month joint investigation by the Secretary of State and Orange County District Attorney. This was the largest fraud investigation case by the Secretary of State's Fraud Investigation Unit in history.

The defendants are accused of acquiring the victims' personal information, such as addresses and dates of birth, by checking their IDs and forging voter party registration information in the victims' name without the victims' knowledge or consent. They were paid \$10 by petition companies and campaign coordinators for each new voter form, as well as being paid separately for gathering petition signatures on statewide ballot initiatives.

Holley and Sundell each pleaded guilty to one count of felony voter registration fraud in November 2006 and were sentenced today to three years formal probation.

"Voter fraud will not be tolerated. Abusing the people's most basic right, the right to vote, must be dealt with as severely as possible," Secretary McPherson said.

McPherson's office conducted a 5-month joint investigation after receiving numerous complaints from citizens who were being registered and re-registered to vote without their knowledge. In most cases, the frauds occurred in front of grocery stores, large retail establishments, or on school campuses. The solicitors, or circulators, are accused of soliciting shoppers and students to sign petitions, usually in support of stricter sex offender laws or lower taxes, and unwittingly obtaining a signature on a voter registration card. The victims would sign the petitions and a voter registration form, but would not fill out the information on the rest of the form.

The results of the investigation were turned over to the Orange County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.