



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Today Continues Voter Education and Participation Month by Meeting with Voters with Disabilities and High School Students

AUBURN, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson this morning met with consumers from the Placer Independent Resource Services to discuss new laws in 2006 that will help make participation in the elections process for voters with disabilities easier and more accessible.

"One of the best things, in my opinion, to come out of HAVA has been the focus on voters with disabilities and their needs," said Secretary McPherson. "New federal law requires that each polling place have at least one accessible voting machine for voters with disabilities, so that they will be able to cast their ballot privately and independently."

Secretary McPherson also met with El Dorado High School students in the afternoon to encourage them to register to vote as soon as they are eligible when they turn 18. Educating young adults about participating in the elections process is part of Secretary McPherson's efforts during Voter Education and Participation Month.

"It is truly rewarding to be able to talk to young people about getting involved in the democratic process," said Secretary McPherson. "I hope that these students will encourage their friends and families to register to vote and encourage them to cast a ballot on June 6th."

Secretary McPherson declared April Voter Education and Participation month and will be encouraging eligible Californians to register to vote and educating them about the new laws. Citizens can register to vote until the 15-day close of registration, which is May 22nd. Attached is "What's New for the 2006 Federal Elections," information about new laws that will have an impact on this year's elections. For more information, please visit the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov.

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