



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Encourages Asian American Community to Register and Vote

LOS ANGELES, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today urged members of the Asian American community to register and vote. Joined by members of the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), Secretary McPherson spoke in front of Asian American community groups at the Empress Pavilion Restaurant in Los Angeles' Chinatown.

"One out of every four Californians was born outside of the United States," said Secretary McPherson. "Our diversity is what helps to make California the greatest state in the nation. Once you step into the polling place, you're no different than the person in front of you or the person behind you. That's the beauty of our democracy - all men and women have an equal vote, and an equal say in our future. There is no day like Election Day, when everyone is counted equally."

"We are here today to remind and encourage Asian Pacific Americans to register to vote, if they haven't already, because invariably every election season, we run into citizens who are eligible and even enthusiastic about voting, but who have missed the voter registration deadline," said CAUSE's Board Chair Charlie Woo. "The bottom line is, if you want to vote, you have to be registered first."

As part of Secretary McPherson's push to increase voter registration and participation, the Secretary has been traveling throughout the state educating eligible voters on the new state and federal laws and encouraging voter registration. Currently, there are 16 million registered voters in the state of California. Twenty two million are eligible to register and vote.

Eligible voters can register to vote until May 22nd - 15 days prior to the Primary Election. Voter registration cards are available at local county offices, libraries, DMV and post offices throughout the state. For more information, visit the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov.

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