



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Reminds Californians of Last Day to Register to Vote for June 6th Primary Election

Secretary of State's Office will remain open until 8pm tonight to accept registration cards

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today reminded voters that today is the deadline to register for the June 6th Primary Election.

"On June 6th, Californians will be casting votes for candidates and about issues that will impact each one of us," said Secretary McPherson. "I encourage all eligible voters who are not yet registered to vote to get their registration materials in today."

Secretary McPherson has been traveling up and down the state to educate voters on the new federal and state laws and to encourage voter participation. Secretary McPherson has been visiting with high school seniors, members of the senior community and other community based organizations to ensure that all registered voters have the tools they need to cast their votes on June 6th.

Registration materials are available in all U.S. Post Offices, the Department of Motor Vehicles offices, county clerks' offices, most county offices and on-line at www.ss.ca.gov. Registration cards must be turned in to election officials or postmarked no later than today, Monday, May 22nd, for voters to be eligible to cast a ballot in the June 6th election.

The Secretary of State's office in Sacramento will remain open tonight until 8pm, accepting voter registration cards. The office is located at 1500 11th Street in Sacramento.

*See the attached "What's New" document for information the new federal and state laws in effect for elections in 2006.

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WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2006 ELECTIONS
New federal laws will have an impact on this year's elections.
Learn how they will impact you and Your Vote.

New Identification Requirements:

- To register or re-register to vote after January 1, 2006, you **must** provide a California driver's license or state ID number, if you have one, in the fields provided on the voter registration form. If you don't have either of these, you must provide the last four numbers of your social security number in the field provided.
- The elections official must verify your ID number before putting you on the list of registered voters, so be sure to register well in advance of the election.
- Some people who registered by mail for the first time in California and did not fill in their ID number may have to show ID when they vote at a polling place, or include a photocopy of their ID with their absentee ballot. Contact your local elections officials if you have questions. Find your elections official by calling 1-800-345-VOTE or by visiting: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm

Voting Equipment Must Be Accessible to Voters with Disabilities:

- New federal law requires that beginning in 2006, each polling place must have at least one voting machine available to voters with disabilities.
- Voters with disabilities should be able to vote privately and independently.

Your County May Have New Voting Equipment:

- Many counties have purchased new voting systems to meet federal and state laws. If you are not familiar with how to cast a ballot on this system, ask the precinct worker to show you how the system works.
- All voting systems in California must pass strict tests and meet all federal and state standards before being approved for use.

You Have the Right to Cast a Ballot:

- If you are not on the list at your polling place, you have the right to cast a "provisional" ballot. The poll worker will give you information about how to find out if your vote was counted, and if it was not, why not.
- A "provisional" ballot is just like a regular ballot, except it goes into an envelope or pending status until the election official can determine your eligibility. The ballot will be counted if the election official can determine your eligibility.
- If you are in the wrong polling place, the poll worker may try to help you by giving you directions to the right polling place, where your name should be on the list and you could vote a regular ballot. If you choose not to go there, you can vote a provisional ballot.