



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Reminds Decline to State Voters About Their Rights for Requesting Partisan Ballots for the June 6th Primary Election

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today reminded registered decline to state voters (DTS) about how to request partisan ballots for the June 6th Primary Election.

“Over eighteen percent of California’s registered voters are now registered as Decline to State. These voters have the right to choose an American Independent, Democratic, Republican or non-partisan ballot on Election Day,” said Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. “I want to ensure that these voters know their rights when they go to the polls on Election Day.”

Decline to State voters may vote in the American Independent, Democratic or Republican primaries. These three parties voted to allow DTS voters to participate in their primaries. If given one of these three parties’ ballots, DTS voters may vote for all candidates except for those running for party county central committee candidates. The Green, Libertarian, Natural Law and Peace and Freedom parties do not allow DTS voters to vote in their primaries. Decline to State voters who do not request a partisan ballot will be given a non-partisan ballot that contains only the non-partisan candidates and the ballot measures.

On Election Day, DTS voters may request a partisan ballot when they sign the voter roster before entering the polling booth. Voters who are requesting an absentee ballot must indicate on the application form which ballot they are requesting or they will be sent a non-partisan ballot. Voters requesting an absentee ballot must submit their request to their county elections official by Tuesday, May 30, 2006.

The number of DTS voters in California counties continues to grow, for example, in 1994, just over 10% of California’s voters were registered as Decline to State. Since the 2002 60-day report of registration, the number of Decline to State Voters has increased 4% from 14.7% to 18.3%. This is an increase of 613,351 voters.

For more information, or to print out an absentee ballot request form, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at www.ss.ca.gov or contact your local county registrar’s office.