



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Governor Signs Voter Fraud Protection Bill

SACRAMENTO, CA - Today Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1348 (Battin) sponsored by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson into law. This bill will enhance the ability of the Secretary of State's fraud investigators to track down paid registration gatherers who engage in fraudulent activity.

The bill requires paid voter registration circulators to provide his or her name, address, and other information to those they are registering to vote. This measure will make it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1000 or imprisonment or both, to violate this provision. The bill also creates a misdemeanor for a person to misrepresent him or herself as having assisted a voter to register when the actual assistance was by another person.

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson said, "I commend the Governor for signing this bill. My office has a zero tolerance policy for voter fraud and this measure will further protect the rights of voters. We aggressively pursue all evidence of voter fraud in California as part of my effort to ensure our elections are conducted with integrity.

"It was a pleasure to work with Senator Battin to move this legislation forward. As California's Chief Elections Officer my top priority is to protect the integrity of the vote and I am pleased with the step we've taken today."

Senator Battin said, "It was my pleasure to work with Secretary McPherson on this important measure. Ensuring that the voter registration process is conducted with honor is a priority of mine and that's why I was pleased to carry this legislation. This bill represents another step forward in Secretary McPherson's effort to protect the integrity of the vote."

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