



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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## **Secretary of State Bruce McPherson and State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Kick-Off Largest Statewide Student Mock Election in California's History**

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today celebrated student involvement in the largest Student Mock Election in California's history at an event held at Clark Magnet High School in the Glendale Unified School District. Later in the day, Secretary McPherson also visited with Yerba Buena High School government students in San Jose.

"As Secretary of State, it is my job to encourage young people to register to vote and participate in the democratic process," said Secretary of State McPherson. "It's always encouraging to see students learn about the candidates and issues and become informed voters."

The Student Mock Election allows hundreds of thousands of California students to gain hands-on experience about the electoral process. The Student Mock Election is designed to promote civic involvement and voter participation among young people by encouraging students to explore and discuss campaign issues, learn about the election process, and cast a ballot for candidates and measures of their choice. More than 500 schools and 230,000 students from every county in California are participating statewide in the Student Mock Election. Students will be voting for United States Senator, the Governor and the 13 statewide propositions on the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot.

"I want students at every school to understand the importance of being informed, involved citizens," said O'Connell. "Too many Californians – particularly young people – are not taking part in important decisions about our state's future, and that's a dangerous trend in a democracy. The Student Mock Election is one way to help reverse this trend."

The Student Mock Election is a project of the "Student Voting Project," a bipartisan effort created by Secretary McPherson and Superintendent O'Connell along with county elections officials, educators and education organizations to promote civic participation by young citizens. The first "Student Voting Project" event took place earlier this fall when California schools were encouraged to participate in "Constitution Day." The "Student Voting Project" provided K-12 schools with educational resources to assist them in planning their activities or lessons.

Mock election results will be posted on the Secretary of State's website tonight at [http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection\\_06.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection_06.htm). For more information on the mock election, please call the Secretary of State's Press Office at 916-653-6575.