



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces Partnership with California Businesses to Encourage Voter Participation

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today announced a partnership with leading California businesses and business associations including the California Restaurant Association, Orange County Business Council, California Chamber of Commerce, Anheuser Busch Southern California, California Apartment Association, Bank of America and the Building Industry of Southern California.

"I am so pleased to partner with these leading businesses and business organizations to communicate a message of civic participation to so many Californians. Bank of America alone reached out to their 40,000 employees reminding them of voting deadlines and directing them to useful voter resources," said Secretary of State Bruce McPherson.

"The California Chamber of Commerce has joined Secretary of State Bruce McPherson's Voter Participation Project to provide valuable information to employers and their employees that will make participation meaningful and convenient for them," said Cal Chamber President & CEO Allan Zarembeg.

These groups have been providing information in emails and newsletters on important voting deadlines, finding polling locations and resources available to learn about the issues. These resources increase the opportunity for their members and employees to take part in the electoral process.

"The Orange County Business Council was pleased to partner with the Secretary of State to help make sure Californians go to the polls on November 7th. By educating our members via a link on our website to the Secretary of State's website page, we were able to educate our members on the registration and absentee ballot deadlines," said Todd Priest, Vice President Government and Community Affairs.

Secretary McPherson is working with thousands of public and private sector partners to provide voters with the resources to encourage non-partisan voter participation in the upcoming November 7, 2006 General Election. Partners include: multi-lingual and minority organizations, small businesses, large corporations, industry trade associations, education/youth groups, labor groups and more.

For more information about voter registration and voting, please visit the Secretary of State's web site at: www.ss.ca.gov, or call 1-800-345-VOTE (8683).

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