DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1500 11th Street, 6th floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel (916) 653-7244 | Fax (916) 653-4620 | www.sos.ca.gov

August 14, 2008

County Clerk/Registrar of Voter (CC/ROV) Memorandum # 08251

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: Debbie O'Donoghue
Debbie O'Donoghue
Deputy Secretary of State, Voter Education and Outreach Services

RE: Voter Education and Outreach: MyVote California Student Mock Election – October 30, 2008

Secretary Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell are once again sponsoring the MyVote California Student Mock Election for middle and high school students this fall, on October 30, 2008. This program is designed to build on the excitement of the historic 2008 presidential election and give students firsthand experience with the electoral process.

School registration is currently underway on the MyVote California Student Mock Election website at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm. I hope you can take a moment to visit the website to see how schools can register, curriculum materials, a calendar, and more. I've also attached a fact sheet about the mock election for your information.

Please join Secretary Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell in this effort and encourage high schools in your county to sign-up and participate in MyVote California Student Mock Election. We look forward to working with you to inspire a new generation of young voters!

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-7244, or via email odonoghu@sos.ca.gov.

MYVOTE CALIFORNIA STUDENT MOCK ELECTION 2008
Sponsored by Secretary of State Debra Bowen
and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell

MYVOTE
STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

Why Get Involved?

The MyVote California Student Mock Election is a civic engagement project designed to help young people discover the importance of elections and the power of their vote in our democracy. It gives high school and middle school students firsthand experience with the electoral process by giving them a chance to make their voices heard on the candidates and issues of importance to them and their families.

This fall, the MyVote California Student Mock Election will tap into the excitement of the presidential election with a **Student Mock Election to be held on Thursday, October 30,** less than one week before California's November 4, 2008, General Election. With engaging lesson plans and activities chosen by MyVote California Student Mock Election partner the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, teachers will have the tools they need to help their students become informed and involved voters in 2008 and beyond.

Here's How

Step 1 A school decides to participate and the principal selects a school coordinator to register the school online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm. The coordinator is the school's primary contact, who receives and distributes updates on the Student Mock Election and reports the school-wide final vote tally to the Secretary of State.

Step 2 The participating school decides how to run the Student Mock Election and where on campus the voting will take place. The election could become a project for the student council, either alone or with other student groups. It could also involve a broader committee of parents and community volunteers.

Step 3 Teachers can use the standards-based curriculum and activities selected expressly for the student mock election by the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, available on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ca.gov.

Step 4 The Student Mock Election committee makes this a campus-wide activity that encourages lively discussion and debate, role-playing of the candidates and presentation of their platforms, and other creative campaign-related activities.

Key Dates		
	July 1	Student elections curriculum available
	September 12	Schools registering by this date will receive materials by mail
	October 29	Schools registering by this date will print materials from the website
	October 30	**Voting by students**
	November 3	Announcement of statewide student election results
	November 4	2008 General Election

Register your school for the MyVote California Student Mock Election at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm