



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Predicts 38% Turnout for California Primary Election

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today predicted 38% of the state's registered voters will cast ballots in the California Primary Election.

"There are a variety of factors that we take into consideration to arrive at our turnout prediction for next Tuesday's election, including the number of absentee ballot requests received by county elections officials, past turnout for similar elections, growth in the number of registered voters in recent weeks leading up to the election, and even the anticipated weather," explained Secretary McPherson.

The latest registration figures compiled by Secretary McPherson's office indicate 15,668,439 million voters are registered to vote in next Tuesday's election. As of Thursday morning, an informal survey with responses from 36 county elections officials reported issuing more than 3.8 million absentee ballots and receiving almost 935,000 voted absentee ballots.

"Voting is our most precious right for citizens," said Secretary McPherson. "Today I want to encourage all eligible Californians to get involved in the democratic process, and the best way to do that is to head to the polls on Election Day."

The following chart lists the turnout percentage of registered voters for Gubernatorial Primary elections since 1986:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Vote Cast</u>
2002	34.59%	15,280,808	5,286,204
1998	42.49%	14,605,677	6,206,618
1994	35.05%	14,171,411	4,966,827
1990	41.49%	12,981,429	5,386,545
1986	40.45%	12,206,632	4,937,941

Voters are encouraged to visit the Secretary of State's official election information web site at vote.ss.ca.gov (no "www" required). The site allows voters to research information about the propositions, locate their polling place, and study campaign finance reports. The site also provides a new feature that allows users to select particular races to watch, which are then displayed on a scrolling screen throughout Election Night.