



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS03:097

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 27, 2003

Contact: Terri Carbaugh
Doug Stone
916/653-6575

Shelley Announces Creation of Task Force on Voter Privacy

SACRAMENTO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that he has created the Secretary of State's Task Force on Voter Privacy and named its seven members. The creation of the task force is pursuant to legislation authored by Shelley in 2002 when he served as Majority Leader of the State Assembly.

"Californians are increasingly concerned about protecting their privacy," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "This task force will make sure that Californians have confidence that when they sign a petition or register to vote, their personal information is secure."

The task force will study standards for safeguarding voter file information in view of the different database formats and security procedures used by the various counties. After its investigation of this issue, the task force will issue a series of recommendations to the Secretary of State and the Legislature. The Secretary of State is required to adopt uniform guidelines based upon the task force's recommendations by January 1, 2005.

Secretary Shelley announced the following appointments to the Task Force on Voter Privacy:

As task force chairperson,
Willie Pelote, Political Director, AFSCME, Sacramento

As task force members,
Linda Berger, Executive Director, Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women, Long Beach

Bill Cavala, Speaker's Office of Member Services, Sacramento

Beth Givens, Director, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, San Diego

Jim Hayes, President, Political Data, Inc., Burbank

Victor Salazar, Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Fresno

Dave Wong, President, San Francisco Deputy Sheriff's Association, San Francisco

The task force will hold four public hearings on the following dates and locations:

Overview of Voter Privacy Issues
Wednesday, November 5, 2003
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Secretary of State's Office, Sacramento

-more-

Keeping Forms and Documents Private
Wednesday, November 12, 2003
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
San Diego (location TBA)

Confidentiality Issues and Enforcement of Current Voter Privacy Laws
Friday, November 21, 2003
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
San Francisco (location TBA)

The Voter File: Access and Privacy
Monday, December 15, 2003
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Los Angeles (location TBA)

The creation of task force is required pursuant to California Election Code Section 2195 as added by Assembly Bill 2832 (Shelley, 2002), Chapter 959, Statutes of 2002.