March 26, 2014

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and High School and Middle School Principals:

SAVE THE DATE!
MYVOTE CALIFORNIA STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

The November 4 General Election season will be filled with opportunities to make democracy come alive for young people. That is why we are pleased to invite you to hit the campaign trail with your students and teachers for the MyVote California Student Mock Election held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

Working with the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, and in coordination with the National Student Mock Election, the MyVote California Student Mock Election helps young people discover the importance of elections and the power their vote has in our democracy. This year it builds on the excitement of a state election by giving California’s high school and middle school students a chance to have their say on who they want to be Governor, and on the ballot measures voters will consider in the General Election. Once their votes are counted, students can compare their choices to those of their peers at schools around the state, when the results are posted on the Secretary of State’s Web site.

We encourage you to take a moment to register your schools for the MyVote California Student Mock Election today at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm, and hope you will make this a campus-wide activity. A fact sheet on the Student Mock Election is attached for your review.

All schools that register by September 19 will receive printed ballots, posters, stickers and other materials by mail. These materials will also be available on the Student Mock Election Web site for schools that register after that date. There, you will also find a collection of standards-based lesson plans designed to stir students’ interest in voting and make their mock election a rewarding experience.

With your involvement, students will discover that democracy is a living, breathing thing that only flourishes when we all take part. Together, we can inspire a new generation of active, informed young voters who eagerly await each opportunity to exercise their precious constitutional right.
If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Student Mock Election Team by phone at 916-651-3070 or by email at MyVote@sos.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

Debra Bowen
California Secretary of State

TT/DB:dod/op
Attachment