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For Release: March 8, 2012

From: Jim McCauley, Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters
To: ALL NEWS MEDIA
Date: March 5, 2012
Subject: Nonpartisan Voter Ballot Options for the Primary Election
Contact: Ferrin Call or Sam Kipp 530-886-5650

No Party Preference voters (also known as Nonpartisan voters) and voters registered with nonqualified parties in Placer County may have recently seen postcards in their mailboxes from the Placer County Office of Elections. These postcards ask No Party Preference (NPP) voters who vote by mail to notify the Office of Elections which party ballot they would like to receive for the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary Election.

The postcard contains two party options: the American Independent Party ballot and the Democratic Party ballot. The Modified Closed Primary system used for presidential primaries allows qualified political parties to decide whether or not No Party Preference voters may help nominate their candidates. These two parties have opted to give No Party Preference voters that option for the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary Election. No Party Preference voters may choose a ballot from either party. In addition to the presidential race, measures and voter-nominated and nonpartisan races will also appear on their ballots. The only offices that these voters will not be able to vote on are the parties' central committees. These voters also have the option to vote a No Party Preference ballot containing only measures and voter-nominated and nonpartisan races.

The remaining qualified political parties in California have chosen to allow only their party members to nominate the presidential candidate for their respective parties. These parties are the Republican, Green, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom parties. If a No Party Preference voter wishes to nominate a candidate for one of those parties, that voter would need to re-register by May 21, 2012 to join the party. The close of registration for the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary Election is May 21, 2012.

If you have any questions about the postcard or the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary Election, you may contact the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California at 1-800-824-8683. You may also contact the Secretary of State's Office at their toll-free number 1-800-345-8683 or visit their website at www.sos.ca.gov for more information.

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