



**BRUCE McPHERSON** | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
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October 18, 2006

Cynthia Valenzuela  
Director of Litigation  
MALDEF  
634 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Dear Ms. Valenzuela:

I received your letter yesterday about a mailing purporting to come from the California Coalition for Immigration Reform that was sent to newly registered Latino voters in Orange County.

Let me assure you that I have ordered a thorough, prompt, and vigorous investigation of this mailing to be started immediately. Any attempt to intimidate voters is unacceptable to me. Top investigators from my Elections Fraud Investigation Unit are in the field now to determine if California laws have been violated.

As Secretary of State, I have two major goals: to encourage eligible Californians to vote and to come down hard on voter fraud. I have traveled to all 58 counties and have reached out to hundreds of thousands of organizations to encourage eligible voters to participate. For example as part of my outreach to Latino voters, I recently announced a partnership with the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California and Latino Issues Forum to encourage clients of Latino health clinics and non-profit health clinics to register and vote in the November 7, 2006 General Election.

In addition, I joined with The National Association of Latino Elected Officials educational fund, La Opinion and Univision KMEX Channel 34 to launch a "Vey Vot" (Go Vote) campaign. The unprecedented campaign targeted over 1 million eligible Latinos to register to vote for the November 7th general election. The campaign sought to increase voter registration of Latinos through the insertion of 350,000 voter registration cards in the September 21st edition of La Opinion.

If there has been an attempt to intimidate voters, I will move swiftly to make certain anyone responsible is held fully accountable. I am also asking that the Attorney General of California join me in this investigation to ensure that it can be completed quickly and without a duplication of effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce McPherson".

BRUCE McPHERSON  
Secretary of State