

Media Release

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MOCK ELECTION VOTING UNDERWAY IN DELAWARE SCHOOLS

Convention to be held October 29 at Legislative Hall

Students across Delaware are currently participating in the 2010 Mock Election, a comprehensive program that seeks to educate young people about elections and voting. The success of the program in past years has resulted from the coordination and contributions of numerous organizations, as well as the active participation of thousands of bright, young Delawareans.

“I hope that all of Delaware’s students take advantage of this opportunity to vote and continue to do so when they reach 18 and beyond,” said Commissioner of Elections Elaine Manlove whose office organizes and administers the Mock Election every two years. Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock is the program’s Honorary Chair.

Each school district has a coordinator to help prepare students for the election using lesson plans developed by Delaware teachers and linked to the Delaware Social Studies content standards. The lesson plans inform students about the electoral process and promote the discussion of key issues. Students can also participate in debates, issue forums, press conferences, candidate nights, rallies, and inaugural balls as part of the Mock Election in their school.

Students are casting their electronic ballots for U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Attorney General, Treasurer, and Auditor of Accounts over a three-day period which ends October 27. On Friday, October 29, two students chosen from each school district will attend the Mock Election Convention in the House Chamber at Legislative Hall from 10 a.m. until noon.

The Mock Election program involves extensive cooperation between multiple State agencies, as well as other institutions and organizations. The program depends heavily on assistance from the Democracy Project at the University of Delaware, the Department of Education, the Department of Technology and Information, the League of Women Voters, *The News Journal*, and the Office of the Secretary of State.

The Delaware Mock Election is associated with National Student/Parent Mock Election Organization, whose mission is “to motivate young people to seize the day, to cast votes for candidates who most inspire them while learning to cast real votes in real elections when they reach voting age.”

For more information on the 2010 Mock Election, please visit

<http://elections.delaware.gov/information/mockelection/mockelection.shtml>.

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