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Contact: Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California
Cell: 916-893-8494

Sierra Club California Endorses Secretary of State Alex Padilla

SACRAMENTO – Sierra Club California has endorsed Secretary of State Alex Padilla who is running for reelection.

As secretary of state, Padilla is responsible for overseeing elections, campaign and lobbyist disclosure, and corporate filings. During his run for election in 2014, Padilla promised to make voting more accessible and to modernize public access to information.

Since taking office as secretary of state, Padilla has aggressively promoted online voter registration, which has resulted in two million new voters added to the rolls. Secretary Padilla sponsored the New Motor Voter Act, which calls for automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles beginning in April of 2018.

Secretary Padilla supported and helped pass AB 840, which ensures every ballot is counted properly and accounted for. Last fall, he certified VoteCal, California's new statewide voter registration database, and secured funding to modernize and launch a new Cal-ACCESS database in 2019 to track campaign financing.

In 2016, Secretary Padilla sponsored the Voters Choice Act which will afford California voters more options of where, when, and how to vote through more vote-by-mail, in-person early voting, and a new vote center model that gives voters the option of voting at any location in their county. He also launched the tool [Quick Guide to Props](#) to give voters nonpartisan analysis and campaign finance information on statewide propositions.

“Alex Padilla campaigned on protecting voting rights for everyone and is performing as he promised. He has increased transparency and the integrity of our elections system,” said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. “Padilla has also been a champion for the environment. He is an outstanding secretary of state and we’re pleased to give him our endorsement.”

“I am honored by Sierra Club's endorsement,” said Secretary of State Padilla. “As a graduate from MIT, I believe in science. Climate change is real, and we need to prioritize efforts to protect our environment and our wildlife. I was proud to partner with the Sierra Club when, as a State Senator, I authored the bill to phase out single use plastic bags in California. Sierra Club's leadership in this movement has been crucial to conservation efforts nationwide. I am grateful for their support.”

This early endorsement was developed by committees of active Sierra Club California volunteers. It is the first of the political endorsements of statewide candidates for 2018 that Sierra Club California has announced.

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 400,000 members and supporters statewide.