



STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
BEN YSURSA

To be released immediately
Tuesday, October 21, 2008
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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

**Secretary of State Ben Ysursa and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna
announce The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election October 23rd and 24th.**

In an effort to instill a deep appreciation of the importance of the right to vote in Idaho's young people, Secretary of State Ben Ysursa in cooperation with Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna are proud to announce the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election.

Ysursa said: "It is the goal of this office to encourage active voting and civic participation by providing a meaningful voting experience for high school students particularly in this year of heightened interest in voting by young people."

Students statewide have the opportunity to vote online from their senior government classrooms this Thursday and Friday October 23rd and 24th. The ballot includes candidates for Federal offices and two ballot measures suggested by Idaho students.

"The Mock Election will be a great opportunity for Idaho students to learn first hand about the democratic process," Superintendent Luna said. "I hope all the students who take part in this activity will learn the importance of voting and carry those lessons with them in the future."

Secretary Ysursa commended the 93 Idaho's civics and government teachers from 65 schools who have registered over 7000 students to participate in the two day voting exercise.

Ysursa said: "Participation is the essence of our democracy and voting is not only our right but our duty. We hope the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election voting exercise will encourage young people from every corner of our state to become informed lifelong voters."

Results of the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available on the Secretary of State's web site on Monday, October 27th. www.sos.idaho.gov