



3,500 TEENS FROM ACROSS THE STATE COME TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESNO, Calif. – Over 3,400 high school students representing California YMCA Youth & Government and its impressive 97 delegations, will come together November 10-12, 2017 to participate in the 70th Model Legislature & Court (MLC) Training & Elections Conference. Over the course of the weekend, youth delegates will elect their Secretary of State and select their party candidate during a Youth Governor Primary. They will also learn about and select the roles within the California State Government that they will assume when they move on to submit budget proposals, debate court cases, draft a new State Constitution and elect their 71st Youth Governor during their final conference in Sacramento in February.

“For 70 years California YMCA Youth & Government has provided offering critical thinking, public speaking and leadership skills that have helped to prepare over 100,000 youth for college and beyond,” says Youth & Government CEO, Debbie Gabelich. “We develop engaged citizens who are inspired to affect positive change in their schools as well as the communities in which they live.” Proof of this hope for positive change will be seen throughout the conference as Youth & Government delegates compose thousands of notes of thanks and inspiration for U.S. Military Troops overseas. The notes will be a small part of over 1,000 individual care packages that will be assembled with items collected across the state by the youth delegates.

California YMCA Youth & Government is a six-month program in which 9th-12th grade students statewide, role-play various positions of the California State Legislature and State Court systems. By joining local YMCA delegations, participating students have the opportunity to draft bills and prepare briefs about issues that most affect them. Delegates meet weekly as well as attending two statewide training conference leading up to the February conference in Sacramento.

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California YMCA Youth & Government's Model Legislature & Court has been the state's premier youth leadership and civic engagement program since 1948. The MLC is designed to teach youth the democratic process and how they can affect change, while building self-confidence, inspiring leadership, learning transferrable skills and making new friends from across the state.

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Opening Joint Session | Welcome by 70th Youth Governor, Cole Cahill | Lt. Governor & Speaker of the Assembly Speeches | Friday, November 10 | 2:45PM |**
- **#BeTheChange Social Initiative Project – Care Packages for the Troops | Sunday, November 12 | 9:30AM**
- **Closing Joint Session & Announcement of 70th Secretary of State | Sunday, November 12 | 10:45AM**

Highlighted events are scheduled to take place at the Fresno Convention Center.

To learn more about this program and California YMCA Youth & Government please visit www.calymca.org.

EVENT HASHTAGS:

#70MLC #BeTheChange