



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB09:029

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2009

CONTACT: Kate Folmar
(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Employers of Law Guaranteeing Time Off To Vote In May 19 Statewide Special Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded public and private employers that California law requires them to provide their employees with time off to vote in the May 19 Statewide Special Election.

“Every eligible Californian should have the same opportunity to vote,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “California’s time-off-to-vote law ensures that people with non-traditional work schedules are able to cast their ballots on Election Day.”

The California Elections Code allows workers up to two hours off, without a loss of pay, to vote if they do not have enough time to do so in their non-work hours. The law requires workers to give their employers two working days’ notice before the election if they will need to take time off to vote.

Polling places will be open between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 12.

Every California employer is required to post in a visible location a notice informing employees of their rights at least 10 days before an election. The Secretary of State’s office offers these free, pre-printed notices in both English and Spanish. Copies of the notices can be obtained by calling the Secretary of State’s Elections Division at (916) 657-2166 or going to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_tov.htm.

###