



DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Employers of Law Guaranteeing Time Off to Vote In Presidential Primary

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 February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election.

“Voting is our most important civic duty, and every eligible Californian should be able to participate in this momentous presidential primary,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s top elections officer. “California’s time-off-to-vote law ensures that people with non-traditional work schedules have the same chance to vote as everyone else.”

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.

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 http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_tov.htm.

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