



DEBRA BOWEN

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CONTACT: Kate Folmar
(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Bowen Announces Felony Charge Filed Against Siskiyou Man Accused of Voting Twice in 2005

SACRAMENTO – A Weed man was charged today with one felony count accusing him of casting two ballots in the November 2005 Special Statewide Election following an investigation by Secretary of State Debra Bowen’s fraud unit. The voter allegedly cast one ballot by mail a week before that election and voted a second time at the polls on Election Day.

After conducting her official canvass for the special election, Siskiyou County Clerk Colleen Setzer noticed the apparent double voting and alerted the Secretary of State’s office. An investigation by the Secretary’s Election Fraud Investigation Unit concluded that Dennis Roy Roberts had indeed voted by mail and also at the polls. A forensic handwriting expert confirmed the signatures on the ballot and precinct documents both belong to Roberts.

The November 2005 special election ballot contained eight statewide initiatives. Also on the ballot in Siskiyou County was a Measure A, a local bond benefiting the Siskiyou Joint Community College District, which voters approved. Roberts is Athletic Director at College of the Siskiyous.

“The Presidential Primary Election is a week away and the message here is if you vote more than once in California, you will be caught,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “Voter fraud is not acceptable, and I applaud Colleen Setzer and her staff for their vigilance in helping keep California elections clean.”

Siskiyou County District Attorney J. Kirk Andrus charged Roberts with one count of Elections Code Section 18560(b), voting more than once. It is punishable by up to three years in prison.

The Secretary of State’s Election Fraud Investigation Unit helps maintain the integrity of the electoral process by investigating allegations of election and voter fraud in California. Potential Elections Code violations brought to the unit’s attention are thoroughly investigated and referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution when there is sufficient evidence of wrongdoing. The Secretary of State’s office does not disclose information about the status of ongoing criminal investigations, but the information from a case that culminates in a criminal complaint filed by a county or state prosecutor is a public record.

Anyone who has witnessed a violation of the California Elections Code is encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Election Fraud Investigation Unit at 1-800-345-VOTE or http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_fraud.htm.

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