



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Recall Election May Go Forward in Senate District 12 *Governor to Set Election Date*

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified that enough valid voter signatures were submitted to proceed with a recall election in the 12th Senate District, which includes part or all of Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, and Stanislaus counties.

To qualify for the ballot, the proponent of the recall of Senator Jeffrey Denham needed 31,084 valid petition signatures, which is equal to 20% of the total votes cast in the last Senate District 12 race in November 2006. Recall proponent Gary D. Robbins filed 61,144 signatures in February in an effort to qualify the recall election for a ballot. The recall qualified through a random sample signature check.

After they reported the raw count of all signatures submitted, county elections officials then proceeded with a random sampling verification method. County elections officials had 30 working days, or until April 1, to verify the validity of 500 signatures, or 3% of the number of signatures filed in their county, whichever was greater. To qualify without a full check of all submitted signatures, the random sampling had to project at least 34,193 valid signatures, or 110%, of the actual number of valid signatures required to qualify the recall. The proponent of the recall effort exceeded that threshold today with 35,820 projected valid signatures.

Now that the Secretary of State has certified that the recall election may go forward, the governor must set a date for the election to be held later this year. Under California law, the Governor may call it for between 60 and 80 days from today.

Recall is the power of the voters to remove an elected official from office. It has been part of California's political landscape since 1911. The laws governing recall elections differ significantly from those for regular elections.

- A recall election includes two parts. A voter may vote on both parts, or only one.
- The first part will ask, "Shall Jeffrey Denham be recalled (removed) from the office of Senate District 12?" If more voters mark "yes" than "no," then the Senator will be recalled. If more voters mark "no," he will remain in office.

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- The second part will list the names of candidates seeking to replace Senator Denham in the event he is recalled. If the Senator is recalled, the candidate who receives the most votes will be elected; it is not necessary to receive a majority of the votes cast. That person may be sworn in after the election results are certified.

Once the recall election date is set, the Secretary of State's office will post a detailed election calendar at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_specials.htm. Candidates seeking to replace Senator Denham must file nomination papers with county elections officials 59 days before the election. The Secretary of State will certify the candidate list 55 days before the election.

For more information about the recall process in California, go to <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/recall.pdf>.

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