



# DEBRA BOWEN

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### Secretary of State Debra Bowen Announces Felony Conviction Against Circulator For Fictitious Voter Registration

**SACRAMENTO** – An Acampo man pleaded guilty today in San Joaquin County Superior Court for attempting to register a fictitious voter, Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today. Devon Derrel Goodlow was sentenced to six months in jail and five years formal probation, and was ordered to not engage in any voter registration activity for the term of his probation.

The San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters first informed the Secretary of State's Election Fraud Investigation Unit after it received four suspicious voter registrations for the same person. Goodlow was employed to register voters in 2006 and he was listed as the circulator listed on all four voter registration cards in question. The investigation by Bowen's fraud unit revealed that the voter named on the cards did not exist and Goodlow fabricated the fictitious voter's signature.

Goodlow was charged with one felony count of offering a false or forged instrument for filing.

"I applaud San Joaquin County Registrar Austin Erdman's staff for their professional diligence and attention to detail. This case reinforces the fact that those who attempt to alter or pad the voter rolls with fictitious names will be caught and they will be punished," said Secretary Bowen, the state's chief elections officer.

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](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_fraud.htm).

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