

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB08:049

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2008

Contact: Nicole Winger
(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reports Continuing Increase in Voter Registration

SACRAMENTO – Growing numbers of Californians continue to register to vote in advance of the June and November elections, according to the Secretary of State's latest Report of Registration released today.

The report includes data gathered 60 days before the statewide primary election and reflects updates to voter registration rolls, including the removal of registrants who have passed away, moved out of state, or have been determined to be ineligible to vote, as well as the addition of new registrants.

The state now has nearly 15.9 million registered voters – close to one million more than it had at this time before the statewide primary election four years ago. The percentage of eligible voters who are registered to vote has also ticked upward to 69.11%, up from 68.42% in 2004.

“Clearly, people are very excited as we head toward the historic November presidential election,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state's chief elections officer. “I hope that enthusiasm will translate into a high voter turnout in the June 3 Statewide Direct Primary, when Californians will choose the party nominees for Congress, the state Assembly, and the State Senate.”

The registration totals for the six qualified political parties and voters who have declined to state their political affiliation are:

	<u>April 4, 2008</u>		<u>January 2, 2004</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	331,532	2.09 %	287,412	1.92 %
Democratic	6,920,324	43.54 %	6,450,624	43.16 %
Green	121,867	0.77 %	162,354	1.09 %
Libertarian	79,186	0.50 %	86,118	0.58 %
Peace and Freedom	56,000	0.35 %	71,441	0.48 %
Republican	5,220,666	32.84 %	5,330,536	35.67 %
Decline to State	3,069,696	19.31 %	2,433,134	16.28 %
Miscellaneous	96,671	0.61 %	123,412	0.83 %
TOTAL	15,895,942	100 %	14,945,031	100 %

– MORE –

DB08:049
April 18, 2008
Page 2

By law, voter registration updates must occur 154, 60, and 15 days before each primary election, and 60 days and 15 days before each general election. There is one off-year update released in February of non-election years.

The complete April 4, 2008, Report of Registration is on the Secretary of State's website at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror_040408.htm. Hard copies are available to the media upon request through the Secretary of State's Communications Office at (916) 653-6575.

The last day to register to vote in the June 3, 2008, Statewide Direct Primary Election is May 19. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 27.

###