



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Employers Of Law Guaranteeing Time Off to Vote in June 3 Primary

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded public and private employers that California law requires them to give their employees time off to vote in the June 3, 2008, Statewide Direct Primary Election.

“Voting is a critical part of democracy, and this law ensures every eligible Californian will be able to participate in the June 3 primary,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s top elections officer. “The time-off-to-vote law allows all Californians, regardless of their work schedules, the same chance to vote.”

The California Elections Code allows workers up to two hours off, without a loss of pay, to vote if they have insufficient 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