



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB08:060

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2008

CONTACT: Kate Folmar

(916) 653-6575

### Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Californians of Vote-By-Mail Deadline

**SACRAMENTO** – With the June 3, 2008, Statewide Direct Primary less than two weeks away, Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded voters of the May 27 deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

“If you can’t make it to the polls, or if you just enjoy the convenience of voting at your kitchen table, voting by mail is a easy way to take part in our democracy,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer.

County election officials are currently sending mail ballots to the millions of Californians who are permanent or one-time vote-by-mail voters. Mail balloting began May 5, and the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 27, one week before the election.

Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned any time between now and Election Day. However, ballots must be received – not postmarked – by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. On Election Day, voters may drop off their ballots at their county elections office or at any polling place in the county in which they are registered to vote.

“If you haven’t mailed in your ballot by Friday or Saturday, I strongly recommend dropping it off on Election Day,” Bowen said. “If you’ve taken the time to vote, make sure it counts.”

The popularity of voting by mail has soared in recent years. Nearly 42% of the 9.1 million Californians who cast ballots in the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election voted by mail. In the June 6, 2006, Statewide Direct Primary, a record 46.9% of all ballots were cast by mail.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

###