

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reports California Voter Registration Has Increased to 16.1 Million

SACRAMENTO –The number of registered voters in California exceeds 16 million for the first time in more than three years, according to the Secretary of State’s latest Report of Registration released today.

The report includes data gathered 15 days before the June 3 Statewide Direct 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.

California now has more than 16.1 million voters, an increase of more than one million voters since the close of voter registration before the statewide primary four years ago. The percentage of eligible voters who are registered to vote also has increased from 68.95% in 2004 to 70% now. The last time California had 16 million registered voters was in early 2005.

“This unique election year is inspiring Californians to register to vote in numbers we haven’t seen in years,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “Many people are already focused on the November presidential election, but I hope these newly energized voters remember the June primary and turn out in large numbers Tuesday.”

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

	<u>May 19, 2008</u>		<u>February 17, 2004</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	331,619	2.06 %	291,055	1.93 %
Democratic	7,053,860	43.75 %	6,518,631	43.20 %
Green	120,725	0.75 %	157,749	1.05 %
Libertarian	79,711	0.49 %	86,053	0.57 %
Peace and Freedom	56,364	0.35 %	70,475	0.47 %
Republican	5,244,394	32.53 %	5,364,832	35.55 %
Decline to State	3,128,684	19.40 %	2,480,039	16.43 %
Miscellaneous	108,430	0.67 %	122,326	0.81 %
TOTAL	16,123,787	100 %	15,091,160	100 %

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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 May 19, 2008, Report of Registration is on the Secretary of State's website at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror_051908.htm. Hard copies are available to the media upon request through the Secretary of State's Communications Office at (916) 653-6575.

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