



# DEBRA BOWEN

**CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Secretary of State Bowen Advises Counties To Move Forward With Election Preparations, Not to Wait for More Legislative Measures**

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today informed the Governor and legislative leaders that she has advised all county elections officials to move forward with their legally required duties in preparation for the November 4, 2008, General Election.

“Rumors have swirled about changing timelines for last-minute ballot measures, so I want to reiterate: The statutory deadline for placing legislative measures on the ballot was June 26,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “In the past, the Legislature and the Governor have chosen to waive laws and place measures on the ballot after the deadline. We are at the point where that is unacceptable. At this late date, 67 days before the election, any more changes would seriously jeopardize the integrity of the election.

“The November 4 election, which will likely yield the highest voter turnout in a generation, is just over two months away,” Bowen continued. “The state voter guide has been printed. A supplemental voter guide, triggered by the addition of Proposition 1A to the ballot, is already in the works. The 58 county elections officials, all of whom have individual contracts with outside printing companies, have designed their ballots and many of them are ready to print. Their print jobs are queued up and any further delays could cause them to lose their place in line at the printing presses. Mailing of the first ballots – those for California’s military and overseas voters – begins September 5. Early voting within the state and mailing of vote-by-mail ballots begins October 6.

“Every day elections officials are forced to delay increases the risk of error and the likelihood that voters will be disenfranchised. I know lawmakers and the Governor care as much as I do about ensuring every ballot is counted accurately in the November 4 election.”

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