

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 Voter Registration Numbers Continue to Climb

SACRAMENTO – The ranks of registered California voters continue to grow leading up to the November 4, 2008, General Election, according to the Secretary of State's latest Report of Registration released today. The state has added an average of 12,000 new voters a month since mid-May.

The report includes data gathered 60 days before the general 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 16.2 million registered voters – close to 550,000 more than it had at this time before the general election four years ago. The percentage of people who are eligible to vote and are registered has dipped, from 70.9% in 2004 to 69.8% now.

Registration has trended upward all year, with more than 630,000 new voters registering since January. What's more, California has gained almost 48,000 new voters since May 19.

"It's inspiring to see so many people registering to vote as we head into this historic presidential election," said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state's chief elections officer. "I'm sure the numbers will climb even higher as we get closer to November 4, given the excitement about this election."

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

	<u>September 3, 2004</u>		<u>September 5, 2008</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	304,066	1.95 %	333,609	2.06 %
Democratic	6,754,308	43.23 %	7,101,442	43.91 %
Green	156,914	1.00 %	116,334	0.72 %
Libertarian	86,330	0.55 %	78,935	0.49 %
Peace and Freedom	67,511	0.43 %	54,989	0.34 %
Republican	5,466,404	34.98 %	5,227,489	32.32 %
Decline to State	2,671,142	17.10 %	3,151,369	19.49 %
Miscellaneous	118,505	0.76 %	107,605	0.67 %
TOTAL	15,625,180	100 %	16,171,772	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 September 5, 2008, Report of Registration is on the Secretary of State's website at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror_090508.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 November 4, 2008, General Election is October 20. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 28.

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