



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

**DB08:101**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 22, 2008**

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### **Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Employers Of Law Guaranteeing Time Off to Vote In General Election**

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded all employers that California law requires them to provide their employees with time off to vote in the November 4, 2008, General Election.

“Every eligible Californian should be able to participate in this history-making election,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s top elections officer. “California’s time-off-to-vote law ensures that all California voters, regardless of their work schedules, have an equal opportunity to cast ballots on November 4.”

The California Elections Code allows workers up to two hours off, without a loss of pay, to vote if they do not have enough 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 or going to [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_tov.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_tov.htm).

For voters who will be pressed for time on November 4, voting by mail is a great way to beat the crowds. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 28.

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