



DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reminds Californians of Tuesday's Vote-By-Mail Deadline

SACRAMENTO – With the November 4, 2008, General Election less than two weeks away, Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded voters of the October 28 deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

“Voting by mail is easy, convenient, and a great way to beat the crowds at the polls,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “If you’ll be pressed for time on Election Day, voting by mail is perhaps the best way to ensure your voice is still heard.”

County election officials are currently sending mail-in ballots to the more than 6.5 million Californians who are permanent or one-time vote-by-mail voters. Mail-in balloting began October 6, and the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 28, 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 just 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 where they are registered to vote.

“If you haven’t mailed in your ballot by Friday, I strongly recommend dropping it off at a polling place in your home county on Election Day,” Bowen said. “If you’ve taken the time to vote, take the time to make sure your vote counts.”

The popularity of voting by mail has soared in recent years. Of the 9.1 million ballots cast in the February Presidential Primary Election, nearly 42%, or 3.8 million, were vote-by-mail ballots. Of the almost 4.6 million ballots cast in the June Statewide Direct Primary Election, 58.7%, or 2.7 million, were vote-by-mail ballots.

More information on voting by mail is at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm.

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

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