

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reports Voter Registration at 17.1 Million Before May 19 Special Election

SACRAMENTO – Heading into the May 19 Statewide Special Election, California now has more than 17.1 million registered voters, down from the all-time registration high of 17.3 million achieved after last November’s historic presidential election.

That’s according to the Secretary of State’s newest Report of Registration released today. The report, with data gathered 15 days before the special election, reflects updates to voter registration rolls, including the removal of people who have passed away, moved out of state, or have been determined to be ineligible to vote, as well as the addition of new voters.

The percentage of people who are eligible to vote and are registered now stands at 73.4%, compared to 70.7% in November 2005, when California had its last statewide special election. The state has gained more than one million voters since then.

“I wish the registration numbers were still climbing, but it’s hard to maintain the excitement associated with November’s historic presidential election,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “Tuesday’s special election gives Californians a chance to weigh in on one of the state’s most critical issues – the budget. I hope all California voters will make their voices heard Tuesday.”

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

	<u>May 4, 2009</u>		<u>October 24, 2005</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	376,278	2.19 %	312,050	1.96 %
Democratic	7,642,108	44.55 %	6,785,188	42.70 %
Green	113,922	0.66 %	146,865	0.92 %
Libertarian	83,363	0.49 %	83,968	0.53 %
Peace and Freedom	55,590	0.32 %	59,571	0.37 %
Republican	5,325,558	31.05 %	5,524,609	34.76 %
Decline to State	3,435,870	20.03 %	2,872,059	18.07 %
Miscellaneous	120,323	0.70 %	107,172	0.67 %
TOTAL	17,153,012	100 %	15,891,482	100 %

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DB09:030

Page 2

Overall, more than 44% of California voters are registered Democrats and about 31% are Republicans. Twenty percent of registered voters do not affiliate with any political party.

By law, voter registration updates must occur 154, 60, and 15 days before each statewide primary election, and 60 days and 15 days before each general or special election. There is one off-year update released in February of years with no regularly scheduled election.

The complete May 4, 2009, Report of Registration is on the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/15day-stwdsp-09/ror-050409.htm>.

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