

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### Secretary of State Bowen Offers Voter Resources and Points to Voter Registration Deadline Just One Week Away

**SACRAMENTO** – With the June 8 Statewide Direct Primary Election three weeks away, Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded Californians that the deadline to register to vote is fast approaching and offered a variety of resources to assist Californians in voting.

“In a democracy, voting is our most sacred right,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “In the early days of our nation’s history, voting rights were subject to literacy tests, gender and ethnicity limits, poll taxes, land ownership requirements, and more. Many people before us have fought to expand voting rights and it is my goal to continue knocking down barriers that keep voters from the polls.”

People may register to vote in California if they are United States citizens, reside in California, are at least 18 years old by Election Day, are not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction, and have not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent. A voter must re-register to vote when they change names, permanent residence or political party choice.

In California, people must register to vote at least 15 days before an election. The deadline to do so for the June 8 primary is one week from today, May 24. Californians can pick up a voter registration forms at any county elections office, public library or U.S. post office – or fill out a form on the Secretary of State’s website, then print, sign and mail it to the county elections office address pre-printed on the form. For more information on registering to vote, visit [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm).

#### Key Voter Resources for the June 8 Statewide Primary

- **Voter Hotlines:** The Secretary of State offers phone assistance in seven languages:

English (800) 345-VOTE (8683)  
Spanish (800) 232-VOTA (8682)  
Chinese (800) 339-2857  
Japanese (800) 339-2865  
Korean (866) 575-1558  
Tagalog (800) 339-2957  
Vietnamese (800) 339-8163

For further information on the voter hotlines, visit the Secretary’s multilingual voter services webpage at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_multi.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_multi.htm).

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- **Translated Voting Materials:** Voter registration forms, vote-by-mail applications and the Secretary of State's "Guide to Voting" can be found in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_multi.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_multi.htm).
- **American Sign Language Videos:** Voters who are hearing-impaired can watch the American Sign Language version of the Secretary's "Guide to Voting," which provides a variety of information on the voting process in California such as when, how and where to vote, as well as important information on the voting rights of all Californians. The video is available at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_dis.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_dis.htm).
- **Vision-Impaired Services:** Large-print and audio versions of the Secretary of State's Voter Information Guide are available for voters who are vision-impaired. The large-print guide is provided in seven languages, and can be ordered by using the Secretary of State's online order form or calling the voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE. The guide is also available as a downloadable audio file. Both formats are at <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/alt-version>.
- **Military and Overseas Voting:** California military and overseas voters may use a Federal Post Card Application to register to vote and request a vote-by-mail ballot simultaneously. To download a copy of the Federal Post Card Application or to access a wide variety of information and resources, go to the Secretary of State's one-stop shop for military and overseas voters at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_mov.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_mov.htm).
- **Vote-by-Mail:** Any registered voter may vote using a vote-by-mail ballot instead of going to the polls on Election Day. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is June 1. To obtain a vote-by-mail application, a voter may go to [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf) or call his or her county elections office. Contact information for all 58 county elections offices is at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_d.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm).
- **Election News and Updates on the Go:** The Secretary of State's office offers election news, trivia and election night updates to anyone who signs up to follow @CASOSvote on the micro-blogging website Twitter.com. Additionally, Californians can receive Secretary of State updates via email, RSS feed or Facebook. For more information on multimedia options, go to [www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia](http://www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia).

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