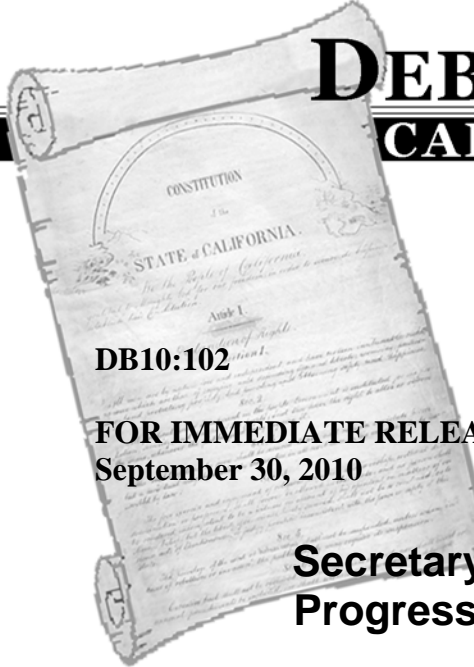


DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE



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**CONTACT: Shannan Velayas
(916) 653-6575**

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Applauds Progress on Federal Election Integrity Act

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen applauded the United States House of Representatives for approving House Resolution 512, the Federal Election Integrity Act, by San Diego Congresswoman Susan Davis. The act would prohibit chief state elections officials from participating in the election campaigns of candidates running for federal office.

“The public’s trust in our election system starts with the integrity of those who carry out elections. That is why I have a self-imposed ethic not to endorse or oppose issues and candidates on the ballot when, as California’s chief elections official, I am responsible for certifying the results. Before I took office as California Secretary of State, I authored legislation similar to HR 512 that would have prohibited state elections officials in California from participating in political and partisan activities. Voters trust their elections officials to be the ultimate impartial referee and count each vote as it was cast. An elections official should not give even the perception that he or she has a bias in the outcome of an election.”

HR 512 is modeled in part on legislation Secretary of State Bowen authored as a member of the State Senate and sponsored again as Secretary of State. SB 11 (Bowen) of 2005 passed the State Senate but was defeated in the State Assembly. SB 1465 (Alquist) of 2008 was defeated in the State Senate.

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