



DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Reminds Employers and Employees Of Law Guaranteeing Time Off to Vote on Election Day

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today reminded all Californians that state law allows workers up to two hours off to vote on Election Day if they do not have enough time to vote during non-work hours.

“Election Day is a Tuesday, when many of us will be at work,” said Secretary Bowen, the state’s top elections officer. “To make it to the polls on Election Day, some California voters may need some time off from work. California’s time-off-to-vote law ensures that all voters, regardless of their work schedules, will be able to vote on November 2.”

California Elections Code section 14000 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, print-ready notices in English and Spanish at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_tov.htm.

For voters who will be pressed for time on November 2, voting by mail is a great way to beat the crowds. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 26. Vote-by-mail ballot applications are available in the sample ballot booklets mailed by county elections officials and online at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf.

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