



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

### ***\*MEDIA ADVISORY\****

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**  
Monday, January 8, 2007

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**EVENT DATE: TODAY, Monday, January 8, 2007**

### **DEBRA BOWEN TO BE SWORN IN AS CALIFORNIA'S 30<sup>TH</sup> SECRETARY OF STATE**

**SACRAMENTO** – Debra Bowen will be sworn in as California's 30<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the Secretary of State's auditorium, which is located at 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Sacramento.

The event will be broadcast live over the Internet. People can view it by going to the Secretary of State's web page at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) and clicking on the link titled "View Debra Bowen's Inauguration."

Bowen is only the sixth woman in California history to be elected to statewide constitutional office and only the seventh woman to hold such an office.

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Bowen graduated from Michigan State University in 1976 and earned her law degree from the University of Virginia in 1979. In 1984, she started her own California law firm specializing in small business start-ups, tax law, land use, and environmental issues. Her long history of community activism began in the 1980's when she became involved with her local Neighborhood Watch program. Bowen represented the 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District for three terms (1992-1998) in the Legislature, then represented the 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District for two terms (1998-2006) before she was elected California's 30<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State on November 7, 2006.

Bowen is married to Mark Nechodom, a research scientist with the U.S. Forest Service.

The women who have held statewide constitutional office in California are:

- o Ivy Baker Priest (Treasurer), 1967-75
- o March Fong Eu (Secretary of State), 1975-1994
- o Elizabeth Whitney (Treasurer), 1987-1989 [appointed]
- o Kathleen Brown (Treasurer), 1991-1995
- o Kathleen Connell (Controller), 1995-2003
- o Delaine Eastin (Superintendent of Public Instruction), 1995-2003
- o Debra Bowen (Secretary of State), 2007-

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