



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2007

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Secretary of State and FPPC to Hold Joint Hearing on Whether Paper Filing Requirements For Campaigns Should be Reduced or Eliminated

WHAT: The Secretary of State's Office and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) will conduct a joint hearing to take public testimony on whether campaigns that file reports electronically should be exempt from filing reports on paper.

Under the California Online Disclosure Act of 1997, most campaigns, committees and candidates for state office and many major donors are required to submit financial disclosure statements and reports electronically and on paper. The paper version is recognized as the official filing for auditing purposes. Several hundred thousand pages of paper campaign finance reports are filed with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division each year.

The law gives Secretary of State Debra Bowen, in consultation with the FPPC, the authority to end the paper-filing requirement if she determines that "the online and electronic disclosure systems are operating effectively."

The Online Disclosure Act required the Secretary of State to create an online searchable database to give the public access to state campaign finance information. The database, known as CAL-ACCESS (California Automated Lobbying and Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Search System), debuted in 2000. For more information, go to <http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/>.

WHEN: September 26, 2007
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Secretary of State Building
First Floor Multipurpose Room
1500 11th Street
Sacramento

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