

DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Bowen Recognizes Legislative Black Caucus with State Archives Exhibit on Juneteenth

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today honored the 40th Anniversary of California’s Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) with an exhibit and public reception at the State Archives. On display until September, the exhibit narrates the LBC’s history through photographs and documents donated by LBC members to the State Archives. It also features original watercolor portraits by State Archives staffer Juan Ramos of all 37 African Americans who have served in the California Legislature since the first, Frederick M. Roberts, in 1918.

“African American members of the Legislature have been instrumental in crafting new laws to promote racial and gender equality, as well as justice for the poor and other disenfranchised groups. This exhibit serves as a great reminder of the importance of archiving our legislative work to make sure future generations know about the people who shaped our shared history,” said Secretary Bowen, who was a legislator for 14 years and is only the sixth woman in California history to be elected to a statewide constitutional office. “I am proud to be able to make these important historical items available to the public so they can learn about the important work of the Legislative Black Caucus.”

Secretary Bowen was joined by the current chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally, as well as current LBC members Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas and Assemblyman Curren Price.

“The Legislative Black Caucus has worked for 40 years to improve the conditions of Blacks in California through which all Californians benefited,” added Assemblyman Dymally. “I am pleased to have played my role in the Caucus and help maintain a tradition of service and commitment. We’ve come a long way from 1967 and I am hopeful that with our continued efforts we will go even further.”

The LBC was formed in 1967 when black legislators joined together to strengthen their efforts to address the legislative concerns of minority Californians. Currently, the LBC consists of nine legislators representing many of the largest and most populated urban centers in the state, as well as some regions never before represented by an African American.

As the custodian of the State Archives, Secretary of State Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the Legislature and Executive Departments of the state government, as well as all books, records, maps, photographs, films and other artifacts relevant to California’s history. For more information about the State Archives, visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm>.

Attached is a photo of (left to right) Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally and Assemblyman Curren Price.



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