DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

DB07:100

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 28, 2007 **CONTACT:** Kate Folmar (916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Encourages Use of Popular 'Easy Voter Guide' for February Primary Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen, in partnership with the League of Women Voters and the California State Library, today encouraged California voters to make use of the popular Easy Voter Guide, which offers plain-language information for the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election.

The nonpartisan Easy Voter Guide includes presidential candidate statements and photographs, as well as a primer on ballot propositions that helps voters understand what "yes" and "no" votes mean.

"The user-friendly Easy Voter Guide is a convenient supplement to the Official Voter Information Guide, also known as the ballot pamphlet, and helps millions of California voters to make informed choices," said Secretary Bowen, the state's chief elections officer. "I hope all Californians will take advantage of both of these information-rich resources before voting in next year's Presidential Primary Election."

The official ballot pamphlet, produced by the Secretary of State's office, will be mailed to all registered California voters in late December and posted at www.sos.ca.gov.

Anyone can order free hard copies of the Easy Voter Guide on a first-come, first-served basis by through the League's companion website at www.easyvoter.org. Downloadable versions of the Easy Voter Guide will be available next month in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The Secretary of State's office, League of Women Voters, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, National Organization of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and People Improving Community through Organizing California North Valley Sponsoring Committee plan to distribute more than one million copies of the Easy Voter Guide in five languages. The guides will be available at many public libraries, county elections offices, community colleges, adult schools, and churches. They also will be offered to California newspapers to help them augment their election coverage.

Production of the Easy Voter Guide is managed by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, along with the Secretary of State's office, and the California State Library with funding from the James Irvine Foundation.

The last day for eligible Californians to register to vote in the February 5 Presidential Primary Election is January 22. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is January 29.

###