



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | SAFE AT HOME

P.O. Box 846 | Sacramento, CA 95812 | Tel 877-322-5227 | Tel (916) 653-1769 | Fax (916) 653-7625 | [www.casafeathome.org](http://www.casafeathome.org)

January 10, 2009

Mr. Gregory Schmidt  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. E. Dotson  
Clerk of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3196  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California "Safe at Home" 2008 Annual Report

The California confidential mail forwarding program "Safe at Home" serves California's victims of domestic violence, stalking and members of the reproductive health care industry by providing confidential mail forwarding, voter registration, name change, school records transfers, and Department of Motor Vehicle record suppression services. These additional layers of protection allow those people who participate in the program to re-establish productive lives free from fear of violence and abuse.

In compliance with Government Code section 6210(a), I am pleased to forward to you the Safe at Home program's 2008 Annual Report that includes current participation rates and much more.

The entire Safe at Home program staff and I are dedicated to providing quality and timely service to all California citizens to ensure all Californians feel "Safe at Home." If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Bowen".

Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

Enclosure

DB:elg:cp



# SAFE AT HOME GOALS FOR 2009

- Continue to build awareness of the Safe at Home program in cost-effective ways and educate stakeholders through the e-newsletter, website, and coalition building.
- Expand outreach efforts to minority communities that have statistically high incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault – including Native Americans, Asians, and Latinos – by strengthening the coalition of state agencies that serve such victims. The coalition plans to create clear goals and guidelines to better coordinate all victim services and resources in California.
- Produce and distribute a Safe at Home informational video to enrolling agencies, law enforcement, and the courts. The video will feature information for victims, training for victim advocates, and guidelines for law enforcement and the court staff who interact with Safe at Home participants.
- Complete the Safe at Home procedure manual to serve as a training tool for all Secretary of State staff and a resource for other states initiating confidential address programs.

*“Safe at Home has saved my life... I don't know what I would do without it.”*

*-Safe at Home participant*



## CALIFORNIA SAFE AT HOME LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2008



Because every Californian  
should feel  
**Safe at Home**

California Secretary of State **Debra Bowen**



Secretary of State

January 10, 2009

Last year, California's Safe at Home program experienced a 28% increase in new applications – the highest one-year increase in its history. Safe at Home continues to offer victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault and members of the reproductive health care industry the most comprehensive benefits of the 32 confidential address programs in the United States. Most recently, Safe at Home served as the model for new confidential address programs implemented in Texas and Colorado.

I am pleased to present the Safe at Home 2008 Annual Report required by Government Code section 6210 (a). In addition to the summary report and statistical information, the program has been enhanced in a number of ways over the past year.

- A cost-effective Safe at Home outreach and training e-newsletter is now provided to more than 6,000 advocates, state agencies, national organizations, law enforcement, the courts, and the general public.
- I sponsored AB 2304 (Chapter 586, Statutes of 2008) which ensures Safe at Home participants are protected from publication of their confidential name changes in any public forum, including the Internet, after January 1, 2009, and allows them to request that court records of the change be sealed after January 1, 2010.
- Confidential voter registration outreach to eligible Safe at Home enrollees was expanded, resulting in over two dozen new voters.
- The Safe at Home program assumed leadership of the statewide coalition of state agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

As Safe at Home prepares to mark its tenth anniversary, it is a time to look back and celebrate the thousands of lives that have been aided by the program. It is also a time to look forward with renewed dedication to helping other victims and survivors live free from abuse and fear – ensuring that all Californians feel Safe at Home.

*Debra Bowen*  
Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

### Safe at Home 2008 Summary of Statistics

Number of participants served since 1999:	<b>4,345</b>	Mail pieces forwarded in 2008:	<b>331,376 pieces</b>
Number of applications rejected in 2008:	<b>27</b>	Mail pieces forwarded in 1999:	<b>11,000</b>
Number of participants on January 1, 2008:	<b>2,128</b>	Postage costs in 2008:	<b>\$61,600</b>
Number of participants in 1999:	<b>121</b>	Postage costs in 1999:	<b>\$6,000</b>
Number of current active participants:	<b>2,297</b>	Counties with highest enrollment:	<b>Los Angeles [446]</b>
Number of cases closed in 2008:	<b>558</b>		<b>Orange [247]</b>
Percentage of participants who are women:	<b>42%</b>		<b>San Diego [238]</b>
Percentage of participants who are men:	<b>3%</b>		<b>Sacramento [195]</b>
Percentage of participants who are children:	<b>55%</b>	Number of registered voters in 2008:	<b>541</b>
Average length of enrollment:	<b>4.5 years</b>	Number of cases of election misuse:	<b>0</b>
			<b>Alameda [122]</b>

### Participation by County

Alameda	<b>122</b>	Madera	<b>14</b>	San Joaquin	<b>50</b>
Alpine	<b>0</b>	Marin	<b>12</b>	San Luis Obispo	<b>24</b>
Amador	<b>8</b>	Mariposa	<b>2</b>	San Mateo	<b>27</b>
Butte	<b>21</b>	Mendocino	<b>2</b>	Santa Barbara	<b>16</b>
Calaveras	<b>1</b>	Merced	<b>7</b>	Santa Clara	<b>108</b>
Colusa	<b>1</b>	Modoc	<b>4</b>	Santa Cruz	<b>9</b>
Contra Costa	<b>47</b>	Mono	<b>0</b>	Shasta	<b>38</b>
Del Norte	<b>12</b>	Monterey	<b>14</b>	Sierra	<b>0</b>
El Dorado	<b>11</b>	Napa	<b>10</b>	Siskiyou	<b>2</b>
Fresno	<b>60</b>	Nevada	<b>17</b>	Solano	<b>12</b>
Glenn	<b>26</b>	Orange	<b>247</b>	Sonoma	<b>32</b>
Humboldt	<b>14</b>	Placer	<b>49</b>	Stanislaus	<b>38</b>
Imperial	<b>1</b>	Plumas	<b>0</b>	Sutter	<b>4</b>
Inyo	<b>0</b>	Riverside	<b>106</b>	Tehama	<b>3</b>
Kern	<b>22</b>	Sacramento	<b>195</b>	Trinity	<b>0</b>
Kings	<b>1</b>	San Benito	<b>1</b>	Tulare	<b>12</b>
Lake	<b>3</b>	San Bernardino	<b>100</b>	Tuolumne	<b>16</b>
Lassen	<b>3</b>	San Diego	<b>238</b>	Ventura	<b>26</b>
Los Angeles	<b>446</b>	San Francisco	<b>28</b>	Yolo	<b>14</b>
				Yuba	<b>21</b>