



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Secretary of State's Office to Offer Media Preview Of State Archives and Original California Constitutions

WHAT: In advance of the 160th anniversary of California's first constitution, Chief Archivist Nancy Lenoil will lead a behind-the-scenes media tour of the California State Archives and offer media a rare chance to photograph California's original 1849 and 1879 constitutions.

October is California Archives Month. The original constitutions will be on public display during a four-hour open house October 3 at the State Archives.

As the custodian of the State Archives, Secretary of State Debra Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the legislative and executive branches of state government, as well as a treasure trove of Golden State history.

Media tour visuals will include:

- **The rarely seen original state constitutions of 1849 and 1879;**
- **Newly opened documents and artifacts from California's statehood during the time of Abraham Lincoln's presidency;**
- **"The stacks," where hundreds of shelves, cabinets, and safes hold California's treasures in secure, climate-controlled rooms; and**
- **Archives preservation technicians working to repair artifacts for proper display and storage.**

Because space is limited, credentialed media are encouraged to reserve their place on the media tour by calling the Secretary of State's Communications Office.

WHEN: Thursday, October 1, 2009
10:30 a.m.

WHERE: California State Archives
Meet in 1st Floor Lobby
1020 O Street
Sacramento

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