



DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Bowen Reports More Voters Registered Since Last Statewide Special Election, But Down From Overall Record Set Earlier This Year

SACRAMENTO – The number of California voters has climbed by almost 1.4 million since the 2005 Statewide Special Election, according to the Secretary of State’s latest Report of Registration released today.

The report includes data gathered 60 days before the May 19 Statewide Special Election and reflects updates to voter registration rolls, including the removal of registrants who have passed away, moved out of state, or have been determined to be ineligible to vote, as well as the addition of new registrants.

The complete March 20, 2009, Report of Registration can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/60day-stwdsp-09/ror-032009.htm>.

Voter registration numbers had continued upwards even after the historic 2008 presidential election, reaching a record 17,334,275 on February 10 of this year. However, this latest report shows a dip to 17,218,975 registered voters. To compare current figures to those from earlier this year, go to the Secretary of State’s February 10, 2009, Report of Registration at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/ror-odd-year-09/ror-021009.htm>.

By law, voter registration updates must occur 154, 60, and 15 days before each primary election, and 60 days and 15 days before each general election. There is one “off-year” update released in February of years with no regularly scheduled statewide election. Because a special election was called for May 19, an additional registration report will be released in mid-May.

“There are still more than four weeks before the registration deadline for the May 19 Statewide Special Election,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer. “Every voter makes a difference, particularly in special elections, when turnout is often lower than in regularly scheduled general elections.”

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The registration totals for the six qualified political parties and voters who have declined to state their political affiliation are:

	<u>March 20, 2009</u>		<u>September 9, 2005</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	375,842	2.18 %	310,284	1.96 %
Democratic	7,670,345	44.55 %	6,773,625	42.76 %
Green	114,637	0.67 %	147,565	0.93 %
Libertarian	83,365	0.48 %	83,728	0.53 %
Peace and Freedom	55,834	0.32 %	59,261	0.37 %
Republican	5,355,896	31.10 %	5,511,009	34.79 %
Decline to State	3,442,050	19.99 %	2,846,140	17.97 %
Miscellaneous	121,006	0.70 %	107,715	0.68 %
TOTAL	17,218,975	100 %	15,839,327	100 %

The last day to register to vote in the May 19 special election is May 4. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 12.

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