

SOS-CACEO Conference Call  
Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Neal Kelley took roll.

Alameda	Madera	San Joaquin
Alpine	Marin	San Mateo
Amador	Mariposa	Santa Barbara
Butte	Mendocino	Santa Clara
Calaveras	Merced	Santa Cruz
Colusa	Monterey	Shasta
El Dorado	Napa	Siskiyou
Fresno	Nevada	Solano
Glenn	Orange	Sonoma
Humboldt	Plumas	Stanislaus
Imperial	Riverside	Sutter
Inyo	Sacramento	Tehama
Kern	San Benito	Trinity
Kings	San Bernardino	Tuolumne
Lassen	San Diego	Yuba
Los Angeles	San Francisco	

Secretary of State Debra Bowen called the meeting to order.

While Secretary of State Debra Bowen was in Washington a couple of weeks ago for the National Association of Secretary of State meeting, she called upon several congress members to touch base. She asked them how they felt the Elections went in their Counties? She reported the reviews were very positive.

**Item 1, Statewide Special Election** – Secretary Bowen stated the Legislature Governor has written May 19, 2009 into the budget bill, currently pending on the floor of the Senate, for this years Special Election date. This of course is assuming they have the votes to enact the budget within the next few days.

There will be six measures on this ballot, five are budget related and the non-budget measure deals with property tax assessment on seismic retro fits, to ensure that people that are mandated seismic retro fit do not pay more property taxes because of it. The five budget related items are, signing cap, how to secure lottery sales, adjustment to Proposition 98, the education funding measure, Proposition 63, the mental health measure that was passed a few years ago, to redirect money to the general fund, and a change in Proposition 10, cigarette tax, to also redirect money to the general fund.

There has been discussion regarding a 7<sup>th</sup> measure to create an open primary system in California, modeled after what the State of Washington uses. The How

to Vote Getters would, regardless of party registrations, move from the primary to the general election. This has not shown up in a bill or in proposed bill language.

The plan is for the five budget related items to be numbered Proposition 1A to 1E on the ballot, which makes the seismic retrofit measure proposition number 13.

Secretary Bowen said the Legislature has not included money in the budget to pay Counties for the cost of the election, instead they are going to treat it like the February, 2008 Primary and the November, 2005 Special Election, by requiring Counties to show actual cost before reimbursing them.

**Item 2, Voting By Mail** – There was discussion last month regarding giving the Counties the option of conducting elections completely by mail or other possible ways of moving toward more Vote By Mail elections. Cathy, Jana and Evan, from the Secretary of State's office has had conference calls with Counties that have high concentration of Permanent Vote By Mail voters to explore some ideas. In the small group there was not a uniform agreement on the best way to give Counties an all mail option, while still maintaining some relatively convenient opportunity to vote in person, for the people that wish to cast their ballot on Election Day. One thing that is clear is that this will not be done before this Special Election. This is an issue that needs to be worked on.

**Item 3, PEMT Working Group** – Jennie from the Secretary of State's office staff has convened several meetings of the PEMT working group and are discussing experiences from the November, 2008 election. Emergency regulations expire in April and it is Secretary of State Bowen's intentions to have new permanent regulations in place when the emergency regulations expire. She believes the draft proposal should be ready in the next couple of weeks for your review. After you review the document Secretary Bowen would like your input if there were any.

**Item 4, Public Hearing on Premier Elections Solutions** – On Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, 2009 a public hearing will be held on Premier Elections Solutions 1.18.19 voting system which is only used in Humboldt, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. This hearing will include a staff report on this system. This system dropped 197 votes from the vote tally in Humboldt County on the General Election 2008. Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo were not affected because they had added information from the vendor. The hearing will include discussion whether approval of using this system is removed from California, based on what happened in Humboldt County and some other issues the investigation has found. The report should be out well in advance of the public hearing so if you have any comments they are welcome.

**Item 5, EAC Survey** – The survey is huge and Secretary Bowen thanks everyone for getting the survey complete by January 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has discussed the survey with the EAC Commissioners and has suggested asking for a

representative sample of Counties to complete the survey. She has also asked for lead time so when you are designing your reports and procedures if there is specific information that they need you can include that in what needs to be done so you will have the work completed. As it was written it was a lot of work and she thanks you for your diligence.

### **Questions –**

Bill Schultz – El Dorado County getting back to the Vote By Mail Elections, he is trying to get people to understand, that all they want is to let individual counties Board of Supervisors to allow VBM elections only for local and special elections and does not understand it being a problem.

Secretary Bowen feels that most counties want it to be more than local and special elections. She stated that the problem is how do you provide some in person voting opportunities, particularly the first couple of times there will be some people that do not get the message. There needs to be a mechanism to do the education campaign. The legislature would still need to approve.

Austin-San Joaquin- Will the state put out the sample ballot booklet?

Secretary Bowen said that is incorrect. The booklet is designed around your layout. They will do the voter information guide.

Will the secretary of state provide translations?

Secretary Bowen said yes.

Gail in Santa Cruz says the bill does not have the county reimbursement in it and is the SOS office working on this with the legislature?

Secretary Bowen stated it would not be on this bill. It has never been in the bill when a Special Election is called, but it will be in another piece of legislation.

Elaine from Marin County asked when are they going to make a decision regarding the election?

Secretary Bowen said they are one vote away.

Merced County is a pre-clearance County, will the translations be provided to them in time?

It will not be any different than it has been in past elections.

Secretary Bowen said they would let us know as soon as these bills are passed.

Do not hesitate to call if there are any questions or concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Kelley  
CACEO Secretary