



Support Debra Bowen, Our Voter Friendly Secretary of State

Dear Friend,

Have you been watching as Debra Bowen honors her pledge to the people of California and our Constitution? This summer, California has become a battleground state and two fronts are open: one with the introduction of a ballot initiative to steal electoral votes, and the other to discredit Secretary Bowen so as to maintain privatized vote counting systems. The Voter Rights Task Force of the Wellstone Democratic Club has been paying close attention to the press, as the purveyors of privatized vote counting and some county Registrars have tried to undermine the impact of Bowen's Top to Bottom Security Review.

Consider this from the San Jose Mercury News. published July 31.

"...The vendors struck back on July 31 with criticism of their own, accusing Bowen of failing to live up to her promise to conduct a comprehensive review."... "I am sorry to say that I find the approach of the so-called top-to-bottom review to be more to do with headlines," said Contra Costa County registrar Stephen Weir, the president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, "than with definitive science or the pursuit of legitimate public policy."

The market for voting machines in the US is enormous, and the vendors have a huge stake in the outcome. Given the coordinated attacks on Bowen by both the Registrars and the voting machine companies, we concluded that it was absolutely necessary to raise our voices in support. After all, it was all of us who elected her, not the voting machine companies. What happens in CA will have a profound impact across the country.

We've been busy: writing letters, correcting the record, providing context. We've declared our support and encouragement as Bowen defends the rights of California voters. We've enlisted the active support of the people of the Courage Campaign, the California Democratic Party and the Democratic Central Committees of Los Angeles and Contra Costa Counties, all of whom have publicly endorsed our Secretary of State.

We need to do more and for that, we need some help from you. We envision people in every county doing what we've been doing here: paying attention to the unfolding story and responding quickly and decisively to fear tactics, disinformation and distractions. We are prepared to send a proven organizer into the field to contact every Democratic Club and civic organization in the State and help them set up parallel actions. Which is why we are reaching out to people like you, whom we know will understand the need, the urgency and the value of this short-term effort. We're confident that these modern day Committees of Correspondence, once functioning and linked together, will continue.

www.wellstoneclub.org

P.O Box 65, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tel: 510.527.1761

We're hoping to see additional rounds of security reviews conducted by SOS Bowen, until every aspect of our elections systems are optimal. Bowen is working towards absolute election integrity, which is why we are so pleased to lend our support to her. So we're thinking about three and half months of on the ground organizing to mobilize our grass roots. In that time, we expect to see people from all over the state

- Keeping informed by reading materials available at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vsr.ht
- Following the story in the media: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/3y5tfh>
- Meeting with city councils, county supervisors, and elections administrators; urging them to endorse and actively cooperate with the outcomes of the top-to-bottom review.
- Signing the Courage Campaign petition. <http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/secureelections>
- Writing letters to the editors of their local papers; and producers of internet, radio and television media. Examples of such letters can be found at the Courage Campaign site.
- Making presentations to their local media, civic groups and high schools, urging them to endorse accurate coverage of the top-to-bottom review, and actively support the implementation of its findings.

Some of you know Vicki Cosgrove, named 2004 Democrat of the Year by the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and then 2005 Volunteer of the Year by the California Democratic Party, Region 6. Vicki is very eager to carry out the above tasks. We need to pay her, as well as cover time, mileage, meals, phone and some printing.

We'll pay Vicki \$3000 a month for 40 hours a week. (That's slightly less than \$20/hour). We'll reimburse her for mileage, buy an upgrade on her cell phone, and provide a \$40 per diem to cover meals when she's on the road. We and Vicki are confident she'll be able to stay with Democratic friends through out the state. If, each month, she's on the road for 15 days and clocks 1000 miles, the total comes to \$4,000 a month or \$14,000 total. A bargain for believers in democracy.

So, will you help us? We know the political season is in full eternal swing. We know the demands on your political contributions are many and compelling. Still, we are asking you to write a check. Now. Send your checks, payable to Wellstone Democratic Club, with VRTF in the memo line, to

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

www.wellstoneclub.org

P.O Box 65, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tel: 510.527.1761