



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel (916) 657-2166 | Fax (916) 653-3214 | [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

November 8, 2007

To: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters (07208)

FROM: Irene E. Capps   
Voting and Outreach Program Manager

Subject: Assembly Bill 1243, Chapter 508 – Vote-By-Mail Voters

Assembly Bill 1243, Chapter 508, Statutes 2007, renames "absent voter" and "permanent absent voter" to vote-by-mail voter. Vote-by-mail voter means any voter casting a ballot in any way other than at the polling place.

The Secretary of State's office is in the process of revising the state absentee ballot application (English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese versions) to reflect the new "vote-by-mail" language. We will post to our web site as soon as the update is completed, however, the language changes are not required until January 1, 2008. Your updates to your county applications and web sites must be completed by January 1, 2008.

This legislation also stipulates that in cases of disaster or emergency only 48 hours' notice of satellite offices information is required. This is a change from the required announcement of no less than 14 days before voting at the satellite office.

In addition, AB 1243 requires affidavits of registration to contain a space to permit the affiant to apply for "vote-by-mail status."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [icapps@sos.ca.gov](mailto:icapps@sos.ca.gov) or (916) 657-2166.

Thank you!