



*Secretary of State*  
**DEBRA BOWEN**  
*State of California*

May 15, 2013

Mr. Peter V. Lee  
Executive Director  
California Health Benefit Exchange  
560 J Street, Suite 290  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Lee:

As California's chief elections official, I am required by federal law to coordinate the state's National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) activities to help ensure California is compliant with the NVRA.

The NVRA is best known for its "motor voter" provisions that provide voter registration services to citizens when they come in contact with their state's motor vehicle department. Another important NVRA provision requires that voter registration be made as easy and convenient as possible by offering it to citizens when they are applying for public services. Section 7 of the NVRA, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5(a)(2)(A), mandates that "each state shall designate as voter registration agencies... all offices in the state that provide public assistance" (emphasis added).

This is why today, I am officially designating the California Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) as California's newest NVRA voter registration agency.

California has a duty to designate the Exchange as an NVRA voter registration agency, because the Exchange will provide a single, streamlined application process to screen applicants for eligibility in public assistance programs such as Medi-Cal, as well as other publicly-subsidized health insurance programs, and help them enroll in programs for which they are eligible.

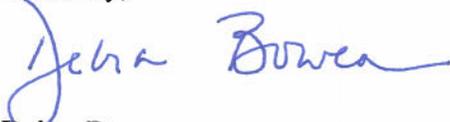
The enclosed declaration formally designates the California Health Benefit Exchange as an NVRA voter registration agency. As an NVRA agency, the Exchange will help millions of Californians not only receive health care, but also fill out and submit a voter registration application, which will help them to exercise the most fundamental right of citizenship in our democracy.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping to make California a national leader in making certain those who apply for health benefits established through the California Health Benefit Exchange are given the opportunity to register to vote. As I do with all NVRA voter registration agencies in California, I look forward to coordinating with your office as you work toward offering NVRA voter registration services to Californians who apply for health insurance coverage with the Exchange.

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Please feel free to contact me or Jennie Bretschneider, Assistant Chief Deputy Secretary of State and Counsel, at (916) 653-7244, to discuss how my office may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

DB:elg:jb:lf:op

- cc: Kimberly Belshé, Board Member, California Health Benefit Exchange  
Diana S. Dooley, Ex-Officio Board Member, California Health Benefit Exchange  
Paul Fearer, Board Member, California Health Benefit Exchange  
Susan Kennedy, Board Member, California Health Benefit Exchange  
Robert Ross, M.D., Board Member, California Health Benefit Exchange

# State of California



SECRETARY OF STATE

## DECLARATION

### DESIGNATION OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AS A NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCY

**Whereas**, as chief elections official of California, I have a duty under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-8, to coordinate NVRA activities in the State of California; and

**Whereas**, during my tenure, I have made implementation of the NVRA a high priority and have undertaken major steps to coordinate with state and local agencies to ensure NVRA compliance, including developing NVRA materials and forms for NVRA agencies, providing training for NVRA agency staff, coordinating communication among state and local NVRA agencies and elections officials, regularly reporting NVRA voter registration data to the public and to the United States Election Assistance Commission, designating specific federal agencies as voter registration agencies, maintaining an up-to-date list of California NVRA agencies, and other NVRA compliance activities; and

**Whereas**, in 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides new health insurance options for uninsured Americans. The ACA requires each state to establish and operate a Health Benefit Exchange, unless the state elects to have the federal government operate its Exchange. The Health Benefit Exchanges will allow millions of people who do not have health insurance to apply and be screened for eligibility for public assistance programs, such as government health insurance subsidies and Medicaid; and

**Whereas**, the California Health Benefit Exchange was established under the ACA and is required to offer – through one streamlined application process – eligibility screening and enrollment in public assistance programs such as MediCal, as well as government health insurance subsidies to be offered for the first time under the ACA; and

**Whereas**, Section 7 of the NVRA, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5 (a)(2)(A), requires that “each state shall designate as voter registration agencies... **all** offices in the state that provide public assistance” (emphasis added); and

**Whereas**, the California Health Benefit Exchange is a new state agency providing access to and enrollment in public assistance programs, and as such must be designated, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5(a)(2)(A), as an NVRA voter registration agency; now

**Therefore** I, Debra Bowen, Secretary of State of the State of California, do hereby declare, pursuant to Section 7 of the NVRA, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5 (a)(2)(A), as follows:

For the reasons set forth above, the California Health Benefit Exchange is designated as an NVRA voter registration agency, effective immediately.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of California, this 15th day of May, 2013.

*Debra Bowen*

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State