

JESSICA COLE
46 PARAMOUNT TERRACE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94118-4223
pacificole@yahoo.com
☎ 415.205.5280

March 3, 2007
Debra Bowen, Secretary of State
1500 11th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 852

Dear Secretary Bowen:

Congratulations on your election. We met at Pat Dotson's house. I am the one who attended McGeorge with Debra Ortiz. I loved when you regaled us with true tales of machine tampering using a #2 pencil. While your speech reflected your great, dry sense of humor, it also reminded me of a basic promise you made and the agenda you set: to bring transparency and open source voting to the voters of California.

We all know that the election results in 2000 and 2004 were suspect, if not utterly fraudulent. I travel abroad a lot and have some contacts in the diplomatic community. Who knew that the basis of our discussions would center on the need to monitor U.S. elections, rather than the election monitoring needs of developing nations?

I am currently facing a challenge, along with many others in my hometown before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. As you know, we are battling against the proposed Sequoia procurement for San Francisco County, put forth by the relentless John Arntz. San Francisco has a tradition of transparency in its city government with regard to civil rights, and it is unlikely that the direction of a majority of the Board of Supervisors will stray with regard to the maintenance of transparency in this matter.

The voters of California are looking to you for a definitive response regarding the implementation of open source voting software in California. California has the opportunity to be a national trailblazer in this crucial bipartisan issue, which addresses both civil rights and transparency in government. The introduction of AB 852 represents a concrete way for you to fulfill your promise and work the agenda you set forth during your campaign. We can get the job done at a reasonable cost by calling for help from our friends from the open source voting community. Your support for AB 852, and its concomitant incentives for open source vendors, as referenced by §2h, will assure that we will succeed.

The establishment of open source software as the baseline for voting systems will set a valuable precedent in California, as well as the country. Other like-minded jurisdictions will follow, but California, under your leadership, will have pioneered appropriate and ethical voting systems for the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cole