

## **COUNTY OF YOLO**

Office of the County Administrator

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## Secretary of State Bowen Visits Yolo County

(Woodland, CA) – On Wednesday of last week, Yolo County Clerk Recorder, Freddie Oakley, and her staff had the pleasure of hosting a visit from California's Secretary of State, Debra Bowen. During her visit, Secretary Bowen was introduced to Elections staff and toured the office and voting machines storage where members of the public can watch ballots counted and the ballot scanning machines.

"What an honor for Yolo County Elections to host California Secretary of State, Debra Bowen," Yolo County Clerk Recorder Freddie Oakley. "I have always been, and will continue to be, an elections official who appreciates and admires all that Secretary Bowen has done to improve the integrity and reliability of elections for our state. To have her acknowledge the successful efforts of Yolo County Elections staff is indeed wonderful. And to have this opportunity on this day, when the announcement was made of her receipt of the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award is especially wonderful. She has weathered many storms to protect Californians' votes. She truly is a profile in courage."

Secretary Debra Bowen is responsible for overseeing elections in the state of California. Upon her election to the office she initiated a state-wide review and re-certification of all election systems to make sure they adequately protected the accuracy of the votes. She has been awarded the 2008 JFK Profile in Courage Award for her work in this area.

During her visit, Secretary Bowen was also introduced to Indy the dog, who, while ineligible to vote, is an integral part of the election office team.

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