



**Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
California Secretary of State**
Statewide Direct Primary Election, June 3, 2014

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than **Wednesday, March 26**. We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the forum/endorsement meeting.

Candidate name: **Derek Cressman**
Contact person: **Jay Matthew**
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Phone number: **916-538-4564**
Web site: www.DerekCressman.com

Please write a brief response (≤ 250 words) to each question.

1. What do you see as the 3 top priorities for the next California Secretary of State, and what ideas do you have for addressing these priorities once you are in office?

I am running to expand California's electorate by implementing and expanding Same Day Voter Registration, pre-registration of high school students, and other improvements that will boost youth turnout by at least 9 percentage points.

I will also upgrade California's official voter's guide to a digital format, allowing candidates to speak directly to voters through a series of on-line videos to be less dependent upon campaign contributions, and allowing for 24-hour disclosure of campaign contributions.

I will use the Secretary of State's office as a bully pulpit to speak out against the Citizens United ruling, promote a statewide voter referendum calling for a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United, and hold hearings in every congressional district in California to examine what each member of Congress has done to reverse that ruling and the Supreme Court's weakening of the Voting Rights Act.

2. How would you deal with voters' concerns in the aftermath of *Citizens United* about the corrupting influence of big (getting bigger each election cycle) money in politics?

While I was at Common Cause, I led campaigns for ballot measures in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Colorado and Montana that called upon Congress to reverse Citizens United. I'm now pushing for a statewide vote in California. As Secretary of State, I will follow up with a hearing in every congressional district. I have devoted most of my career to this issue and am a national leader in the fight to reverse Citizens United and other Supreme Court rulings that wrongly equate unlimited campaign spending with free speech.

3. Why are you better suited to serve as California's top election official than any other candidate?

California needs an experienced elections advocate in the office of Secretary of State who will serve two full terms, who will fully dedicate himself to improving the office and who has the management skills to oversee a staff of 500 and hold private vendors accountable – skills that are different from what state legislators develop in passing policy. After spending nearly 20 years as an advocate for fair elections with good government groups such as Common Cause, I've learned that elections are too important to leave to politics as usual.

Thank you for your time and commitment. We look forward to seeing you April 1st.