

# California could allow more felons to vote

By Paige St. John and Timothy M. Phelps, Los Angeles Times

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla on Tuesday reversed the course set by the state elections chief before him and dropped efforts to prevent some 45,000 state felons from voting.

The move brought cheers from those seeking greater rights for former prisoners and comes as California is rethinking some of its get-tough criminal justice policies.

A lawsuit challenged a rule created by former Secretary of State Debra Bowen after California in 2011 enacted legislation that required lower-level felons to serve their time in jails instead of prison, or when released from prison on community probation instead of state parole.

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