



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Education Funding Initiative Enters Circulation

Education Funding. Sales Tax. Initiative Statute and Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponents and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponents and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

EDUCATION FUNDING. SALES TAX. INITIATIVE STATUTE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Imposes 1% sales and use tax to supplement current education funding. Requires that 89% of new revenue be used for kindergarten through grade 12 and 11% be used for community colleges. Prohibits transfer or borrowing of funds by Legislature. Authorizes funds for uses including staff development, teacher salaries, student services and programs like art, music, and vocational education. Prohibits use for administrative costs. Excludes revenues from budget and spending limitation calculations. Requires annual independent audits with State Controller review of findings. Authorizes civil or criminal penalties for misuse of funds. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased revenues of \$2.5 billion in 2009-10 and \$5.1 billion annually thereafter from a one-cent per dollar increase in the sales and use tax. Revenues would be dedicated to specific K-12 education and community college programs. Decreased revenues to state and local governments from a reduction in sales-related tax revenues due to decreased overall consumption. The amount of the decreased revenues could be hundreds of millions of dollars annually. (08-0021.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1355 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 08-0021.

The proponents for this measure, Roberta B. Johansen and Karen Getman, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by July 27, 2009.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (510) 346-6200.

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