



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB09:046

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2009

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State Budget Initiative Enters Circulation

Changes the Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget or Raise Taxes From Two-Thirds to Three-Fifths. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his 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 proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent 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:

CHANGES THE VOTE REQUIREMENT TO PASS A BUDGET OR RAISE TAXES FROM TWO-THIRDS TO THREE-FIFTHS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget, and to raise taxes, from two-thirds (sixty-seven percent) to three-fifths (sixty percent). Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown state fiscal impacts from lowering the legislative vote requirement for spending and tax increases. In some cases, the content of the annual state budget could change and/or state tax revenues could increase. Fiscal impact would depend on the composition and actions of future Legislatures. (09-0016.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1370 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0016.

The proponent for this measure, Robert Denham, 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 proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by December 28, 2009.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (510) 302-2178.

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