



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB09:067

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2009

CONTACT: Nicole Winger
(916) 653-6575

Christmas Music Initiative Enters Circulation

Requires Public Schools to Offer Christmas Music. Initiative Statute.

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:

REQUIRES PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER CHRISTMAS MUSIC. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Requires public schools to offer an opportunity for students to listen to or perform Christmas music during the holiday season. Requires schools to notify students' parents or guardians twenty-one days before the music will be played or performed so that students can opt-out of listening to or performing the music. Provides that a civil lawsuit may be brought to enforce these requirements. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably minor annual costs to school districts. (09-0030.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1383 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0030.

The proponents for this measure, Merry Susan Hyatt and David Joseph Hyatt, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% 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 March 29, 2010.

The initiative proponents did not provide contact information.

###