



DEBRA BOWEN

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Changes Laws Governing Ballot Measures. 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 LAWS GOVERNING BALLOT MEASURES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes the process which governs how initiative and referendum measures qualify for placement on the ballot. Requires the State to provide legal services to help proponents draft ballot measures. Requires proponents of measures to disclose the identity of large financial donors. Allows proponents of measures more time to gather voter signatures necessary to qualify measures for placement on the ballot. Permits urgency and tax levy statutes passed by Legislature to be challenged by voter referendum. Prohibits Legislature from amending or repealing laws passed by voter referendum. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown effects on state and local finances, subject to future decisions by voters, the Legislature, and the Governor, if the measure results in more initiative and referendum measures qualifying for the statewide ballot. Higher state costs potentially totaling in the millions of dollars per year to meet the measure's requirements. The measure also could result in increased petition filing fees paid to the state and possible county government savings. (09-0038)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1398 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0038.

The proponent for this measure, Aaron Starr, 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 April 29, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at starrcpa@pacbell.net. No phone number was provided.

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