

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

#### *Changes Constitutional Definition of a Person to Include Fertilized Human Eggs. Initiative 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:

**CHANGES CONSTITUTIONAL DEFINITION OF A PERSON TO INCLUDE FERTILIZED HUMAN EGGS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Extends constitutional protections of due process and equal protection to all fertilized human eggs by redefining "person" as including each and every human organism from the commencement of biological development. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Potential increased costs for courts, law enforcement, and other agencies for criminal and civil proceedings. Potential costs and savings for health and social services programs if the courts determined that the measure restricts access to some types of birth control methods. Potential loss of state or local revenues due to reduced research activity that may be offset by reduced state spending on research. Unknown potential effects on state and local health care expenditures due to changes that may occur in medical practices. (09-0043.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1400 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0043.

The proponents for this measure, Walter B. Hoye, Jr., Jason Jones, Lila Rose and Leo Severino, 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 April 29, 2010.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (510) 225-4056.

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