



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB09:082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2009

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Tax Initiative Enters Circulation

***Changes Voter Approval Requirement for Local Bonds
And Taxes to 55% from Two-Thirds So Long as Accountability
Requirements Met. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and 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:

CHANGES VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL BONDS AND TAXES TO 55% FROM TWO-THIRDS SO LONG AS ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Changes voter approval requirement to 55% from two-thirds for local infrastructure bonds, property taxes to repay bonds where taxes exceed 1% of the property's assessed value, and certain local taxes where taxes are to be used only as voters specify. Allows 55% vote only when certain "accountability requirements" are satisfied. Prohibits state from taking local tax revenues and requires public hearings on fund use, independent audits, and citizens' oversight committees. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Major increases in local government revenues and spending. Depending on local voter approval of future tax and bond proposals, local government spending related to these new revenues would probably reach at least billions of dollars annually over time. (09-0052.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1402 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0052.

The proponents for this measure, James C. Harrison and Margaret R. Prinzing, 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 May 3, 2010.

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

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