

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Two Political Funding Initiatives Enter Circulation

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of two new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for their measures.

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 first measure is as follows:

MAKES ILLEGAL THE USE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE WAGE DEDUCTIONS FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the California Constitution to make it illegal to deduct from wages or earnings of a public employee any amount that will be used for political activities as defined. Prohibits any membership organization that receives public employee wage deductions from using those funds for any political activities, but does not apply to deductions for charitable organizations, health, life or disability insurance, or other purposes directly benefitting the public employee. Authorizes the Legislature and Fair Political Practices Commission to adopt related laws and regulations. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably minor state and local government implementation costs, potentially offset in part by revenues from fines and/or fees. (09-0054.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1403 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0054.

The proponents for this measure 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 Attorney General's official title and summary for the second measure is as follows:

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IMPOSES POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Prohibits public employee labor organizations from using member dues or nonmember fees for disbursements to political committees unless the employee provides prior annual written consent on a particular form. Does not apply to dues or fees collected for charitable organizations, health care insurance, or other purposes directly benefitting the public employee. Requires public employee labor organizations to maintain and, upon request, submit to designated government authority, records of authorization, employee funds withheld and transferred to political committees, which records are not subject to disclosure under Public Records Act. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably minor state and local government implementation costs, potentially offset in part by revenues from fines and/or fees. (09-0055)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1404 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0055.

The proponents for this measure 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 May 3, 2010.

The proponents for both initiatives, Mark W. Bucher, Dawn M. Wildman, Allan R. Mansoor, Lawrence D. Sand and Mark J. Meckler, can be reached at (714) 573-2201.

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