



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Nicole Winger
(916) 653-6575

Budget-Related Initiative Enters Circulation

***Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass
A Budget from Two-Thirds to a Simple Majority. Retains
Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Taxes. 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 LEGISLATIVE VOTE REQUIREMENT TO PASS A BUDGET FROM TWO-THIRDS TO A SIMPLE MAJORITY. RETAINS TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR TAXES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. Provides that if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the day the Legislature passes a budget bill. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown changes in the content of the state budget from lowering the legislative vote requirement for passage. Fiscal impact would depend on the composition and actions of future Legislatures. Minor reduction in state costs related to compensation of legislators in years when the budget bill is passed after June 15. (09-0057.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1408 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0057.

The proponents for this measure, James C. Harrison and Thomas A. Willis, 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 10, 2010.

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

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