



DEBRA BOWEN

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Two More Constitutional Convention Initiatives Enter Circulation

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of two new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for his 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 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 first measure is as follows:

ALLOWS VOTERS TO PLACE QUESTION OF CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON THE BALLOT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the Constitution to permit voters to place on the ballot the question of whether to call a convention to revise the state Constitution. Permits any ballot measure calling a convention to specify the parts of the Constitution that the convention can or cannot revise. Requires any ballot measure calling a convention to specify the process for selection of convention delegates. Repeals requirement that convention delegates be elected by voters. Permits voters to call a convention no more than once every ten years. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: No direct fiscal impact, as any effect would depend on whether and how voters used the power to call and accept the recommendations of a constitutional convention in the future. Potentially major fiscal changes in state and local governments could result. (09-0066.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1417 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0066.

The proponent 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 proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 21, 2010.

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

CALLS A LIMITED CONVENTION TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO STATE CONSTITUTION. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Calls convention to propose changes to state Constitution related to government, state spending and budgeting, elections and lobbying. Provides that proposed changes to constitution or laws become effective only after approved by voters in statewide election. Forbids changes to taxes or fees, marriage, abortion, gambling, affirmative action, freedom of the press or religion, immigration rights, and the death penalty. Establishes rules for selecting convention delegates to reflect a diverse range of citizens. Requires selection of delegates and conduct of convention to be open and public. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: One-time increase of state government spending up to \$95 million to administer a constitutional convention. Potentially major changes in state and local governments if voters approve the convention's recommendations, including higher or lower revenues or greater or less spending on particular public programs. (09-0067.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1418 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0067.

The proponent 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 proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 21, 2010.

The proponent for both measures, Jim Wunderman, can be reached at (415) 995-5831.

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