



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Two-Thirds Vote Initiative Enters Circulation

*Changes Voter Approval Requirement for Local
Education Special Taxes to 55% From Two-Thirds So Long
As Accountability Requirements Met. 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 VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL EDUCATION SPECIAL TAXES TO 55% FROM TWO-THIRDS SO LONG AS ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes voter approval requirement to 55% from two-thirds for local education special taxes when tax is proposed by two-thirds of school district's governing board. Allows 55% vote only when certain "accountability requirements" are satisfied. Limits any such tax proposal to \$250 per parcel of real property per year, adjusted annually for inflation. Exempts parcels owned and occupied by persons age 65 or older. Prohibits state from taking tax revenues and requires independent audits and citizens' oversight committees. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increases in school parcel tax revenues and spending. Depending on local voter approval of future tax proposals, increased revenues and spending could total a few hundred million dollars annually. (09-0068.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1420 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0068.

The proponents for this measure, Connell Lindh, Donald S. Gibson, John M. Hartenstein, Mark Anthony Olbert and John Bradford Senden, 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 28, 2010.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (800) 915-4768.

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