



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:049

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 18, 2006

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Same-Sex Marriage. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

Amends California Constitution and Family Code to define marriage as a civil contract between any two persons otherwise qualified to marry, regardless of their gender. Repeals Proposition 22, which provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid in California. Provides that persons in same-sex marriage shall have the same rights and obligations as persons in opposite-sex marriages, including, but not limited to, those related to community property, intestate succession, stepparent adoption, child custody, child support, hospital visitation, insurance benefits and death benefits.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Annual state revenue loss potentially in excess of \$10 million. (SA2006RF0024.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1219 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2006RF0024.

The proponents for this measure, Elizabeth Ruccello, Katelynn Finnie and Brandi Brooks, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is September 11, 2006. The initiative proponents can be reached at P.O. Box 326 Marina, CA 93933. No phone number was provided.

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