

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

CONSTITUTION
DB08:017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2008

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Three Victims' Rights Initiatives Enter Circulation

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of three 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:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Requires notification to victims and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole. Establishes victim safety as primary consideration in determining bail. Requires victims have safe access to courthouses. Provides more assistance collecting restitution. Prohibits release of defendants on their own recognizance for specified crimes, including serious or violent felonies. Authorizes courts of appeal to adjudicate death penalty appeals. Creates Department of Parole to handle all parole hearings. Requires prosecutors receive certain benefits and be paid salaries comparable to similar public attorneys. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased state and county judicial system costs that initially exceed \$100 million and amount to tens of millions of dollars annually thereafter on a statewide basis. A net increase in costs for state prison operations that, depending on circumstances, could range from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A potential net savings in the low tens of millions of dollars for the administration of parole reviews and revocations if the changes related to parole revocation procedures were not overturned by potential legal challenges. A net increase in local government costs for county jails, work release programs, probation supervision, and other local law enforcement agencies in the millions to tens of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis. (Initiative 07-0088.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1319 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0088.

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Requires notification to victims and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole. Establishes victim safety as primary consideration in determining bail. Requires victims have safe access to courthouses. Provides more assistance collecting restitution. Prohibits release of defendants on their own recognizance for specified crimes, including serious or violent felonies. Authorizes courts of appeal to adjudicate death penalty appeals. Creates Department of Parole to handle all parole hearings. Requires prosecutors receive certain benefits and be paid salaries comparable to similar public attorneys. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased state and county judicial system costs that may initially exceed \$100 million and amount to tens of millions of dollars annually thereafter on a statewide basis. A net increase in costs for state prison operations that, depending on circumstances, could range from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A potential net savings in the low tens of millions of dollars for the administration of parole reviews and revocations if the changes related to parole revocation procedures were not overturned by potential legal challenges. A net increase in local government costs for county jails, work release programs, probation supervision, and other local law enforcement agencies in the millions to tens of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis. (Initiative 07-0095.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1320 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0095.

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Requires notification to victims and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole. Establishes victim safety as primary consideration in determining bail. Requires victims have safe access to courthouses. Provides more assistance collecting restitution. Prohibits release of defendants on their own recognizance for specified crimes, including serious or violent felonies. Authorizes courts of appeal to adjudicate death penalty appeals. Creates Department of Parole to handle all parole hearings. Requires prosecutors receive certain benefits and be paid salaries comparable to similar public attorneys. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: increased state and county judicial system costs that may initially exceed \$100 million and amount to tens of millions of dollars annually thereafter on a statewide basis. A net

increase in costs for state prison operations that, depending on circumstances, could range from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A potential net savings in the low tens of millions of dollars for administration of parole reviews and revocations if the changes related to parole revocation procedures were not overturned by potential legal challenges. A net increase in local government costs for county jails, work release programs, probation supervision, and other local law enforcement agencies in the millions to tens of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis. (Initiative 07-0096.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1321 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0096.

The proponent for these measures, Steven J. Ipsen, 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 – for each measure, in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for these measures, meaning the signatures must be collected by June 30, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (213) 700-4133.

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