

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### Three Proposed Initiatives Enter Circulation

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of three new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for her 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:

**BANS ABORTION OF VIABLE FETUS UNLESS NECESSARY TO SAVE MOTHER'S LIFE. DECLARES GOD CREATOR OF LIFE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.** Amends Constitution to: (1) create presumption that a fetus becomes viable at 24 weeks; (2) define fetal viability to include the use of life support; (3) ban abortion of a viable fetus except where necessary to save mother's life; and (4) give viable fetuses rights to life and medical care. Provides abortion after 24 weeks is murder unless necessary to save mother's life. Requires taxpayers pay all legal costs proponent incurs fighting challenges to initiative. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Potential costs to state and local governments not likely to exceed \$20 million annually after a few years for public benefit programs, legal proceedings, and incarceration. (Initiative 08-0002.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1335 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 08-0002.

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

**BANS HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH. CRIMINAL PENALTIES. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.** Prohibits stem cell or other research or procedures that would injure or destroy a human embryo, as defined. Prohibits buying, selling, receiving, or transferring a human

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embryo for certain prohibited purposes. Subjects violators to fifteen years in prison without possibility of parole, a fine of at least \$250,000 and permanent revocation of a medical license. Renders unenforceable contracts for payment of license fees and royalties derived from prohibited research. Requires taxpayers pay all legal costs proponent incurs fighting challenges to initiative. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Potential state savings up to the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually over the next few decades resulting from reduced principal and interest costs for bonds to fund embryonic research. Unknown potential loss of state and local revenue gains and cost savings due to reduced research funding for embryonic research. (Initiative 08-0004.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1336 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 08-0004.

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

**BANS ACTIVITIES DEFINED AS "HUMAN CLONING." CRIMINAL PENALTIES. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.** Amends constitution to ban activities related to "human cloning," defined as: "human asexual reproduction, accomplished by introducing the genetic material from one or more human somatic cells into a fertilized or unfertilized oocyte whose nuclear material has been or will be removed or inactivated, so as to produce an organism, at any stage of development with a human or predominately human genetic constitution." Subjects violators to 15 or 25 year prison terms without possibility of parole, fines of at least \$250,000, and permanent medical license revocation. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Potential state savings up to the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually over the next few decade resulting from reduced principal and interest costs for bonds to fund embryonic research. Unknown potential loss of state and local revenue gains and cost savings due to reduced research funding for embryonic research. (Initiative 08-0005.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1337 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 08-0005.

The proponent for these measures, Laura Storms, 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 August 25, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at 8130 La Mesa Boulevard, #202, La Mesa, California 91941. No phone number was provided.