

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Shannan Velayas
(916) 653-6575

Budget-Related Initiative Enters Circulation

Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget, Approve Spending Bills, or Raise Taxes from Two-Thirds to a Simple Majority. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

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

CHANGES LEGISLATIVE VOTE REQUIREMENT TO PASS A BUDGET, APPROVE SPENDING BILLS, OR RAISE TAXES FROM TWO-THIRDS TO A SIMPLE MAJORITY. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget, to approve spending bills, and to raise taxes, from two-thirds to a simple majority. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Unknown state fiscal impacts from lowering the legislative vote requirement for spending and tax increases. In some cases, the content of the annual state budget could change and/or state tax revenues could increase. Fiscal impact would depend on the composition and actions of future Legislatures.** (10-0015.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1468 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 10-0015.

The proponent for this measure, George Lakoff, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to eight percent 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 October 12, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (510) 848-7465.

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