

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Tenth Measure for November 2 General Election Ballot

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a tenth measure for the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot. The initiative would eliminate the state commission on redistricting and consolidate authority for redistricting with elected representatives.

The first measure to qualify was placed on the ballot by the Legislature with the passage of SBx7 2 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2009, Seventh Extraordinary Session), related to the state water supply.

Eight other measures qualified through the initiative process:

- A measure aiming to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana;
- A measure placing the redistricting of congressional districts under the authority of the new 14-member state redistricting commission;
- A measure establishing an \$18 vehicle license surcharge to help fund state parks and wildlife programs;
- A measure prohibiting the state from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects and services;
- A measure suspending some air pollution control laws until unemployment drops below a specified level for a full year;
- A measure repealing recent legislation that would allow businesses to carry back losses, share tax credits and use a sales-based income calculation to lower taxable income;
- A measure changing the legislative vote requirement to pass a budget from two-thirds to a simple majority; and
- A measure increasing the legislative vote requirement to two-thirds for state levies and charges, and impose an additional requirement for voters to approve local levies and charges.

In order to qualify for the ballot, this initiative needed 694,354 valid petition signatures, which is equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 General Election.

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An initiative can qualify via random sampling, without further verification, if the sampling projects a number of valid signatures greater than 110 percent of the required number. This initiative needed at least 763,790 projected valid signatures to qualify by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold today.

County elections officials have 30 working days to verify the validity of the signatures filed with their offices using a random sampling method. In random sampling, the state Elections Code requires county elections officials to verify 500 signatures, or three percent of the number of signatures filed in their county, whichever is greater. A county elections office receiving fewer than 500 petition signatures must verify all the signatures.

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

ELIMINATES STATE COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING. CONSOLIDATES AUTHORITY FOR REDISTRICTING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Eliminates 14-member redistricting commission selected from applicant pool picked by government auditors. Consolidates authority for establishing state Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization district boundaries with elected state representatives responsible for drawing congressional districts. Reduces budget, and imposes limit on amount Legislature may spend, for redistricting. Provides that voters will have the authority to reject district boundary maps approved by the Legislature. Requires populations of all districts for the same office to be exactly the same. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Likely decrease in state redistricting costs totaling several million dollars every ten years.** (09-0107.)

The proponent of this initiative is Daniel Lowenstein. The proponent can be reached at (310) 576-1233.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative_guide.htm.

To sign up for regular ballot measure updates via email, RSS feed or Twitter, go to www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia.

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