



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oil and Gas Tax Initiative Enters Circulation

Tax on California Oil and Natural Gas. Revenues to Education. Initiative Statute.

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:

TAX ON CALIFORNIA OIL AND NATURAL GAS. REVENUES TO EDUCATION. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Imposes 10 percent tax on value of oil and natural gas extracted in California to supplement funding for education. Allocates 10 percent of tax revenues to grants for college and vocational students, and remainder to classroom education funding as follows: 10 percent to University of California; 20 percent to California State University; 20 percent to community colleges; and 40 percent to K-12. Prohibits reduction of existing education-funding levels based on these additional tax revenues. Prohibits passing tax through to consumers by way of higher fuel prices. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Increased state revenues from a new oil and gas severance tax of \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion per year. These revenues would be allocated to education and would likely result in increased state funding of various education programs.** (11-0033)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1513 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 11-0033.

The proponent for this measure, Philip D. Sales II, must collect signatures of 504,760 registered voters – the number equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2010 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 March 19, 2012.

The initiative proponent can be reached at savecaliforniaseducation@gmail.com. No phone number was provided.

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