



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Animals-as-Property Initiative Enters Circulation

Recognition of Animals as Property. Constitutional Amendment.

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

RECOGNITION OF ANIMALS AS PROPERTY. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends California Constitution to declare that all animals owned by citizens, including pets and animals used for agricultural purposes, are property. Prohibits enactment or enforcement of any law that would characterize privately-owned animals as anything other than property. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably no fiscal effect on state and local governments. (Initiative 07-0062.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1294 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0062.

The proponent for this measure, Jill Holt, 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 the measure 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 April 21, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (951) 541-1669.

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