



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Political Activities Initiative Enters Circulation

***Organizations Representing Local Governments and Agencies.
Limits on Political Activity. Civil and Criminal Penalties. Statute.***

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their 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 proponents and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponents 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:

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES. LIMITS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES. STATUTE. Prohibits organizations that act as an association or representative of local agencies from spending money in state and local elections if the organizations are partly funded by dues or payments from local agencies. Applies ban to all assets of the organization, including revenue from private sources. Imposes fines on officer, employee, agent, or consultant of the public agency or organization, who violates or permits others to violate the ban. Imposes imprisonment on public officer who violates or permits others to violate the ban. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: No significant costs to state or local governments. (Initiative 07-0085.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1316 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0085.

The proponents for this measure, Jon Coupal, Jim Nielsen, and Lew Uhler, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by June 9, 2008.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (916) 444-9950.

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