

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Second Measure for June 3, 2008, Direct Primary Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified the second initiative for the June 3, 2008, Direct Primary Election ballot. It involves changes to the way state and local governments acquire property through the process known as eminent domain.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the initiative needed 694,354 valid petition signatures, which is equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 gubernatorial election. The initiative proponents submitted 1,101,369 signatures in an attempt to qualify the measure, and it qualified through the random sample signature check.

County elections officials have 30 working days to verify the validity of the signatures filed with their offices using a random sampling method. The state Elections Code requires elections officials to verify 500 signatures, or 3% of the number of signatures filed in their county, whichever is greater. Counties receiving fewer than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their offices.

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

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

EMINENT DOMAIN. ACQUISITION OF OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENCE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Bars state and local governments from using eminent domain to acquire an owner-occupied residence, as defined, for conveyance to a private person or business entity. Creates exceptions for public work or improvement, public health and safety protection, and crime prevention. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: The measure would likely not have a significant fiscal impact on state or local governments. (Initiative 07-0018.)

The proponents of this initiative are Christopher K. McKenzie, Susan Smartt, and Kenneth Willis. They can be reached at (415) 389-6800.

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DB08:013
January 23, 2008
Page 2

The Secretary of State certified the first measure for the June ballot earlier this month. It also addresses eminent domain.

Tomorrow is the last day to qualify a measure for the June primary ballot.

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

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