



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB08:018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2008

CONTACT: Kate Folmar

(916) 653-6575

Ninth Marriage Initiative Enters Circulation

Marriage. Elimination of Domestic Partnership Rights. Constitutional Amendment.

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 the measure is as follows:

MARRIAGE. ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Provides that only marriage between one man and one woman is valid or recognized in California. Prohibits decreasing marriage rights shared by one man and one woman. Defines man and woman. Voids or makes unenforceable certain rights and obligations conferred by California law on same-sex and opposite-sex couples registered as domestic partners, concerning subject areas including, but not limited to, community property, intestate succession, stepparent adoption, child custody, child support, hospital visitation, health care decisions for an incapacitated partner, insurance benefits, death benefits, and recovery for wrongful death. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown, but potential increased costs for state and local governments. The impact would depend in large part on future court interpretations. (Initiative 07-0098.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1322 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0098.

The proponents for this measure, Larry Bowler, and Randy Thomasson, 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 – 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 30, 2008.

The initiative proponents can be reached at P.O. Box 1978, Sacramento, California 95812. No phone number was provided.

For more information about the other eight marriage initiatives proposed in 2007, go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm.

###