



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

**DB08:023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Fourth Victims' Rights Initiative Enters Circulation**

***Criminal Justice System. Victims'  
Rights. Constitutional Amendment and 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:

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.** Requires notification to victim and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole. Establishes victim safety as primary consideration in determining bail. Requires victims have safe access to courthouses. Provides more assistance collecting restitution. Prohibits release of defendants on their own recognizance for specified crimes, including serious or violent felonies. Authorizes courts of appeal to adjudicate death penalty appeals. Creates Department of Parole to handle all parole hearings. Requires prosecutors receive certain benefits and be paid salaries comparable to similar public attorneys. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased state and county judicial system costs that may initially exceed \$100 million and amount to tens of millions of dollars annually thereafter on a statewide basis. A net increase in costs for state prison operations that, depending on circumstances, could range from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A potential net savings in the low tens of millions of dollars for the administration of parole reviews and revocations if the changes related to parole revocation procedures were not overturned by potential legal challenges. A net increase in local government costs for county jails, work release programs, probation supervision, and other local law enforcement agencies of up to the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis. (Initiative 07-0097.)

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The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1324 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0097.

The proponent for this measure, Steven J. Ipsen, 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 proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by July 7, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (213) 700-4133.

For more information about other victims' rights initiatives, go to [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm).

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