



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB08:063

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2008

CONTACT: Kate Folmar

(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Fourth Measure for November 4, 2008, General Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a fourth initiative for the November 4, 2008, General Election ballot. The measure would require a waiting period and parental notification before a minor may terminate a pregnancy.

The first three measures to qualify for the November ballot were a high-speed rail bond, a measure relating to the treatment of farm animals, and a children's hospital bond.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the parental notification measure needed 694,354 valid petition signatures, which is equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 General Election. The initiative proponents submitted 1,228,217 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 with 773,739.

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

WAITING PERIOD AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE TERMINATION OF MINOR'S PREGNANCY. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian or, if parental abuse reported, an adult family member. Provides exceptions for medical emergency or parental waiver. Permits courts to waive notice based on clear and convincing evidence of minor's maturity or best interests. Mandates reporting requirements, including reports from physicians regarding abortions on minors. Authorizes monetary damages against physicians for violation. Requires minor's consent to abortion, with exceptions. Permits judicial relief if minor's consent is coerced. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government:

– MORE –

DB08:063
May 30, 2008
Page 2

Potential unknown net state costs of several million dollars annually for health and social services programs, court administration, and state health agency administration combined. (Initiative 07-0053.)

The initiative proponent can be reached at john.smith.jsjs@gmail.com. No phone number was provided.

The last day to qualify a measure for the November General Election ballot is June 26.

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

###