

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a sixth initiative for the November 4, 2008, General Election ballot. The measure relates to criminal penalties and funding for public safety.

The first five propositions to qualify for the November ballot were a high-speed rail bond, a measure relating to the treatment of farm animals, a children's hospital bond, a parental notification for abortion measure, and a measure on the sentencing of nonviolent offenders.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the criminal penalties measure needed 433,971 valid petition signatures, which is equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 General Election. The initiative proponents submitted 789,668 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 477,369 projected valid signatures to qualify by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold today with 520,937 projected valid signatures.

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

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND LAWS. PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING. STATUTE.** Requires new state spending on various programs to combat crime and gangs, and to operate prison and parole systems. Increases penalties for several crimes, including violating gang injunctions, using or possessing to sell methamphetamine, or carrying loaded or concealed firearms by certain felons. Eliminates bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies, establishes crime for removing or disabling a monitoring device affixed as part of a criminal sentence, and changes evidence rules to allow use of certain hearsay statements as evidence when witnesses are unavailable. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of

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Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Net state costs likely to exceed a half billion dollars annually primarily for increased funding of criminal justice programs, as well as for increased costs for prison and parole operations. Unknown one-time state capital outlay costs potentially exceeding a half billion dollars for prison facilities. Unknown net fiscal impact for state trial courts, county jails, and other local criminal justice agencies. (Initiative 07-0094.)

The initiative proponents, George C. Runner, Jr., Gary Ovitt, and Mike Reynolds, can be reached at 925 University Avenue, Sacramento, California 95825. 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](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative_guide.htm).

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