



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 Seventh Measure for November 4, 2008, General Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a seventh initiative for the November 4, 2008, General Election ballot. The measure would create renewable energy generation requirements for utilities.

The first six 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, a measure on the sentencing of nonviolent offenders, and a measure regarding increased criminal penalties and public safety funding.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the renewable energy 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 736,145 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 491,092 projected valid signatures.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY. STATUTE. Requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations. Raises requirement for all utilities to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025. Imposes penalties for noncompliance. Fast-tracks approval for new renewable energy plants. Requires utilities to sign longer contracts (20 year minimum) to procure renewable energy. Creates Solar and Clean Energy Transmission Account to purchase property or rights of way for renewable energy. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: State administrative costs of up to \$3.4 million annually for the regulatory activities of the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the California

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DB08:067
June 2, 2008
Page 2

Public Utilities Commission, paid for by fee revenues. Potential, unknown increased costs and reduced revenues, particularly in the short term, to state and local governments resulting from the measure's potential to increase retail electricity rates, with possible offsetting cost savings and revenue increases, to an unknown degree, over the long term to the extent the measure hastens renewable energy development. (Initiative 07-0066.)

The initiative proponent, Jim Gonzalez, can be reached at (310) 312-4000.

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.

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