



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB08:081

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 27, 2008

CONTACT: Kate Folmar  
(916) 653-6575

### Secretary of State Debra Bowen Assigns Number and Invites Ballot Arguments for New Ballot Measure Certified for November General Election, Asks for Funding for Required Supplemental Voter Guide

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that a new proposition, a high-speed rail legislative bond measure, has been signed by the Governor and will appear on the November 4, 2008, General Election ballot. Bowen also invited interested Californians to submit arguments by noon tomorrow to be included in the Official Supplemental Voter Information Guide.

The statutory deadline for placing legislative and initiative measures on the ballot was June 26. However, the Legislature and the Governor chose to waive laws and place this measure on the ballot after the deadline had passed, triggering the need for the Secretary of State to print a second, supplemental voter guide.

The Secretary of State's office does not have the ability to print and mail a supplemental voter guide without additional funding. As such, Secretary Bowen today sent a "deficiency notice" to the Governor's Department of Finance, asking for the estimated \$5 million necessary to print and mail the supplemental guide.

The new high-speed rail bond, Proposition 1A, will replace Proposition 1, a previous measure on the same subject that had already qualified for the California ballot. However, because the Official Voter Information Guide has already been printed, the addition of Proposition 1A to the ballot triggers the printing of a second voter guide. Voters will receive information about both measures in the two voter guides they receive from the state, but only Proposition 1A will be on the ballot.

Elections Code section 13115 sets the order in which the measures must appear on the ballot. Legislative bond measures are first, followed by legislative constitutional amendments, other legislative measures, citizen initiative measures, and referenda. Measures are listed within their category in the order in which they qualified. Measures placed on the ballot after the statutory deadline – and after numbers have been assigned to the propositions that qualified for the ballot on time – may not follow the numbering order set out in the Elections Code.

The new proposition for the November ballot is listed below.

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**Proposition 1A**      **Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century.** AB 3034 (Ch. 267, 2008), Galgiani.

People may submit arguments for or against the measure. Arguments selected for the Official Supplemental Voter Information Guide, also known as the supplemental ballot pamphlet, will be on public display between August 29 and September 18. If multiple arguments are submitted for one proposition, state law gives first priority to arguments written by legislators in the case of a legislative measure, and first priority to arguments written by the proponents of an initiative in the case of an initiative measure. Subsequent priority for all measures goes to bona fide citizen associations and then to individuals. No more than three signers are allowed to appear with an argument or rebuttal to an argument.

Ballot arguments cannot exceed 500 words and rebuttals to ballot arguments cannot exceed 250 words. All submissions should be typed and double-spaced. They may be hand-delivered to the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California 95814 or faxed to (916) 653-3214. If faxed, the original copies must be received within 72 hours. The deadline to submit ballot arguments is August 28 by 12:00 p.m. and the deadline to submit rebuttals to the ballot arguments is August 29 by 2:00 p.m.

The last day for eligible Californians to register to vote in the November 4 General Election is October 20. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 28.

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