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Term Limit and Campaign Contribution Initiative Enters Circulation

Legislators’ Terms in Office. Campaign Contributions and Junkets. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

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:

LEGISLATORS’ TERMS IN OFFICE. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND JUNKETS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Changes the California Constitution to allow legislators to serve more time in office. Allows Senators to serve additional four-year term for a maximum of 12 years. Allows Assembly members to serve additional two-year term for a maximum of eight years. Eliminates term limits if legislators leave office for one term. Permits legislators who do not receive contributions or accept “privately-funded junkets” to remain in office and serve additional terms without election. Requires Secretary of State to determine legislators’ eligibility to remain in office without election. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure would have no significant fiscal effect on state or local governments. (08-0016.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1347 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 08-0016.

The proponent for this measure, Paul McCauley, 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 May 7, 2009.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (310) 230-5418.

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