



DEBRA BOWEN

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Two Constitutional Convention Initiatives Enter Circulation

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of two new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for his measures.

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 first measure is as follows:

CHANGES CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW VOTERS TO CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WITH AN INITIATIVE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the Constitution to permit voters to call a convention to write a new state Constitution by passing an initiative. Requires that such an initiative (1) prohibit all outside contact with convention delegates and staff during the convention; (2) prohibit the announcement of delegate names until after the convention begins; (3) require approval of only a simple majority of voters to adopt the convention's proposed new constitution; and (4) identify how new constitutional officers will be elected after voters approve a new constitution. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: No direct fiscal impact, as any effect would depend on whether and how voters used the power to call and accept the recommendations of a constitutional convention in the future. Potentially major fiscal changes in state and local governments could result. (09-0018.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1372 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0018.

The Attorney General's official title and summary for the second measure is as follows:

CALLS A CONVENTION TO DRAFT NEW STATE CONSTITUTION. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Requires special election to elect 400 convention delegates. Closes convention to public and prohibits all outside contact with delegates. Allows simple majority of convention delegates to propose changes to any part of Constitution. Requires a special election to adopt or reject convention's proposed new constitution, and requires a special election

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of new constitutional officers after adoption. Requires use of public money for campaign financing for all convention delegate candidates, convention fees, compensation for delegates and staff, and new statewide voting systems for three elections. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would have the following major fiscal effects: Direct, one time increase of state and local government spending on the hundreds of millions of dollars related to the constitutional convention. Potentially major fiscal changes in state and local governments if voters approve the convention's recommendations, including higher or lower taxes or greater or less spending on particular public programs. (09-0019.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1373 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0019.

The proponent for these measures, Paul Talcott Currier, 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 – for each measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for each of these measures, meaning the signatures must be collected by January 11, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (415) 571-1583.

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