Public Schools Initiative Enters Circulation

Prohibits Public Schools from Establishing Educational Curriculum. 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:

PROHIBITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes constitution to give parents or legal guardians the sole authority and responsibility to establish the educational curriculum of their child or ward. Prevents state and local governments and schools from establishing educational curriculum. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Uncertain fiscal effect for local school districts and state governments depending upon how the measure is interpreted and implemented. (09-0047.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1397 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0047.

The proponent for this measure, Lee W. Olson, 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 April 23, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at 16458 Bolsa Chica Street #165, Huntington Beach, California 92649. No phone number was provided.