

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foster Children Initiative Enters Circulation

Establishes Private-School Scholarships for Foster Children. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

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:

ESTABLISHES PRIVATE-SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Requires the State to offer annual private-school scholarships for foster children eligible to attend kindergarten through twelfth grade. Amends Constitution to allow foster children to use these scholarships at religious schools, if they choose to do so. Limits the value of the scholarships to no more than the amount of state funding per pupil provided for charter school pupils. Requires each foster child in private school who has received the scholarship to take state-mandated academic tests. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **No impact on total education funding at the state level. Minor reduction in education costs at local public schools.** (09-0085.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1436 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0085.

The proponent for this measure, William E. Oberndorf, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to eight percent 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 June 14, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (916) 446-6752.

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