



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB10:011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2010

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Second Initiative for June 8, 2010, Direct Primary Election

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified the second initiative for the June 8, 2010, Direct Primary Election ballot. It would permit auto insurance companies to offer discounts to drivers who have maintained continuous auto insurance coverage.

The qualification of this initiative, along with the three measures already placed on the ballot by the legislature, and the initiative that qualified earlier this month, brings the total number of June ballot measures to five so far. The last day to qualify a measure for the June statewide ballot is January 28.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the initiative needed 433,971 valid petition signatures, which is equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 gubernatorial election. The initiative proponent submitted 726,199 signatures in an attempt to qualify the measure, and it qualified through the random sample signature check.

County elections officials have 30 working days to verify the validity of the signatures filed with their offices using a random sampling method. The state Elections Code requires county elections officials to verify 500 signatures, or three percent of the number of signatures filed in the county, whichever is greater. Counties receiving fewer than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their elections offices.

A measure can qualify via random sampling, without further verification, if the sampling projects a number of valid signatures greater than 110 percent of the required number. This measure needed at least 477,369 projected valid signatures to qualify by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold today.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the initiative is as follows:

ALLOWS AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES TO BASE THEIR PRICES IN PART ON A DRIVER'S HISTORY OF INSURANCE COVERAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Changes current law to permit insurance companies to offer a discount to drivers who have continuously maintained their auto insurance coverage, even if they change their insurance company, and notwithstanding the ban on using the absence of prior insurance for purposes of pricing. Establishes that lapses in coverage due to nonpayment of premiums may prevent a driver from qualifying for the discount. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure would probably have no significant fiscal effect on state and local governments. (09-0028.)

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The proponent of this initiative is Christina L. Wilson. She can be reached at (415) 389-6800.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/initiative-guide.htm.

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