



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### **Voter Identification Initiative Enters Circulation**

***Prohibits Voting by Those Who Do Not Provide Government-Issued Identification. Adds Additional Absentee Voting Requirements. Initiative Statute.***

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their 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 proponents and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponents 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 VOTING BY THOSE WHO DO NOT PROVIDE GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION. ADDS ADDITIONAL ABSENTEE VOTING REQUIREMENTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.** Prohibits citizens from casting a regular ballot at the polls unless they present a government-issued photo-identification card. Restricts voting by citizens who fail to present government-issued photo-identification to casting provisional ballots. Invalidates mail-in and provisional ballots unless elections official verifies that last four digits of voter's government-issued identification number on ballot envelope are consistent with voter's corresponding government records. Establishes that ballots from absent military personnel are timely if received no later than 15 days after election. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Some increased government costs associated with voting in elections. These costs probably would not be significant.** (09-0106.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1456 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0106.

The proponents for this measure, George C. Runner, Jr., Charles H. Bell, Jr. and Robert Ming, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by July 19, 2010.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (916) 442-7757.

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