

DEBRA BOWEN

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Fifth Measure for November 2 General Election Ballot

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a fifth measure for the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot. The initiative would prohibit the state from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects and services.

The first measure to qualify was placed on the ballot by the Legislature with the passage of SBx7 2 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2009, Seventh Extraordinary Session), related to the state water supply. The other three measures qualified through the initiative process: one measure aims to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana; another measure would place the redistricting of congressional districts under the authority of the new 14-member state redistricting commission; and another measure would establish an \$18 vehicle license surcharge to help fund state parks and wildlife programs.

The last day to qualify any measure for the November General Election ballot is June 24.

In order to qualify for the ballot, this transportation and local funding initiative needed 694,354 valid petition signatures, which is equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2006 General Election. The initiative proponents submitted 1,126,889 signatures in an attempt to qualify the measure, and it qualified through the random sample signature check.

An initiative 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 initiative needed at least 763,790 projected valid signatures to qualify by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold today.

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

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

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PROHIBITS THE STATE FROM TAKING FUNDS USED FOR TRANSPORTATION OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND SERVICES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits the State from shifting, taking, borrowing, or restricting the use of tax revenues dedicated by law to fund local government services, community redevelopment projects, or transportation projects and services. Prohibits the State from delaying the distribution of tax revenues for these purposes even when the Governor deems it necessary due to a severe state fiscal hardship. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Significant constraints on state authority over city, county, special district, and redevelopment agency funds. As a result, higher and more stable local resources, potentially affecting billions of dollars in some years. Commensurate reductions in state resources, resulting in major decreases in state spending and/or increases in state revenues. (09-0063.)

The proponents of this initiative are Joshua Shaw, Christopher K. McKenzie and James N. Earp. They can be reached at 1415 L Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, California 95814. No phone number was provided.

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

To sign up for regular ballot measure updates via email, RSS feed or Twitter, go to www.sos.ca.gov/multimedia.

To view this and other Secretary of State press releases, go to www.sos.ca.gov/admin/news-releases.htm.

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