



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB10:074

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2010

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

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified an eighth measure for the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot. The initiative would change the legislative vote requirement to pass a budget from two-thirds to a simple majority.

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.

Six other measures qualified through the initiative process:

- A measure aiming to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana;
- A measure placing the redistricting of congressional districts under the authority of the new 14-member state redistricting commission;
- A measure establishing an \$18 vehicle license surcharge to help fund state parks and wildlife programs;
- A measure prohibiting the state from taking funds used for transportation or local government projects and services;
- A measure suspending some air pollution control laws until unemployment drops below a specified level for a full year; and
- A measure repealing recent legislation that would allow businesses to carry back losses, share tax credits and use a sales-based income calculation to lower taxable income.

In order to qualify for the ballot, this 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.

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.

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

CHANGES LEGISLATIVE VOTE REQUIREMENT TO PASS A BUDGET FROM TWO-THIRDS TO A SIMPLE MAJORITY. RETAINS TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR TAXES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Changes the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. Provides that if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the day the Legislature passes a budget bill. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown changes in the content of the state budget from lowering the legislative vote requirement for passage. Fiscal impact would depend on the composition and actions of future Legislatures. Minor reduction in state costs related to compensation of legislators in years when the budget bill is passed after June 15. (09-0057.)

The proponents of this initiative are James C. Harrison and Thomas A. Willis. The proponents can be reached at (510) 346-6200.

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.

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