

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### **Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies First Initiative for February 2012 Statewide Primary**

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified the first measure for the February 7, 2012, Presidential Primary Election ballot. The initiative would change the limits on legislators' terms in office.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the term limits 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 proponent submitted 979,721 signatures in an attempt to qualify the measure, and it qualified through a full check of signatures.

The measure initially failed to qualify through the random sample signature check. When an initiative fails to qualify by random sampling, all counties must perform a full check of every signature submitted.

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

**LIMITS ON LEGISLATORS' TERMS IN OFFICE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years. Allows a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of both. Applies only to legislators first elected after the measure is passed. Provides that legislators elected before the measure is passed continue to be subject to existing term limits. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: No direct fiscal effect on state or local governments. (09-0048)

The proponent of this initiative is Lance H. Olson. He can be reached at (916) 442-2952.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, go to [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative\\_guide.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/initiative_guide.htm).

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