

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Second Initiative for February 2012 Statewide Primary

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified the second measure for the February 7, 2012, Presidential Primary Election ballot. The initiative would increase taxes on cigarettes to fund cancer research.

The first measure also qualified through the initiative process and would change the limits on legislators' terms in office.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the cigarette tax initiative needed 433,971 valid petition signatures, which is equal to five 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 477,369 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. 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. Counties receiving fewer than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures.

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

IMPOSES ADDITIONAL TAX ON CIGARETTES FOR CANCER RESEARCH. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Imposes additional five cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$1.00 per pack), and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products, to fund cancer research and other specified purposes. Requires tax revenues be deposited into a special fund to finance research and research facilities focused on detecting, preventing, treating, and curing cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and other tobacco-related diseases, and to finance prevention programs. Creates nine-member committee charged with administering the fund. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Increase in new cigarette tax revenues of about \$855 million annually by 2011-12, declining slightly annually thereafter, for various health research and tobacco-related programs. Increase of about \$45 million annually to existing health, natural resources, and research programs funded by existing tobacco taxes. Increase in state and local sales taxes of about \$32 million annually.** (09-0097.)

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The proponent of this initiative is N. Eugene Hill. 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/ballot-measures/how-to-qualify-an-initiative.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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