



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

***Creates Special Constitutional Rule for Speech
Based on the Bible. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.***

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his 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 proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent 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:

**CREATES SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL RULE FOR SPEECH BASED
ON THE BIBLE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

Exempts speech based on biblical authority from existing constitutional and statutory restrictions applicable to all other speech, including restrictions against discrimination and hate crimes. Repeals constitutional provision denying protection to acts of religious expression inconsistent with the peace or safety of the State. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Potentially minor increased costs to state and local governments to resolve legal issues pertaining to the effect of the measure.** (10-0022.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1475 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 10-0022.

The proponent for this measure, Allan Esses, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by March 24, 2011.

The initiative proponent can be reached at pastorallan@yesjesusislord.org. No phone number was provided.

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