DEBRA BOWEN
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE
NEWS RELEASE

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Seventh Measure Qualifies for November California Ballot

SACRAMENTO – California Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a seventh measure for the November 6, 2012, General Election ballot. The measure, which revises the three strikes law, joins six other measures already on the November ballot:

- A water bond measure, which was placed on the ballot by the Legislature;
- A political contribution measure, which qualified through the initiative process;
- An auto insurance measure, which qualified through the initiative process;
- A measure to repeal the State Senate District maps, which qualified through the referendum process;
- A measure to repeal the death penalty, which qualified through the initiative process; and
- A measure to increase criminal penalties for human trafficking, which qualified through the initiative process.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the three strikes initiative needed 504,760 valid petition signatures, which is equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2010 gubernatorial election. A measure can qualify via random sampling of petition signatures if the sampling projects a number of valid signatures greater than 110 percent of the required number. The three strikes initiative needed at least 555,236 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 the county, whichever is greater. Counties receiving fewer than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their elections offices.

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

> **THREE STRIKES LAW. SENTENCING FOR REPEAT FELONY OFFENDERS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.** Revises three strikes law to impose life sentence only when new felony conviction is serious or violent. Authorizes re-sentencing for offenders currently serving life sentences if third strike conviction was not serious or violent and judge determines sentence does not pose unreasonable risk to public safety. Continues to impose life sentence penalty if third strike conviction was for certain non-serious, non-violent sex or drug offenses or involved firearm possession. Maintains life sentence penalty for felons

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> with non-serious, non-violent third strike if prior convictions were for rape, murder, or child molestation. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **State savings related to prison and parole operations that potentially range in the high tens of millions of dollars annually in the short run, possibly exceeding $100 million annually in the long run. Increased state and county costs in the millions to low tens of millions of dollars annually in the first few years, likely declining substantially in future years, for state court activities and county jail, community supervision, and court-related activities.** (11-0057)

The proponent of this initiative, David Mills, can be reached at (415) 981-9940.

For more information about the initiative process and history in California, go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/initiative-guide.htm.

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