



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Voter Identification Initiative Enters Circulation

Elections. Voter Identification Requirements. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for her 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, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

ELECTIONS. VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Prohibits citizen's vote at the polls from being counted unless he or she presents government-issued photo-identification. Establishes provisional voting for citizens at the polls who fail to present government-issued photo-identification. Requires that provisional ballots and mail-in ballots be deemed invalid unless the accompanying envelope contains the citizen's birthdate, and citizen's identification number or last four digits of driver's license, state identification card, or social security number. Requires that election officials verify this information prior to opening or counting ballot. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Increased local government elections costs and decreased state fee revenues, potentially in the range of tens of millions of dollars per year. Potentially increased state funding (about \$100 million) to local governments, offset by an equal amount of decreased state funding to local governments in future years.** (13-0039.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1626 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 13-0039.

The proponent for the measure, Elise Richmond, must collect signatures of 504,760 registered voters – the number equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2010 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for the measures, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 30, 2014.

The proponent can be reached at gmv@guardmyvote.org. No phone number was provided.

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