



DR. SHIRLEY N. WEBER
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

SW21:029

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation
Prohibits Involuntary Servitude as a Punishment for Crime. Initiative
Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Dr. Shirley N. Weber announced that the proponent of a new initiative was cleared to begin collecting petition signatures on June 24, 2021.

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:

PROHIBITS INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AS A PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends California Constitution to prohibit involuntary servitude in all instances, by removing the current exception that allows involuntary servitude to punish crime. For example, requiring inmates to work without pay would not be permitted. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Fiscal effects on state and local government could range from no effect to a significant increase in state and local costs, depending on how the measure is interpreted and implemented.** (21-0003.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1897 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 20-0003.

The proponent of the measure, Kelsey Wehseles, must collect signatures of 997,139 registered voters (eight percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the November 2018 general election) in order for the measure to become eligible for the ballot. The proponent has 180 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to county elections officials no later than December 21, 2021. The address for the proponent is 2133 Marshall Way, Sacramento, CA 95818. The proponent can be reached at 916-719-0201 and kwehseles@gmail.com.

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