FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation
Reapportionment. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

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

REAPPORTIONMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Amends state Constitution's process for redistricting California’s Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts.
- Requires three-member panel of retired judges, selected by legislative leaders, to adopt new redistricting plan if measure passes and again after each national census.
- Panel must consider legislative, public proposals/comments and hold public hearings.
- Redistricting plan becomes effective immediately when adopted by judges' panel and filed with Secretary of State.
- If voters subsequently reject redistricting plan, process repeats.
- Specifies time for judicial review of adopted redistricting plan.
- If plan fails to conform to requirements, court may order new plan.

The summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments, as determined by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance, indicates that this measure would have the following major fiscal impact: One-time state redistricting costs, probably totaling a few million dollars. Comparable savings for each redistricting effort after 2010 (once every ten years).

The proponents, Edward J. “Ted” Costa, Dr. Arthur Laffer, Major General Sidney S. Novaresi (USAF) Ret., and Jimmie Johnson, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal in number to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify the measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is July 5, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 916-482-6175.

For a copy of the complete text, title & summary, and circulation calendar, please contact the Secretary of State’s Press Office at 916-653-6575.

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