NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Elections. Electronic Voting Machines. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponent of a new initiative putting restrictions on the use of electronic voting machines and making changes to several parts of the electoral process may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

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

ELECTIONS. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Prohibits electronic voting in any election, except in counties already operating electronic voting machines, if machines generate voting receipts, the software source code is a public record, and local election officials regularly count 10% of paper record. Requires all votes be hand-counted by registered voters summoned for elections duty like jurors. Allows paroled felons to vote. Prohibits peace officers from preventing voters from voting absent suspicion a crime will be committed. Permits voter registration until election day; expands polling hours. Bans restrictions on mail voting. Reduces maximum precinct size to 400 voters.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would have the following major fiscal impact: Increased local government costs to administer elections, potentially totaling in the tens of millions of dollars annually.

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1138 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0073.

The proponent, Hank Ramey, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal 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 November 3, 2005. Mr. Ramey can be reached at 909-872-1826 in Grand Terrace, CA.

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