Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Certifies Initiative for November 7, 2006 General Election

Measure is the eighth to qualify by initiative and the 13th* added to the November ballot

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that he has certified an initiative for the November ballot. This brings the total to eight measures that have qualified through initiative circulation. Including the five measures added by the Legislature, the total number of measures on the November ballot is now 13*.

Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Bars state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property to promote other private projects, uses. Limits government’s authority to adopt certain land use, housing, consumer, environmental and workplace laws and regulations, except when necessary to preserve public health or safety. Voids unpublished eminent domain court decisions. Defines “just compensation.” Government must occupy condemned property or lease property for public use. Condemned private property must be offered for resale to prior owner or owner’s heir at current fair market value if government abandons condemnation’s objective. Exempts certain governmental actions.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown, but potentially significant major future costs for state and local governments to pay damages and/or modify regulatory or other policies to conform to the measure’s provisions. Unknown, potentially major changes in governmental costs to acquire property for public purposes. (SA2005RF0146.)

The initiative received 958,144 total signatures and qualified during the random sample stage. To qualify by random sample, an initiative must receive a projected 110% of the required number of signatures, which for this initiative was 657,916. The initiative qualified with 683,712 projected valid signatures.

According to the California Constitution, qualified initiatives go before voters in a statewide election held at least 131 days from the date they qualify. The deadline for initiatives to qualify for the November ballot is June 29, 2006.

For more information on the initiatives currently in circulation, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm.

* Today, the Governor signed AB713 (Torrico) moving the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, from the November 2006 ballot to the November 2008 ballot, reducing the number of measures on this November’s ballot to 13.

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