

DEBRA BOWEN

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Tangible Ballots. Direct-Recording Electronic Devices. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

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

TANGIBLE BALLOTS. DIRECT-RECORDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Amends definition of "ballot" to require votes on a direct-recording electronic device, such as a touchscreen, result in a paper or other tangible ballot. Requires paper or other tangible ballot to be a physical object that may be indelibly marked by voters' physical action and be susceptible to counting through use of ordinary physical senses. Does not prohibit use of electronic, mechanical, or optical voting or vote counting, so long as tangible physical object results. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: One-time costs potentially in the tens of millions of dollars to replace or alter voting equipment. (06-0040.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1235 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 06-0040.

The proponent for this measure, Harry V. Lehmann, must collect the signatures of 433,971 registered voters, the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by July 5, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (415) 897-2121.

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