

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

*Candidate Vote Requirement and Runoff Elections.
Qualification of Unaffiliated Candidates. Statutory Amendment.*

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

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. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

CANDIDATE VOTE REQUIREMENT AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS. QUALIFICATION OF UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATES. STATUTORY AMENDMENT. Mandates a runoff election when no candidate in a state or federal election receives more than 50 percent of the total votes cast for that office. Allows for exceptions in local elections. Allows candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party to qualify for specified state and federal offices by gathering signatures from the voters who would be represented by the candidate. Establishes different signature requirements for qualification depending on whether the candidate has assistance from volunteers or professionals when gathering signatures. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Potential increase of state and county election expenses in the tens of millions of dollars for every four-year election cycle. (Initiative 07-0019.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1252 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0019.

The proponent for this measure, Connor Vlakancic, 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 December 10, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (202) 558-7077.

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