



DEBRA BOWEN

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Two Marriage Initiatives Enter Circulation

*Limit on Marriage. Constitutional Amendment.
and*

Marriage. Elimination of Domestic Partnership Rights. Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of two different new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for their measures.

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

LIMIT ON MARRIAGE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: The measure would have no fiscal effect on state or local governments. This is because there would be no change to the manner in which marriages are currently recognized by the state. (Initiative 07-0022.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1254 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0022.

The proponents for this measure, Dennis Hollingsworth, Gail J. Knight, Hak-Shing William Tam, Peter Henderson and Mark A. Jansson, must collect the signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by December 13, 2007.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (916) 608-3065.

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

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MARRIAGE. ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Provides that only marriage between one man and one woman is valid or recognized in California. Prohibits decreasing marriage rights shared by one man and one woman. Defines man and woman. Voids or makes unenforceable certain rights and obligations conferred by California law on same-sex and opposite-sex couples registered as domestic partners, concerning subject areas including, but not limited to, community property, intestate succession, stepparent adoption, child custody, child support, hospital visitation, health care decisions for an incapacitated partner, insurance benefits, death benefits, and recovery for wrongful death. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown, but potential increased costs for state and local governments. The impact would depend in large part on future court interpretations. (Initiative 07-0020.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1253 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0020.

The proponents for this measure, Larry Bowler and Randy Thomasson, must collect the signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by December 13, 2007.

The initiative proponents can be reached at P.O. Box 1978, Sacramento, CA 95812. No phone number was provided.

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