



# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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### Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

#### *Prohibition on Required or Coerced Sterilization of Animals or Humans. Constitutional Amendment*

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for her 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 the measure is as follows:

**PROHIBITION ON REQUIRED OR COERCED STERILIZATION OF ANIMALS OR HUMANS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Prohibits enactment or enforcement of any law requiring or coercing by any means, including financial penalty, sexual sterilization of any human or animal. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Short-term savings to local governments because of the elimination of spay and neuter enforcement and surgery costs, offset in the long-term by unknown, but potentially significant, increased costs to operate shelters and provide animal control services to an increased dog and cat population. Unknown, but potentially significant loss of local government animal control revenue, because jurisdictions will no longer be able to charge a higher license or adoption fee for unaltered animals than for animals that are spayed or neutered. Potential avoidance of state costs of a few tens of thousands of dollars annually associated with the prohibition of chemical castration of certain prisoners upon their parole. (Initiative 07-0063.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1295 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0063.

The proponent for this measure, Dianne-Margaret Hedgcock, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – for the measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by April 21, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at P.O. Box 8413, Redlands, California 92375. No phone number was provided.

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