

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Certifies Initiative for February Primary Election Ballot

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today certified a community college funding initiative for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election ballot. This brings the number of measures on the February ballot to two. The first measure, which originally qualified for the June 3, 2008 Primary ballot, is a transportation funding initiative.

In order to qualify for the ballot, this initiative needed 598,105 valid petition signatures, which is equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2002 General Election. The measure qualified when 619,644 out of the 901,241 signatures submitted were determined to be valid after a full check of signatures.

The community college funding initiative originally failed to qualify using the random sample signature check. When an initiative fails to qualify by random sample, all counties must perform a full check of every signature.

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

COMMUNITY COLLEGES. FUNDING. GOVERNANCE. FEES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

Establishes in state constitution a system of independent public community college districts and Board of Governors. Generally, requires minimum levels of state funding for school districts and community college districts to be calculated separately, using different criteria and separately appropriated. Allocates 10.46 percent of current Proposition 98 school funding maintenance factor to community colleges. Sets community college fees at \$15/unit per semester; limits future fee increases. Provides formula for allocation by Legislature to community college districts that would not otherwise receive general fund revenues through community college apportionment. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Potential increases in state spending on K-14 education of about \$135 million in 2007-08, \$275 million in 2008-09, and \$470 million in 2009-2010, with unknown impact annually thereafter. Annual loss of fee revenues to community colleges of about \$71 million in 2007-08, with unknown impacts annually thereafter. (06-0030.)

The proponents for this measure, Dennis Smith and Scott Lay, can be reached at (916) 442-2952.

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