



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel (916) 657-2166 | Fax (916) 653-3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

October 22, 2007

TO: ALL COUNTY CLERKS/REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (07194)

FROM:   
Cathy Mitchell  
Chief of Elections

SUBJECT: Referenda Petitions

I thought it would be a good idea to go over the timelines for the referenda that are attempting to qualify for the ballot.

This week, the Secretary of State's office will release for petition circulation the title and summary from the Attorney General on a new referendum. The legislation being referred is SB 777 (Kuehl), Chapter 569, Statutes of 2007. The deadline for proponents to submit petitions to you will be on or about January 10, 2008. As you know, referenda can qualify up to 31 days before the election (Article II, Section 9, of the California Constitution). That said, should this one qualify, it will appear on the June 2008 ballot.

However, the four tribal gaming referenda that currently are in the random check stage will be on the February 5, 2008, ballot if they qualify. The last day for counties to report their signatures is December 3. This is 64 days before the election. In addition, since the referenda aren't late legislative measures, they cannot contain provisions to amend any Election Code sections, meaning any of the measures that qualify will stand for the entire 20-day public display. In simple terms, that means that if counties take all of the time allotted to them to verify signatures and the measures do not qualify for the ballot until December 3, 2007, the Secretary of State's office will not be able to supply you with the ballot label, title and summary information until December 26 (E-41).

Please feel free to call me at (916) 653-0721 or Joanna Southard (916) 657-2184 if you have any questions regarding this.