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## Increases Size of Legislature and Changes Legislative Process. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

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FEB 22 2017

*John Cox*  
*P.O. Box 3848*  
*Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067*

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

February , 2017

Initiative Coordinator  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of California  
P.O. Box 994255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-25550

Re: Request for Title and Summary for Proposed Initiative  
"The Low Cost New Hampshire-Style Neighborhood Legislature Act"

Dear Initiative Coordinator:

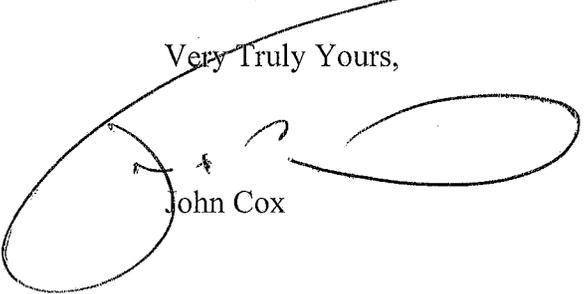
Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d) of the California Constitution, I am submitting the attached proposed statewide ballot measure to your office and request that you prepare a circulating title and summary of the measure as provided by law.

Included with this letter are the following:

- Statement signed by proponent pursuant to California Elections Code sections 9001 and 9608;
- Proponent's address as registered to vote is shown on Attachment 'A'; and
- A check in the amount of \$2,000.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (847) 274-8814.

Very Truly Yours,

  
John Cox

## INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO VOTERS

### SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF FINDINGS

- A. Special interest money has a corrupting influence on our state legislature. The promise of a quality education, thriving business environment, low cost of living and affordable housing have all suffered greatly in recent years as a result.
- B. The state legislature has also repeatedly increased its own budget, despite failing to meet the real needs of the people of California. At the same time, the salaries of legislators have been raised repeatedly, far above the median family income in California.
- C. Our legislative districts are so large that it takes more and more money to run election campaigns, with legislators spending more and more time raising campaign money. Qualified, interested, independent and experienced persons often don't run for the legislature due to the huge fundraising and campaign time demands required.
- D. The solution is to divide each of our bloated 120 legislative districts into 100 Neighborhood districts so that a legislator will once again represent his or her neighbors. New Hampshire has a system like this and it works well. The districts are so small that it only costs about \$600 to campaign for office. Most candidates are not professional politicians and voter turnout is among the highest in the nation. Its Legislature routinely produces on-time, balanced budgets.
- E. Voter participation has dropped in California as more and more voters become convinced that their voices are being drowned out by the power of special interest money.

### SECTION 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- A. The cost of operating the state legislature must be reduced, including the salaries of legislators who are paid far more than the median income of typical California families.
- B. Each of the current 120 legislative districts must be divided into 100 neighborhood districts so that Legislators represent the interests of their neighbors and not special interest donors. These reforms will reduce overall costs, even though the number of those serving in the legislature as neighborhood legislators will increase. As in New Hampshire, serving in the legislature will once again become an opportunity for public service rather than a job for career politicians.
- C. Neighborhood legislators will meet in local regions to select 80 of their number to go to Sacramento as part of the Working Group for the Assembly, as well as 40 of their number to serve as the Working Group for the Senate.

Therefore, the people hereby enact "The Low Cost New Hampshire-Style Neighborhood Legislature Act."

### SECTION 3. THE LOW COST NEW HAMPSHIRE-STYLE NEIGHBORHOOD LEGISLATURE ACT

Sections 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7.5 of Article IV are hereby amended, and section 9.5 of Article IV is hereby added to the California Constitution to read as follows (additions shown in underline type and deletions shown in ~~strikeout type~~):

Sec. 1. The legislative power of this State is vested in the California Legislature which consists of neighborhood representatives elected to the Senate and Assembly, but the people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Sec. 2. (a)(1) The Senate shall be comprised of representatives from neighborhood districts, as provided in section 6. ~~has a membership of 40~~ Senators shall be elected for 4-year terms, ~~half~~ 20 to begin every 2 years.

(2) The Assembly shall be comprised of representatives from neighborhood districts, as provided in section 6. Assembly members shall be ~~has a membership of 80 members~~ elected for 2-year terms.

(3) The terms of a Senator or a Member of the Assembly shall commence on the first Monday in December next following her or his election.

(4) During her or his lifetime a person may serve no more than 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms. This subdivision shall apply only to those Members of the Senate or the Assembly who are first elected to the Legislature after the effective date of this subdivision and who have not previously served in the Senate or Assembly. Members of the Senate or Assembly who were elected before the effective date of this subdivision may serve only the number of terms allowed at the time of the last election before the effective date of this subdivision.

(b) Election of members of the Assembly shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years unless otherwise prescribed by the Legislature. Senators shall be elected at the same time and places as members of the Assembly.

(c) A person is ineligible to be a member of the Legislature unless the person is an elector and ~~has been~~ is a resident of the legislative-neighborhood district for one year, and a citizen of the United States and a resident of California for 3 years, immediately preceding the election, and service of the full term of office to which the person is seeking to be elected would not exceed the maximum years of service permitted by subdivision (a) of this section.

(d) When a vacancy occurs in the Legislature the Governor immediately shall call an election to fill the vacancy.

(e) The Senate Working Committee shall be comprised of 40 Senate members, chosen from among the neighborhood representatives elected within each Senatorial District. The Assembly Working Committee shall be comprised of 80 Assembly members chosen from among the neighborhood representatives elected within each Assembly District. One Member of the Working Committee shall be elected by majority vote of the neighborhood representatives from each Senatorial and Assembly District in an open meeting held pursuant to section 3(a). When a vacancy occurs in a Working Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the neighborhood representatives from a Senatorial or Assembly District, as appropriate. The neighborhood representatives may remove their respective Working Committee member upon a rollcall vote entered into the journal, two thirds of the neighborhood representatives concurring.

Sec. 3. (a) The neighborhood representatives from each Assembly and Senate District Legislature shall convene in each respective District in regular session at noon on the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year for the purpose of choosing which neighborhood representative will serve in the Working Committees of and each house. On the second Monday in December of each even-numbered year, the regular session of the Legislature shall commence and each Working Committee shall convene and shall immediately organize.

Each session of the Legislature shall adjourn sine die by operation of the Constitution at midnight on November 30 of the following even-numbered year.

(b) On extraordinary occasions the Governor by proclamation may cause the Legislature or both Working Committees to assemble in special session. When so assembled it has power to legislate only on subjects specified in the proclamation but may provide for expenses and other matters incidental to the session.

(c) The neighborhood representatives in each district may convene upon petition signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the members for the purpose of removing a member of their respective Working Committee pursuant to section 2(e), or to provide direction or input to their respective Working Committee regarding any legislative matter.

(d) Except as provided in section 9.5, all legislative power provided for in this Article shall be exercised by the Senate and Assembly Working Committees and any reference to "Senate," "Assembly," "Legislature," or "house," herein means the Senate and Assembly Working Committees.

(e) The provisions of section 4(a), 4.5, 5, 13 and 15, including the provisions regarding ethics, and conflicts of interest, shall apply to all members of the Legislature, including the Senate and Assembly Working Committees.

(f) Notwithstanding section 8 of Article III:

(1) The annual compensation for each Senate and Assembly neighborhood representative shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

(2) The annual compensation for a member of the Senate and Assembly Working Committees shall be equivalent to one hundred and twenty percent (120%) of the annual median household income for the State of California, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau American Community Survey published at the time a new regular session is convened, as described in subdivision (a) of this section.

(3) Notwithstanding section 4(b), neighborhood representatives shall be reimbursed for his or her actual travel expenses attending local meetings of the neighborhood representatives and members of the Senate and Assembly Working Committee shall be reimbursed for his or her actual travel and living expenses, not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) per day. The Citizens Compensation Commission may adjust the per diem of members based on the Consumer Price Index for California.

Sec. 6. For the purpose of choosing members of the Legislature, the State shall be divided into 40 Senatorial and 80 Assembly districts to be called Senatorial and Assembly Districts. Each Senatorial district shall be further divided into neighborhood districts of populations of approximately 10,000 persons, as nearly equal as is practical. choose one Senator and each Each Assembly district shall be further divided into neighborhood districts of populations of approximately 5,000 persons, as nearly equal as is practical. choose one member of the Assembly.

Boundary lines for Senatorial, Assembly, and neighborhood districts shall be drawn pursuant to Article XXI.

Sec. 7.5. In the fiscal year immediately following the adoption of The Low Cost New Hampshire-Style Neighborhood Legislature Act this Act, the total aggregate expenditures of the Legislature for the compensation of members and employees of, and the operating expenses and equipment for, the Legislature may not exceed an amount equal to nine hundred fifty thousand

dollars (\$950,000) per member for that fiscal year or ~~80~~ sixty seven (67%) percent of the amount of money expended for those purposes in the ~~preceding~~ completed fiscal year immediately preceding the effective date of this Act, ~~whichever is less~~. For each fiscal year thereafter, the total aggregate expenditures may not exceed an amount equal to that expended for those purposes in the preceding fiscal year, adjusted and compounded by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the appropriations limit for the state established pursuant to Article XIII B.

Sec. 9.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, except for urgency bills pursuant to section 8(d), a bill, including the budget bill, passed by both the Senate and Assembly Working Committees shall not be presented to the Governor unless the bill has first been presented to and approved by each house of the whole Legislature by the appropriate vote required for enactment of the bill. The Working Committees shall notify the members of the whole Legislature of bills awaiting their action and provide not less than 10 days for members to cast their votes. Members of the whole Legislature shall vote electronically online from their home districts and all votes shall be viewable by the public. No amendment to a bill so presented may be offered, considered, or approved by either house of the whole Legislature.

#### SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption by the voters and shall become operative as follows:

- A. The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall draw boundary lines for neighborhood districts based on the State Senatorial and Assembly Districts boundaries approved in 2021 pursuant to Article XXI.
- B. Elections shall be conducted and the Legislature convened pursuant to this Act in 2022. Any Senator serving an unexpired term in 2022 shall be deemed the neighborhood representative for the neighborhood district in which he or she resides without an election, and shall be exempt from any reduction in compensation pursuant to section 3(f) for the remainder of the unexpired term. If two or more Senators reside in the same neighborhood district, the Citizens Redistricting Commission shall assign each Senator to represent a neighborhood district nearest to his or her residence for the remainder of the term, without an election.
- C. The compensation and expense reimbursement limitations shall become effective for persons elected commencing in 2022, except as provided in paragraph B. The budget limitation for the Legislature shall commence with the Legislative session commenced in December of 2022.

#### SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY/CONFLICTING MEASURES/STANDING

If any part of this measure or the application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications which can reasonably be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

This measure is intended to be comprehensive. It is the intent of the People that in the event this measure or measures relating to the same subject shall appear on the same statewide election

ballot, the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and all provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

The people of the State of California declare that the proponent of this Act has a direct and personal stake in defending this Act and grant formal authority to the proponent to defend this Act in any legal proceeding, either by intervening in such legal proceeding, or by defending the Act on behalf of the people and the State in the event that the State declines to defend the Act or declines to appeal an adverse judgment against the Act.

In the event that the proponent is defending this Act in a legal proceeding because the State has declined to defend it or to appeal an adverse judgment against it, the proponent shall act as an agent of the people and the State; be subject to all ethical, legal, and fiduciary duties applicable to such parties in such legal proceedings; take and be subject to the Oath of Office prescribed by Article XX, section 3 of the California Constitution for the limited purpose of acting on behalf of the people and the State in such legal proceeding; and be entitled to recover reasonable legal fees and related costs from the State.



**ALEX PADILLA**  
California Secretary of State

**AP16:027**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 1, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

**Jesse Melgar or Sam Mahood**

**(916) 653-6575**

## **Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation**

***Increases Size of Legislature and Changes Legislative Process. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.***

**SACRAMENTO** – Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced the proponent of a new initiative was cleared to begin collecting petition signatures this past Friday, April 28, 2017.

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

**INCREASES SIZE OF LEGISLATURE AND CHANGES LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Increases Legislature's size almost 100-fold by dividing current Assembly and Senate districts into neighborhood districts with each Assemblymember representing about 5,000 persons and each Senator representing about 10,000 persons. Provides for neighborhood district representatives to elect working committees the size of the current Assembly and Senate, 80 Assemblymembers and 40 Senators. Gives working committees legislative power generally, and sole power to amend bills, but requires approval by appropriate vote of the full membership in each house for passage of any non-urgency bill. Reduces legislators' pay and expenditures. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Decreased state spending on the Legislature of about \$100 million annually. Increased county election costs of tens of millions of dollars in election years beginning in 2022.** (17-0002.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1798 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 17-0002.

The proponent of the measure, John Cox, must collect the signatures of 585,407 registered voters (eight percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the November 2014 general election) in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 180 days to circulate petitions for the

measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to county elections officials no later than October 25, 2017. The proponent can be reached at (847) 274-8814.

###

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June 21, 2017

Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

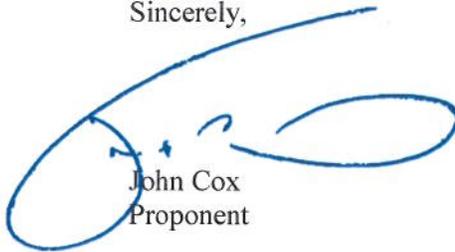
Re: Notification Under Elections Code § 9034 Regarding Initiative No. 1798

Dear Secretary Padilla:

In accordance with California Elections Code section 9034, I, John Cox, proponent of Secretary of State Initiative Number 1798. (17-0002), entitled "Increases Size of Legislature and Changes Legislative Process. Initiative Constitutional Amendment", hereby certify that at least 25 percent of the 585,407 required number of signatures to qualify the initiative measure for the ballot has been obtained.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

Sincerely,



John Cox  
Proponent

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April 13, 2017

APR 13 2017

Hon. Xavier Becerra  
Attorney General  
1300 I Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Attention: Ms. Ashley Johansson  
Initiative Coordinator

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9005, we have reviewed the proposed constitutional initiative regarding legislative districts (A.G. File No. 17-0002).

## Background

***Composition and Funding of Legislature.*** The California Legislature has 120 members—80 in the Assembly and 40 in the Senate. The State Constitution requires candidates for these offices to be eligible to vote, residents of their districts for one year, and residents of California for three years. Proposition 140 (1990) established an annual cap on spending in support of the Legislature (for expenses such as legislator and staff salaries and other operating costs). This cap increases annually based on growth in the state's economy and population. In the current year, the Legislature is budgeted to spend about \$300 million.

***District Boundaries.*** Every ten years, the Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for establishing new district boundaries for the Assembly and the Senate. In 2010-11, a year of peak activity for the commission, the commission's total annual costs were in the range of several million dollars. When the commission sets district boundaries, it must meet the requirements of federal law and other requirements, such as not favoring or discriminating against political parties, incumbents, or political candidates. In addition, the commission is required, to the extent possible, to adopt district boundaries that:

- Maintain the geographic integrity of any city, county, neighborhood, and community of interest in a single district.
- Develop geographically compact districts.
- Place two Assembly districts together within one Senate district and place ten Senate districts together within one Board of Equalization district.

***County Election Responsibilities.*** California counties are responsible for conducting elections, including: dividing each county into precincts, establishing and providing places for

voting, maintaining voter registration records, printing ballots and sample ballots, and transmitting election results to the Secretary of State. Total county costs to administer elections are estimated to be roughly \$100 million for a statewide election. Counties also incur costs to hold special elections when a vacancy occurs in the Legislature and the Governor calls an election to fill the vacancy.

## **Proposal**

The measure amends the Constitution to (1) subdivide each Assembly and Senate district into a large number of “neighborhood districts” and (2) reduce legislative spending.

***Neighborhood Districts.*** The measure directs the Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw boundary lines to subdivide each Assembly and Senate district into neighborhood districts with populations of approximately 5,000 and 10,000 persons, respectively. Each neighborhood district would be represented by an Assembly Member or Senator. (Because California has about 39 million residents, the measure increases the number of Senators from 40 to about 3,900 and increases the number of Assembly Members from 80 to about 7,800.) Beginning in 2022 and by a majority vote the (1) elected Senators in a Senate district would select one representative to serve on the Senate Working Committee and (2) elected Assembly Members in an Assembly district would select one representative to serve on the Assembly Working Committee. In general, the measure assigns most responsibilities and powers currently held by the Senate and Assembly to the new Senate and Assembly Working Committees, except that budget bills and non-urgency bills also would require approval by the full Legislature before they took effect. The number of representatives in the Senate and Assembly Working Committees would be the same as the current number of Senators and Assembly Members—40 and 80, respectively.

***Legislative Spending.*** Beginning in the fiscal year immediately following the measure’s adoption, the measure reduces the constitutional cap on spending by the Legislature to an amount equal to 67 percent of its prior year’s spending. The measure also specifies that the compensation for each Senator and Assembly Member elected after 2022 shall be \$1 per year and the compensation for each member of the Working Committees elected after 2022 shall be equal to 120 percent of the median California household income.

## **FISCAL EFFECT**

***Decreased State Costs.*** The changes to the legislative spending limit would reduce state spending by around \$100 million annually. Every ten years, some of these state savings would be offset by increased costs—probably in the millions of dollars—by the Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw boundaries for the new neighborhood districts.

***Increased County Costs.*** Counties would have increased costs to administer the election of almost 12,000 new legislative offices, including improving data management capacities, modifying precinct boundaries, and printing and mailing sample ballots identifying each voter’s neighborhood district and holding special elections in cases when a vacancy occurs in the Legislature. These increased county costs could be in the range of tens of millions of dollars in election years beginning in 2022.

**Summary of Fiscal Effects.** The measure would have the following fiscal impact:

- Decreased state spending on the Legislature of about \$100 million annually.
- Increased county election costs of tens of millions of dollars in election years beginning in 2022.

Sincerely,



Mac Taylor  
Legislative Analyst



Michael Cohen  
Director of Finance

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

**INCREASES SIZE OF LEGISLATURE AND CHANGES LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.**

**INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Increases Legislature's size almost 100-fold by dividing current Assembly and Senate districts into neighborhood districts with each Assemblymember representing about 5,000 persons and each Senator representing about 10,000 persons. Provides for neighborhood district representatives to elect working committees the size of the current Assembly and Senate, 80 Assemblymembers and 40 Senators. Gives working committees legislative power generally, and sole power to amend bills, but requires approval by appropriate vote of the full membership in each house for passage of any non-urgency bill. Reduces legislators' pay and expenditures. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Decreased state spending on the Legislature of about \$100 million annually. Increased county election costs of tens of millions of dollars in election years beginning in 2022.** (17-0002.)