

09-0016

June 1, 2009

Office of the Attorney General  
Initiative Coordinator  
1300 I Street  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

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**INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

The undersigned hereby requests preparation of a title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed initiative measure known as the Responsible California State Budget Reform Act pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d), of the California Constitution. Enclosed is the text of the proposed initiative with the required signed statement pursuant to California Elections Code section 9608 and a check in the amount of \$200.

Please direct any questions to the proponent at the address provided below.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Denham  
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## INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

SECTION 1. The measure shall be known and may be cited as "The Responsible California State Budget Reform Act."

## SECTION 2. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA MAKE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS:

- (1) The current two-thirds supermajority vote requirement to enact the state budget and raise revenue has led to paralysis in state government. This antiquated budget process does not provide secure funding for essential public services.
- (2) However, a simple majority vote requirement to enact the state budget and raise revenue would not impose sufficient checks and balances on public spending and revenue measures to protect the legitimate interests and expectations of California taxpayers.
- (3) A three-fifths supermajority vote requirement equivalent to the 60 votes (out of 100) currently required to invoke cloture in the United States Senate is an appropriate compromise and should be adopted for state budget and revenue measures.
- (4) This simple reform will break the current partisan gridlock, restore the Legislature to its proper role in state government, and allow the rival budget plans of various political parties to compete fairly for the support of California voters.

SECTION 3. CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 4, Sec. 9, subdiv.(d) is amended to read (change in italics):

No bill except the budget bill may contain more than one item of appropriation, and that for one certain, expressed purpose. Appropriations from the General Fund of the State, except appropriations for the public schools, are void unless passed in each house by rollcall vote entered in the journal, *three fifths* of the membership concurring.

SECTION 4. CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 13A, Sec. 3 is amended to read (change in italics):

From and after the effective date of this article, any changes in State taxes enacted for the purpose of increasing revenues collected pursuant thereto whether by increased rates or changes in the methods of computation must be imposed by Act passed by not less than *three-fifths* of all members elected to each of the two houses of the Legislature, except that no new ad valorem taxes on real property, or sales or transaction taxes on the sales of real property may be imposed.