

CHAIR
STEVE PEACE

VICE CHAIR
TONY CARDENAS

SENATE

DICK ACKERMAN
DEDE ALPERT
JIM BATTIN
K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN
JACK O'CONNELL
RICHARD G. POLANCO
JOHN VASCONCELLOS

ASSEMBLY

ROY ASHBURN
PATRICIA C. BATES
JACKIE GOLDBERG
FRED KEELEY
CAROLE MIGDEN
GEORGE RUNNER
RODERICK WRIGHT

April 24, 2001

Hon. Bill Lockyer
Attorney General
1300 I Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Ms. Tricia Knight
Initiative Coordinator

Dear Attorney General Lockyer:

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9005, we have reviewed the proposed initiative cited as the "Local Option Term Limits Initiative" (File No. SA2001RF0012).

Background

It is written in the Constitution of the State of California that no state Senator may serve more than two four-year terms and that no Member of the Assembly may serve more than three two-year terms.

Proposal

This measure would allow voters in an Assembly or Senate district to petition the Secretary of State to permit a legislator, who would normally be ineligible to serve an additional term due to term limits, to be a candidate for that office during the next election. The petition would have to be signed by registered voters residing in the legislator's district, equal in number to 20 percent of ballots cast for that office in the last general election. Petitions would be submitted to local election officials who would certify

the signatures to the Secretary of State. If a sufficient number of signatures are verified, the name of the legislator would be placed on the ballot for that office during the next general election.

Term-limited legislators who become eligible for election under this measure could do so only in the district in which they were currently serving and could become eligible for reelection on a one-time basis only. Legislators reelected under this measure may extend their term in office by a maximum of four years.

Fiscal Effect

Under this measure, local governments would incur unknown, probably minor, costs for verifying the signatures on the petition. The magnitude of these costs would depend on the number of signatures required to validate the petition and the extent to which the local term-limit option is utilized. The Secretary of State would incur minor costs for tracking the eligibility of candidates for reelection.

Summary

This measure would result in unknown, probably minor, costs to local governments for signature verification and minor costs to the state government.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Hill
Legislative Analyst

B. Timothy Gage
Director of Finance