November 30, 2011

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

Re: Request for Title and Summary for Proposed Initiative

Dear Ms. McFarland:

Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d) of the California Constitution, we are submitting the attached proposed statewide ballot measure ("The Citizen Legislature Act") to your office and request that you prepare a circulating title and summary of the measure as provided by law. We have also included with this letter the required signed statement pursuant to California Elections Code sections 9001 and 9608, and a check in the amount of $200. Our addresses as registered to vote are shown on Attachment ‘A’ to this letter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our representative, Mark Abernathy, (661) 327-4141, 4900 California Avenue, Suite 105-B, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

Very Truly Yours,

[Signatures]

Shannon Grove  
Assemblywoman,  
32nd Assembly District

Ted Costa  
Chief Executive Officer,  
People’s Advocate
THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE ACT

SECTION 1. Title.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Citizen Legislature Act."

SECTION 2. Findings and Purposes.

The People of the State of California hereby make the following findings and declare that their purpose in enacting this Act is as follows:

(a) California's experiment with a "full-time" "professional" Legislature has failed. The result has been a Legislature dominated by career politicians beholden to special interests. Legislators do not work "full-time" yet they receive full-time pay and benefits, more than double the amount of most other states. Yet, with all of these incentives, they continually fail to accomplish their most important job, passing a balanced state budget on-time.

(b) California needs and deserves a Legislature that is closer to the people, lives with the laws it makes and is only interested in conducting the people's business. Most states have a part-time Legislature, including some of the largest and most populous. A part-time Legislature will replace professional politicians with citizen legislators and will break the stranglehold of special interests. Part of breaking this stranglehold requires prohibiting former Legislators from accepting employment with, or to represent interests before state government or receiving compensation for lobbying of state government. A part-time Legislature will reduce the number of unnecessary and self-serving bills and will result in a more responsible and accountable government.

(c) California needs the fiscal stability of a two-year budget, with the first year of each legislative session devoted to budgetary affairs.

(d) A two year budget is functionally related to the effective operation of a part-time Legislature as provided for herein, and adjustment of legislative compensation also is essential to, and commensurate with the reduced schedule of a part-time Legislature, and together these reforms are unified and interrelated.

(e) In order to further these reforms and the purposes stated in section 1.5, the people hereby amend the California Constitution to enact the "Citizen Legislature Act."

SECTION 3. Constitutional Amendment

Section 3 of Article IV of the California Constitution is amended as follows, by amending subdivisions (a) and (b) and adding new subdivisions (c) - (f):

Sec. 3 (a) The Legislature shall convene in regular session, and each house shall immediate organize, at noon on the first Monday after January 1, 2013 and each year thereafter, of each year and each house shall immediately organize, for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, whereupon the Legislature shall stand in recess. The Legislature shall reconvene in regular session on the first Monday in May for a period not to exceed 60 calendar days. Each session of
the Legislature shall adjourn sine die by operation of the Constitution at midnight on November 30th of the following even-numbered year.

(b) On extraordinary occasions, the Governor by proclamation may cause the Legislature to assemble in special session for a maximum of 15 days. When so assembled it has the power to legislate only on subjects specified in the proclamation but may provide for expenses and other matters incidental to the session.

(c) The regular session in each odd-numbered year shall be devoted exclusively to consideration and adoption of the state budget for the two-year biennial fiscal cycle beginning July 1 of each odd numbered year and consisting of two fiscal years. The regular session in each even-numbered year shall be devoted exclusively to consideration and adoption of non-budget matters.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), the Legislature may reconvene for an additional period of 5 days following recess or adjournment to reconsider bills vetoed by the Governor pursuant to section 10.

(e) On or before the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the California Citizens Compensation Commission shall, pursuant to section 8 of Article III, reduce the annual salary of Members of the Legislature to One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars per month for the biennial fiscal cycle in which this section becomes effective. Thereafter, the Commission may increase the annual salary of Members of the Legislature to account for any increase in the cost of living, and may reduce such salary at its discretion, pursuant to section 8 of Article III.

(f) A Member of the Legislature may hold other employment while employed part time as a Legislator, but may not receive pay for employment by any other state government agency during such time, or for any appointive state government position for a five year period following the end of the Member’s service in the Legislature.

Sec. 5, subdivision (e) of Article IV of the California Constitution is amended to read:

(c) The Legislature shall enact laws that prohibit a Member of the Legislature whose term of office commences on or after December 3, 2013 +9910, from lobbying, for compensation, as governed by the Political Reform Act, before the Legislature or any agency of state government for 60-42 months after leaving office.

Sec. 4, subdiv.(b) of Article IV of the California Constitution is amended to read:

(b) (1) Travel and living expenses for Members of the Legislature in connection with their official duties for the session commencing on the First Monday after January 1, 2013, shall be prescribed by statute passed by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring: provided, however, the rate of travel expenses shall not exceed the daily rate set for employees of state agencies. A Member may not receive travel and living expenses only during the times that the Legislature is in recess for more than three calendar days, unless the Member is traveling to or from, or is in attendance at, any meeting of a committee of which he or she is a member, or a meeting, conference, or other legislative function or responsibility as authorized by the rules of the house of which he or she is a member, which is held at a location at least 20 miles from his or her place of residence.
(2) The Legislature shall not purchase or lease any vehicle for the use of a Member of the Legislature.

Sec. 10, subdivs. (f)(1) of Article IV of the California Constitution is amended to read:

(f) (1) If, following the enactment of the budget bill for the 2004-05 2013-2015 biennial fiscal year cycle or any subsequent biennial fiscal cycle year, the Governor determines that, for that biennial fiscal cycle year, General Fund revenues will decline substantially below the estimate of General Fund revenues upon which the budget bill for that biennial fiscal cycle year, as enacted, was based, or General Fund expenditures will increase substantially above that estimate of General Fund revenues, or both, the Governor may issue a proclamation declaring a fiscal emergency and shall thereupon cause the Legislature to assemble in special session for a period not to exceed 15 days for this purpose. The proclamation shall identify the nature of the fiscal emergency and shall be submitted by the Governor to the Legislature, accompanied by proposed legislation to address the fiscal emergency.

Sec. 12 of Article IV of the California Constitution, subdivisions (a), (c)(3) and (4), (g) and (h) are amended to read:

(a) Within the first 10 days of each biennial fiscal cycle year, the Governor shall submit to the Legislature, with an explanatory message, a budget for the ensuing biennial fiscal cycle year containing itemized statements for recommended state expenditures and estimated state revenues. If recommended expenditures exceed estimated revenues, the Governor shall recommend the sources from which the additional revenues should be provided.

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(c) ***

(3) The Legislature shall pass the budget bill by midnight on June 15 of each odd-numbered year of the biennial fiscal cycle.

(4) Until the budget bill has been enacted, the Legislature shall not send to the Governor for consideration any bill appropriating funds for expenditure during the biennial fiscal cycle year for which the budget bill is to be enacted, except emergency bills recommended by the Governor or appropriations for the salaries and expenses of the Legislature.

(g) For the 2004-2005 2013-2015 biennial fiscal cycle year, or any subsequent biennial fiscal cycle year, the Legislature may not send to the Governor for consideration, nor may the Governor sign into law, a budget bill that would appropriate from the General Fund, for that biennial fiscal cycle year, a total amount that, when combined with all appropriations from the General Fund for that biennial fiscal cycle year made as of the date of the budget bill's passage, and the amount of any General Fund moneys transferred to the Budget Stabilization Account for that biennial fiscal cycle year pursuant to Section 20 of Article XVI, exceeds General Fund revenues for that biennial fiscal cycle year estimated as of the date of the budget bill's passage. That estimate of General Fund revenues shall be set forth in the budget bill passed by the Legislature. The Governor shall not sign any budget bill enacted by the Legislature until he receives a report from the State Treasurer and the State Controller certifying that the budget bill meets the balance requirements of this section. No budget bill shall be chaptered, following the
Governor’s exercise of his line-item veto authority under section 10 (a) of this Article IV, until the Governor receives a report from the State Treasurer and the State Controller certifying that the budget bill, together with the Governor’s line-item vetoes, meets the balance requirements of this section.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this Constitution, including subdivision (c) of this section, Section 4 of this article, and Sections 4 and 8 of Article III, in any biennial fiscal cycle year in which the budget bill is not passed by the Legislature by midnight on June 15 of an odd-numbered year, there shall be no appropriation from the current budget or future budget to pay any salary or reimbursement for travel or living expenses for Members of the Legislature during any regular or special session for the period from midnight on June 15 of the odd-numbered year until the day that a balanced budget bill is presented to the Governor. No salary or reimbursement for travel or living expenses forfeited pursuant to this subdivision shall be paid retroactively.

SECTION 4. Operative Date/Severability

(a) Sections 3, 4(b), 5 and sections 10 and 12 of Article IV, as amended, shall become effective immediately; however it shall become operative for the biennium session commencing on the first Monday in December in 2012.

(b) 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.