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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:

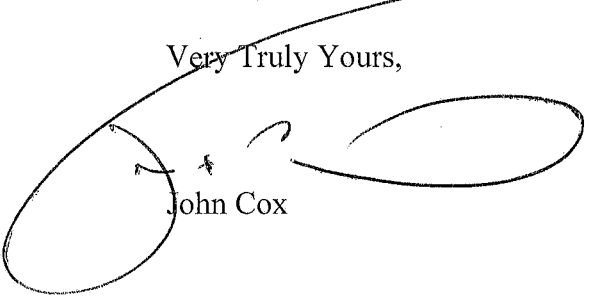
Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d) of the California Constitution, I am submitting the attached proposed statewide ballot measure to your office and request that you prepare a circulating title and summary of the measure as provided by law.

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.