



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

BILL BRADBURY

For Immediate Release:
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The Office of the Secretary of State received a judgment from the Supreme Court on April 2, 2007, for initiative petition #51, proposing a statutory amendment, for the General Election of November 4, 2008. The judgment from the Supreme Court included a copy of the modified ballot title submitted to the court by the Attorney General's office.

The modified ballot title is as follows:

**LIMITS AMOUNT OF CONTINGENT FEES THAT LAWYERS MAY CHARGE
CLIENTS FOR REPRESENTATION IN CIVIL CASE**

RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: "Yes" vote limits contingent fee plaintiffs' lawyers may charge in civil cases to 25% of first \$25,000 recovered, 10% of additional recovery.

RESULT OF "NO" VOTE: "No" vote rejects modifications to current law, which prohibits all lawyers from charging illegal or clearly excessive fees and contingent fees in domestic relations cases.

SUMMARY: Current law does not define the phrase "contingent fee" in lawyer-client context; prohibits all lawyers from charging illegal or clearly excessive fees and from charging contingent fees in domestic relations cases; does not otherwise limit specific percentage of recovery or award a lawyer can charge as a contingency fee. Measure defines "contingent fee" as a fee where a lawyer is paid a percentage of money awarded to client in a legal case; limits the contingent fee that plaintiffs' lawyers may charge clients in civil cases to: 25% of the first \$25,000 recovered by the client, 10% of any recovery above \$25,000. Measure does not limit lawyer's ability to be reimbursed for costs and expenses incurred by the lawyer. Other provisions.

Chief Petitioner(s): Michael Reeder, 11360 SW Apalacotee, Tualatin, OR 97062, Glenn Pelikan, 2836 NE 54th Ave, Portland, OR 97213 and R. Russell Walker, 7444 Shadowwood CT NE, Keizer, OR 97303.