

Wal-Mart initiative qualifies for '09 ballot

From staff reports

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An initiative aimed at preventing Wal-Mart from coming to Ventura will appear on the November 2009 ballot, city officials said Friday.

Supporters of the "Limiting Large Retail Initiative" petition submitted 8,603 valid signatures — many more than the 5,936, or 10 percent of registered voters, needed to make the next regular municipal election but 300 short of the number needed for a special election, officials said.

The Stop Wal-Mart Ventura Coalition wants to block Wal-Mart or any warehouse grocery store from opening in Ventura. Wal-Mart has its eyes on the closed Kmart site off Victoria Avenue.

The initiative would ban any new store larger than 90,000 square feet that sells groceries. Big grocers also could face special conditions if they want to move into an existing vacant store. The measure also forbids moving into an existing store and then expanding.

The County Elections Division verified the signatures on the initiative petition, city officials said.



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