Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE

BARRY PACK
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE
136 STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
Phone 503-986-1523 & Fax 503-986-1616
www.sos@state.or.us

NEWS ADVISORY
July 21, 2009
Contact: Don Hamilton
503/986-2368

Referenda Filed to Overturn Tax Bills
If the referenda make it to the ballot, the election will be Jan. 26, 2010

SALEM -- Two proposed referenda that would overturn HB 2649 and HB 3405 were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office Tuesday.

Here are some details about the process that could lead to the referenda appearing before voters.

- Supporters of the referenda have until 5 p.m. Friday Sept. 25, 2009 to submit signatures.

- To qualify for the ballot, a referendum needs 55,179 valid signatures, which is four percent of the number of votes cast for governor in 2006.

- The Oregon Elections Division will review the petitions and has until Sunday Oct. 25, 2009 to complete the process.

- If they qualify for the ballot, an election will be held Jan. 26, 2010. The first ballots would go in the mail to voters Jan. 8, 2010, which is 18 days before the election deadline.

- The first step in getting a referendum on the ballot involves submission of a prospective petition consisting of the names of no more than three chief petitioners, a statement saying whether petitioners plan to pay signature-gatherers, and the text of the act the chief petitioners want to refer.

- The state then has three business days to create templates for a cover sheet, a signature sheet and an electronic signature sheet for use online. The Elections Divisions plans to expedite the process.

- The petitioners must then submit for approval paper copies of the material that will be circulated to voters.

- In a referendum, a yes vote supports enacting legislation while a no vote opposes enactment.

For more information, go to the Oregon Elections Division web site, oregonvotes.org.

END