

STATE OF NEBRASKA

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

State Capitol, Suite 2300
Box 94608
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
Phone: 402-471-2554
Fax: 402-471-3237
www.sos.state.ne.us

NEWS RELEASE
Sept. 24, 2004

CONTACT: Neal Erickson
402-471-4127, election@mail.state.ne.us

Public hearings scheduled on gambling group's initiatives

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale has scheduled three public hearings in October on the four initiatives on the Nov. 2 ballot sponsored by Keep the Money in Nebraska, a pro-gambling group.

Here is the schedule of the hearings: 6 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Ramada Inn, 301 Second Ave., in Kearney; 6 p.m. Oct. 19 in the board room of the Omaha Public Schools' Teacher Administrative Center, 3215 Cuming St., in Omaha; and 6 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Lancaster Building, 1800 State Fair Park Drive, at State Fair Park in Lincoln.

The four initiatives are:

--Initiative Measure 417, a constitutional amendment to allow expanded gambling through statutory laws enacted by the initiative process.

--Initiative Measure 418, a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote of all members of the Legislature to change or repeal a law enacted through the initiative process.

--Initiative Measure 419, a statutory measure to establish a state gaming tax and gaming license.

--Initiative Measure 420, a statutory measure to permit communities to authorize expanded gambling and to provide for a state gaming commission.

State statutes require that a public hearing on a ballot initiative be held in each congressional district prior to the election.

The secretary of state's office has produced an informational pamphlet on the four measures that includes the text of each measure, the ballot language, and brief arguments for and against each measure. The pamphlet is available on-line at www.sos.state.ne.us under elections or can be obtained at county clerk/election commissioner offices.

The three public hearings will not deal with Amendment 3, a constitutional amendment placed on the Nov. 2 ballot by the Legislature that would authorize up to two casinos in the state. State statutes require public hearings conducted by the secretary of state on initiative measures only.

#