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Hearings scheduled on two initiatives and one referendum

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale has scheduled three public hearings in October on two initiatives and one referendum appearing on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Such hearings are required by law for the purpose of developing a public record on the reasons for and against the proposals.

The three measures are:

--Initiative Measure 421, a proposed statutory change of the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act that would authorize the use of video keno gaming devices by expanding the definition of keno.

--Referendum Measure 422, which would repeal LB 126 enacted by the Legislature in 2005. LB 126 merged the state's Class I, or elementary-only, school districts into K-12 districts.

--Initiative Measure 423, a proposed constitutional amendment that would impose a state spending limit based upon a calculation involving previous appropriations, the inflation rate and population change in Nebraska.

Here is the schedule of the hearings: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, Room 1510, State Capitol, Lincoln; 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, Room 210, Campus Center, Central Community College, 3134 W. Highway 34, Grand Island; and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, Board Room, Omaha Public Schools Administration Building (TAC), 3215 Cuming St., Omaha.

The Secretary of State's Office has produced an informational pamphlet on Measures 421, 422 and 423 that includes the text of each measure, the ballot language and brief

arguments for and against each measure. The pamphlet is available online 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 the six proposed constitutional amendments placed on the Nov. 7 ballot by the Legislature.

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