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News Release

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Gale will not place senator pay raise on May ballot

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale announced today that he will not place two measures proposed by the Legislature, including a pay increase for state senators, on the May 11 primary election ballot in Nebraska.

Gale announced his decision after receiving an attorney general's opinion that the two measures were improper and should not be placed on the primary election ballot.

One of the measures is LR 1CA, a proposed constitutional amendment approved by the Legislature in 2007. The measure proposed increasing the pay of state senators from \$12,000 to \$22,000 per year.

The other measure is LR 5CA, a proposed constitutional amendment approved by the Legislature in 2008. The measure would allow the Legislature to authorize government subdivisions to own and finance real and personal property to be used by nonprofit enterprises through the issuance of revenue bonds.

Both measures were to be decided at a special election to be held in conjunction with the May 2010 primary election.

The attorney general's opinion states that special elections for constitutional amendments should be held before the next general election and not be held in the future, after the next general election. The opinion concluded that the two measures were beyond the Legislature's constitutional authority.

Gale sought the attorney general's opinion after receiving a letter from Speaker of the Legislature Mike Flood, questioning the legality of the pay increase measure.

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