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OCA forms Idaho group

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The Oregon Citizens Alliance has established an Idaho group to promote a ballot initiative similar to Oregon's failed Measure 9.

But OCA Chairman Lon Mabon and Kelly Walton of Burley, Idaho, leader of the new Idaho Citizens Alliance, were met by about 50 vocal gay rights advocates Wednesday at a Statehouse news conference.

While members of the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay and Lesbian Rights Task Force and others carried signs and shouted "Shame" and "Lies," Mabon and Walton outlined their plans for what they call a grassroots, multi-issue, pro-family political organization.

Colorado judge bans anti-gay law

DENVER (AP) — A judge late Thursday temporarily blocked Colorado's anti-gay-protection law from taking effect Friday while he decides whether to issue a more permanent order.

The law was to take effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday; Denver District Judge Jeffrey Bayless said he would announce at a hearing a 4 p.m. Friday whether he would extend the ban. He has heard testimony in the case all week.

Amendment 2, approved by Colorado voters on Nov. 3, prohibits state and local governments from passing laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination. Laws on the books in Boulder, Denver and Aspen that protect homosexuals from discrimination would be invalidated.

The measure has provoked a national outcry by homosexual-rights supporters and has spurred several major cities and national organizations to boycott Colorado. Several major conventions have been canceled and some celebrities have shunned Aspen as a vacation spot.

Before Bayless' order, Gov. Roy Romer had said he would sign Amendment 2 into law late Thursday unless the judge directed him not to.

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OCA

Continued from Page 1

public libraries from providing adults materials that "address homosexuality."

Neet said Measure 9 was misunderstood to be a means of censorship of materials containing homosexual references. The OCA's concern lies in children's materials, not adult reading, Neet said.

"We have always scrutinized books placed on children's shelves," Neet said. "You don't put *Playboy* on children's shelves."

The initiative also says the amendment shall not nullify county, state or federal civil rights protections "based on race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age or disability."

Additionally, no citizen may be denied county or city services, licenses or approvals based upon "perceived or actual lawful sexual practices."

According to a press release from the No Special Rights Committee, the changes were made to accommodate concerns of "middle-of-the-road"

voters and "still accomplish our intent of stopping the homosexual agenda."

Eight of the 32 initiatives are county charter amendment initiatives. The other 24 are charter amendment initiatives for cities including Veneta, Cottage Grove, Junction City, Creswell and Oakridge.

Neet said the new initiatives target cities and counties where Measure 9 passed with 55 percent to 60 percent of the vote.

"The idea did not originate with the central office," Neet said. "As early as election night we had representatives on the grass-roots level calling us begging, 'Let's don't stop here.'"

Kelley Weigel, who served on the steering committee for No on 9 Lane County, said the committee has continued its work since defeat of Measure 9 in anticipation of a new OCA campaign.

"(The announcement) did not come as a surprise," Weigel said.

"It doesn't change the nature of our work, just the time frame of it," Weigel said. "It's a long uphill battle, but I think we'll be victorious."

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