

The Last Day To Register To Vote In The May 15 Special Election Is  
**Tuesday, April 24**

## Labor-sponsored measure would require OT pay after an 8-hour workday

SALEM — The Oregon AFL-CIO will team up with Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner and State Rep. Diane Rosenbaum to get a measure on the November 2008 ballot that would require overtime pay after eight hours of work in a single day.

AFL-CIO Political Director Duke Shepard was with Gardner and Rosenbaum April 13 when they dropped off the signatures required to request a November 2008 ballot title at the Secretary of State's office. Gardner and Rosenbaum are the chief petitioners.

The "8-Hour Day Overtime Act" would require employers in Oregon to pay overtime pay (time and a half) to certain Oregon employees after 8 hours worked in a single day. Some regularly scheduled shifts such as four 10-hour days, or three 12-hour days would be exempt from the requirement under the measure. It mirrors a bill, House Bill 2673, sponsored by Gardner and State Rep. Brad Witt, currently before the Oregon Legislature.

"This ballot measure is intended to promote family values here in Oregon," Gardner said. "If an employer wants to require an Oregon worker to spend more than eight hours away from their family, then that worker should be paid a premium."

If enacted, Oregon would join California, Colorado and Alaska, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with such a requirement.

Gardner and Rosenbaum said the measure is aimed particularly at workers in the retail sector who can show up for work and be told their eight-hour shift has been increased.

"Oregon is an at-will state," noted Rosenbaum. "Right now, if an employer tells an employee they must work 14 hours in a single shift, that worker risks his or her job if they refuse. We need to remember that workers have their own family obligations and they can't work longer hours than planned."

The eight-hour work day standard

was established nationally in 1938 by President Franklin Roosevelt through passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act. In 1967, Oregon adopted the eight-hour day, but in 1985 state legislators amended the law to require overtime be paid only after 40 hours in a week. The state helped establish the concept of a limited number of hours in a work day with two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in the early 20th century, which established a 10-hour workday.

"Oregon has a rich history of fighting for workers' rights, but we took a step backward in 1985," said Chamberlain. "This ballot measure would bring back fairness and equity to Oregon workers."

The proposed ballot measure would not remove existing overtime exemptions under state law for employees such as agricultural workers, federal workers, executives and managers, taxicab operators, nurses or firefighters.

## Labor bowl for MDA ready to roll April 22

The 18th annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, April 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lanes, 2700 NE 82nd Ave., Portland.

Portland area labor unions have collected \$276,041 for the charity. Money raised from pledges and a silent auction helps provide wheelchairs and braces for youngsters, medical care, research and summer camps.

Pledge packets are available at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council or by calling Tor at MDA at 503-223-3177.

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**Position 1: Marilyn Wall • Position 3: James Doane • Position 5: Dave McTeague**

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YOUR UNION FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT THESE CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## MOLALLA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

**Position 1: Mike Towner • Position 2: Brian Wolfe**

