



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

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**COLUMBIA COUNTY PROVIDES UPDATE ON THE
PASSAGE OF BALLOT MEASURE 5-190**

Ballot Measure 5-190 was put on the ballot through the initiative process and requires the County to prohibit employment of unauthorized aliens. The Measure makes it illegal for any employer in Columbia County to knowingly or intentionally hire unauthorized aliens and sets out a system of penalties and procedures for enforcement.

On November 4, 2008, the Measure was approved 57% to 42% of those voting. Due to the complexity of the issues that this Measure raises, the County obtained a legal opinion, which is posted on the County's website at www.co.columbia.or.us that states that it may not be legal to implement one or more of the provisions of the Employment of Unauthorized Aliens Ordinance. However, the County will comply with voter intent to the extent possible and intends to submit an implementing ordinance to the Circuit Court at the earliest possible date and ask the court for a determination whether the ordinance is legally valid under ORS 33.710 to ORS 33.720.

The notice of the legal proceedings will be published for three weeks, and within 10 days after the date of the final publication any interested person may appear before the court and participate in the proceedings.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciates your patience as the County sorts through the legal issues arising from this Measure.

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