

Dates OK'd for rep. seat special election

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The governor and executive council Wednesday approved the dates for a special election in **Newport** to fill a vacant House seat from Congressional District 2.

The filing period for candidates to register with their local town clerk offices is scheduled to start Monday and run through Monday, Nov. 2.

A primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8, and the general election is scheduled for Tuesday,

Jan. 12, 2010. If there is no need for a primary election, the general election will be held Dec. 8, according to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Office.

The governor and council approved the dates at an off-site meeting in Walpole Wednesday.

Citing health reasons, former state representative Tony Maiola, R-Newport, resigned his post late last week.

Maiola, who injured his arm while recovering from surgery he underwent this past spring, said he regretted having to leave the Legislature, but trips

back and forth to Concord were just too difficult.

The Newport Board of Selectmen voted Monday night to seek the special election to fill the seat, one of four in the State House representing Newport, Goshen, Croydon, Washington and Springfield.

State Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, who serves as a Newport selectwoman, said she plans to visit the other four towns in the district to gain support for the special election, which is expected to cost about \$1,000.

Maiola's term expires next year.