

Olmstead delays entry until fall

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TWIN FALLS—House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, R-Twin Falls, said Tuesday he had decided to delay his announcement for the Republican gubernatorial nomination until fall.

He said he decided on the postponement in view of the special Legislature session scheduled to begin July 7.

He explained by keeping his announcement in wraps it would give him a freer hand to devote his attentions to the special session, without the political overtone.

"A special session with several announced candidates for governor would not be in the best interest of the people," he said.

Olmstead also announced that Ben Spencer, a Utahn who has worked as Northwest field coordinator for the Republican National Committee, will be his fulltime campaign manager beginning June 1.

Olmstead said the delay of his entry also will help shorten the gubernatorial campaign..

Although Olmstead has delayed his formal announcement, he said he has been appearing in a number of events through the state. For example, he spoke to the Kellogg High School graduating class and is appearing at a number of political events in north Idaho this week.

These have been funded by early contributions to the Friends of Olmstead Committee. He said about \$10,000 has been raised.

Olmstead said he plans to finish his mail solicitation for funds later in the summer.

Olmstead indicated that regardless of who enters he has decided to jump into the race, an abrupt turnabout of his earlier views.

"There is no question now but that I will be a candidate," he said.