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Three attorneys in running for judge; 8 seek 2 county commissioner jobs

By DAILY RECORD STAFF May 21, 2016

Eight people will run for two open Kittitas County commissioner seats, and three local attorneys will seek an opening for Kittitas County Superior Court judge.

Friday was the last day to file for local office. The judge opening, two Kittitas County commissioner seats and a Kittitas County Public Utility District seat will appear on the primary ballot on Aug. 2, along with other statewide offices.

Washington has a top-two primary. The top two vote getters will advance to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

Judge opening

Ellensburg City Council member Chris Herion and Kittitas County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor Candace Hooper filed for a Kittitas County Superior Court Judge opening on Friday. Herion is a former Kittitas County deputy prosecutor. Longtime local attorney CK Powers filed earlier in the week.

The position has been held by Superior Court Judge Fran Chemelewski, who opted not to seek re-election because of health reasons.

Superior Court Judge Scott Sparks is running unopposed for re-election to the other superior court seat.

County commissioner

It will be a four-way race for both county commissioner seats. Jessica Karraker and Carl Nelson submitted their names for Position 2 Friday, joining Susie Weis and Laura Osiadacz.

Weis, Osiadacz and Karraker are running as Republicans. Nelson listed no party preference.

Nelson moved to Sunlight Waters from Seattle in 2008. He is currently a commissioner for Water District 7. Nelson was a leader in an effort to prevent a composting facility from operating at Elk Heights.

Osiadacz, a former Roslyn City Council member, was appointed to the seat last month following the departure of Gary Berndt. Karraker and Weis also sought the appointment. Weis is involved in Inland Networks, her family's business. Karraker is an advertising sales manager at iEquine.

As for Position 1, Stanley Blazynski filed for the opening on Friday, stating no party preference. Also running are incumbent Republican Paul Jewell, Republican Todd Veness, and Democrat Rob Fraser.

U.S. Representative

An Ellensburg woman is running for the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington's 8th District. Margaret Walsh, who lives in the Yakima Canyon, filed with a "We R Independent" party preference.

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, a Republican from Auburn, has five challengers. Of those, newscaster Tony Ventrella of Newcastle is the leading Democratic opponent.

Walsh is a retired letter carrier and said she scraped together the funds to pay the \$1,740 filing fee.

“You can put anything you want there,” she said about her party preference. “I’m opposed to the divide and conquer the major parties have crystallized with this last election.”

“I want to represent the independent, third party and non-voters.”

She said she also supports the expansion of Medicare.

The general election is Nov. 8.

Who is running

U.S. House District 8

Dave Reichert, Republican, Auburn

Santiago Ramos, Democrat, Issaquah

Keith Arnold, independent, Auburn

Tony Ventrella, Democrat, Issaquah

Margaret Walsh, We R Independent Party, Ellensburg

Alida Skold, Democrat, Issaquah

State District 13

Position 1

Tom Dent, Republican, Moses Lake

Position 2

Matt Manweller, Republican, Ellensburg

Jordan Webb, Democrat, Moses Lake

Kittitas County Commissioner

Seat 1

Paul Jewell, Republican, Ellensburg

Rob Fraser, Democrat, Ellensburg

Todd Veness, Republican, Ellensburg

Stan Blazynski, no party preference, Ellensburg

Seat 2

Susie Weis, Republican, Ronald

Laura Osiadacz, Republican, Roslyn

Jessica Karraker, Republican, Thorp

Carl Nelson, no party preference, Cle Elum

State Supreme Court

Position 1

Mary Yu, Seattle

David DeWolf, Spokane

Position 5

Barbara Madsen, Olympia

Greg Zempel, Ellensburg

(Zamboni) John Scannell, Seattle

Position 6

Charlie Wiggins, Bainbridge Island

Dave Larson, Federal Way

Kittitas County Superior Court

Position 1

CK Powers, Ellensburg

Chris Herion, Ellensburg

Candace Hooper, Ellensburg

Position 2

Scott Sparks, Ellensburg

Public Utility District 1

Position 3

Joe O'Leary

Mike Lowe

Bruce Simpson

Daily Record Staff