

Democrats, Republicans line up to run for city government seats in Primary

Written by Marty Randall

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Several political candidates filing to run for their parties' nominations in the May 3 Primary Election are facing opposition, according to the listing issued by the Scott County Clerk's Office. An unusual situation arose over one mayoral candidate in Austin who filed for the Democrat Party's nomination but was not shown on that official listing issued after the Friday, February 18, deadline. Another Austin candidate was inadvertently left off the late filing listing issued by the Clerk's Office.

In Austin, only registered voters in Jennings 1, 2 and 3 will be voting on May 3. In Scottsburg, registered voters in precincts Vienna 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be casting primary ballots.

Austin's current mayor, Douglas Campbell, filed his intention to run again for the Democrat nomination on the first day possible to do so. Later that same day, Brandon White filed his papers for the post's nomination as a Democrat. However, White allegedly resides outside the city limits in Jennings 5 because the ground on which his present residence is located was not included in an annexation of that area by the old Town Board four years ago.

A petition to annex was presented to the Austin City Council at its meeting on February 22, with Councilmen asking the petitioner, Tyler White, the property owner, for additional time to consult with the city's attorney. A special meeting was held on Thursday, February 24, and the Council voted unanimously to allow the annexation.

With the way cleared through the annexation, Brandon White has been added to the spring's Democrat primary ballot against Mayor Campbell.

In the fall, the selected Democrat nominee will face a contest against the only Republican candidate to file for the office, Kevin D. Hickman.

Longtime Clerk-Treasurer Dillo Bush also faces a race in the Democrat primary. Bush and political newcomer Vicky S. Ousley will be seeking their party's nomination.

No Republican filed for the nomination.

Three of the current City Councilmen decided not to run for new terms. Those men are Chris Fugate, Richie Buchanan and Jimmy Turner. Council President Roger Hawkins, who represents District 2, has filed in the Democrat Primary as has incumbent Councilman Lonnie Noble, an At-Large official.

The most Democrat candidates filed for the vacant District 1 seat. They include Michael S. Bautista, Harlan R. Collins, Hargis D. Morris and John T. White.

Two young men, Robert Nathan Campbell and Shane E. Deaton, have filed on the Democrat primary listing for Council District 3. The winner of the primary race will then face Republican candidate John A. Adams II, whose name was inadvertently left off the late filing list. Adams filed his candidacy on February 18.

Local contractor James "Jimmy" Kallembach filed for the Democrat nomination to the second At-Large seat on the Council.

Scottsburg's Democrat Primary will be active as well.

The lone candidate for the Mayor's Office on the Democrat ticket is Charles H. "Chuck" Sebastian. Incumbent Mayor Bill Graham, a Republican, is being challenged by Christopher D. Albertson on that party's primary ticket.

Current Clerk-Treasurer Janetta C. "Jan" Hardy is the sole Democrat candidate for the post. No one filed on the Republican ticket.

At-Large Councilman Terry L. Amick is joined in the contest for that seat by candidate Sam H.

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LaMaster on the Democrat ticket. In the Republican Primary, Timothy L. Hoard is the nominee. In District 1, incumbent Democrat Councilman Mark Shapinsky will be facing Clay T. Arbuckle. There is no Republican nominee for the primary.

There are three Democrat candidates for the District 2 seat. They include incumbent Councilman Bill Hoagland, James D. Coomer and Trish Cozart. On the Republican primary ticket, James D. Fleenor is the nominee.

Incumbent Democrat Councilman Ray Zollman is facing a race with Karen L. Gricius in District 3. No Republican filed for that party's nomination.

Two newcomers to the political scene have filed to become the Democrat Party nominee for the District 4 seat now held by Chuck Rose. Rose did not file for another term. Those battling for the seat are Jamie D. Knowles and Thomas E. Lewis.

On the Republican ticket, Oral W. "Bill" Banta will be the party's nominee in District 4.