

List of candidates continue to grow

Written by George Browning

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The deadline for candidates to file for the May 4 primary election is Feb. 19 at noon. The list of potential candidates continues to grow.

The filing list as of Feb. 10 includes an ever growing list of candidates throwing their hats in the ring for the Washington County District Two Commissioner seat, which will be vacated by incumbent Lana Sullivan.

Sullivan said she has decided to take a break from her 15 years in politics.

"Prior to filling for the position I had decided I would not seek reelection because I need a break," Sullivan said. "I am not upset with anyone or anything and I am not jumping off a sinking ship because I feel like the county is in pretty good shape. It's just, at this point and time, I feel the need to step out for a while."

As of Feb. 10 Tom Baker a Republican and Chris Strange a Democrat, both of Salem, have filed.

Republican Brian "Opie" Cooper, a former candidate for Salem Mayor, also added his name to the list of candidates for Sullivan's position as did Republican Tom Jones and former county prosecutor Democrat Cynthia Winkler.

Several other races have opposition mounting.

The following is a list of all the candidates who filed as of Feb. 10.

United States Representative District 9

Lendall B. Terry is the only Democrat to file to this point, but a number of republicans are vying for the spot.

Two of the most notable of the four members of the GOP are Mike Sodrel and Todd Young. They will square off against Rick Warren and Travis Hankins.

To this point, no one has registered to oppose District 45 State Senator Jim Lewis. District 45 includes precincts in Franklin, Gibson and Polk.

Two candidates have registered for the District 47 seat. They are Democrat Richard D. Young and Republican Ted Metzger. District 47 includes Jackson, East and West Pierce and Polk townships.

Democrat Sandra Blanton and Republican Matt Ubelhor have signed up to face one another for the State Representative Seat for District 62, which includes Brown and Jefferson townships.

Three candidates from Washington County have filed to run for District 73's State Representative seat. See the story on the front page of the Feb. 17 Washington County Edition for more on this race.

In the race for Judge in the Circuit Court, incumbent Robert Bennett is the only Democrat who has filed to run. He is joined in the race by Republican Larry Medlock.

Incumbent Superior Court Judge Frank Newkirk is the only one registered to run for that seat.

Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin, a Republican from Salem has filed for re-election. Trampus Whalin, a Democrat from Pekin, will seek his party's nomination in the May 4 primary.

To this point, incumbent Sarah Bachman, a Republican from Campbellsburg, is the only one registered to run for the seat of Auditor. Bachman is completing her first term.

Two Republicans, Preston Shell of Salem and Kyra Stephenson of Campbellsburg have filed to run for the county recorder seat. Cindy Zink is completing her second term and is not eligible to seek re-election this year.

Democrat Claude Combs is the only name listed for the position of county sheriff. Combs is

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a Democrat from Campbellsburg.

Republican Jason Cockerill of Salem, who was appointed to the position of county assessor is seeking election for that position. Another Republican Lane Freiburger has also filed to run.

Dawson Souder is the only candidate who has registered to run for the seat on the county council in District one, which consists of Franklin, East and West Pierce and Polk Townships.

No one has filed for the District two seat which is currently held by Jim Nice. District two is made up of precincts in the townships of Howard, Jackson, East and West Posey, Washington two and Salem two townships.

Incumbent Mignon Marshall has not filed for re-election in District three. That district is made up of precincts in the townships of Brown, Jefferson, Madison, Vernon, Washington three, and Salem three. Three candidates, however, have filed. They are, Republicans Rhonda Greene, David L. Hoar and Eric D. Worley.

The same is true for the council's district four seat, which is currently held by Jim Day. He said he is not planning to run for re-election. Two people vying for the vacated seat are Democrat Donald W. Gilbert Jr. and Republican Ben Bowling. District four includes precincts in the townships of Gibson, Monroe, Washington four and Salem four.

Three people have registered to run for a position on the Salem School Board. They are Alan Smith, Jason Pepmeier and Brian K. Wiseman.

A number of township positions are up for grabs as well as precinct committeeman and state convention delegates.

Follow the elections in The Washington County Edition or on-line at www.gbpcnews.com.