



Friday, June 13, 2008

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Candidates file for 5th legislative district

June 12, 2008

By Jon Savelle

A full slate of candidates have filed for state office in the 5th legislative district, with all incumbents facing challengers.

The primary election is Aug. 19, with the top two finishers in each race advancing to the general election Nov. 4.

Candidates had to file by June 6. Statewide, a majority of the 332 who filed did so electronically, according to the

<http://snovalleystar.com/2008/06/12/candidates-file-for-5th-legislative-district>

6/13/2008

Secretary of State's office in Olympia. A total of 180 candidates, or 54.2 percent, used this method.

The filing period is about a month earlier than usual in order to allow more time between the primary and general elections. That will provide more time to deal with any recounts and adequate turnaround time to prepare general election ballots, including military and overseas ballots that must go out early.

5th District

Includes Issaquah, Sammamish, Maple Valley, Fall City, North Bend, Snoqualmie and Snoqualmie Pass.

Representative

Incumbents Jay Rodne, R-North Bend, and Glenn Anderson, R-Fall City, are running for re-election.

Rodne has represented the 5th District since January 2004; he ran unopposed in 2006. In the Legislature, Rodne serves on the House Judiciary and Transportation committees.

Anderson is seeking a fifth term. He serves on the House Higher Education, K-12 Education and

Appropriations committees. Anderson also is a board member of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, a U.S.-Canadian committee that promotes sustainable development in the Pacific Northwest.

North Bend resident David Spring, a Democrat, is running for Anderson's seat in Position 2. A researcher in education at the University of Washington, he is focused on education and transportation issues in the 5th District.

Jon Viebrock is challenging Rodne for Position 1. The Carnation resident is a union drywall foreman. He stresses education funding and environmental protection, particularly for forests and fisheries.

Senator

Incumbent Cheryl Pflug, R-Maple Valley, faces a challenge from fellow Republican Sterling Strickland, of Sammamish, plus Democrat Phyllis Huster, of Snoqualmie.

Strickland could not be reached for additional information and links to his Web page did not function properly.

Huster, a telecommunications executive, is active in the King County Democratic Party.

Pflug has represented the 5th District in both the House and Senate, serving on numerous committees, boards, task forces and working groups. Currently, she serves on the Senate Health and Long-Term Care, Rules and Transportation committees.

Written by Jon Savelle · Filed Under [Local News](#)

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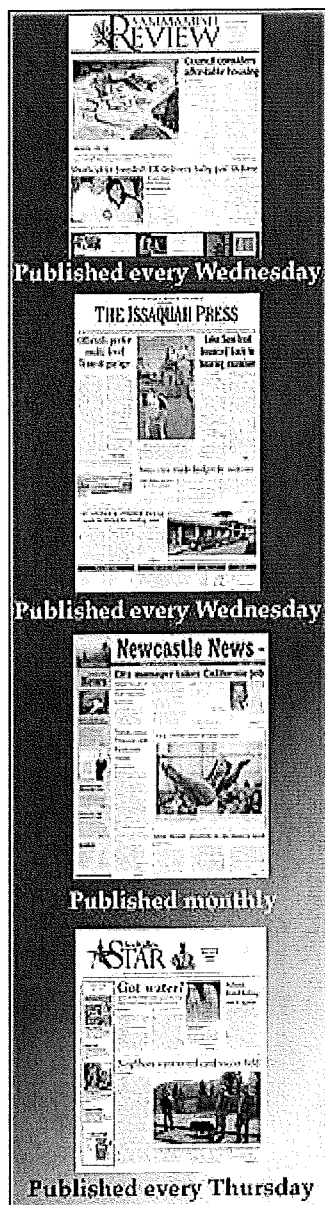
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PRINTER-FRIENDLY FORMAT

Tacoma, WA - Friday, June 13, 2008

< [Back to Regular Story Page](#)**'Top two'? It might not be so radical at all****PETER CALLAGHAN; THE NEWS TRIBUNE**

Last updated: June 12th, 2008 01:24 AM (PDT)

Washington's new "top two" primary is more accident than experiment.

We have it not so much because it was what people wanted but because it was all that was left after federal courts tossed out what we had.

As accidents go, however, it's not a bad one. Despite predictions, most congressional and legislative districts will have a November runoff between a Democrat and a Republican.

But there are far more contested primaries this election than there were just two years ago. That could be due to an election year that's more interesting and more contentious. But it also could be a result of the new primary system that gives more candidates a chance of advancing to the November election, even in numerous districts that are heavily Democratic or heavily Republican.

In 2006, of the 18 possible congressional primaries (a Republican primary and a Democratic primary in nine districts), five were contested. This year, there are seven.

In 2006, there were 48 possible state Senate primaries, but only five offered voters a choice of more than one candidate. Also that year, just 11 of the 196 potential state House primaries were contested.

This year? There are seven contested state Senate primaries and 25 contested House primaries. And unlike the old rules in which only Democrats could vote in contested Democratic primaries and only Republicans could vote in contested Republican primaries, everyone can play in all of the contested contests this year.

So what exactly is not to like?

Well, state party officials have been complaining about the top two system since they lost the Supreme Court case they were sure they would win. They are now left to complain that even voters in single-party districts have a right to have a candidate from each party on the November ballot.

But if that's such a sacred right, why have the parties done such a lousy job fielding candidates? This year, eight state Senate incumbents and 19 House incumbents are unopposed.

Some choice.

The reason for unopposed candidates is the high number of single-party districts in Washington. That is, districts with so many voters from one party or the other that they rarely elect someone from the other party, so candidates don't even try.

That's due to partisan redistricting in which both parties get together and create safe districts. But it's also due to what authors Bill Bishop and Robert G. Cushing term in their new book, "The Big Sort."

"We have built a country," they wrote, "where everyone can choose the neighbors (and church and news shows) most compatible with his or her lifestyle and beliefs. And we are living with the consequences of this segregation by way of life;

pockets of like-minded citizens that have become so ideologically inbred that we don't know, can't understand, and can barely conceive of 'those people' who live just a few miles away."

Like-minded people clustered together elect like-minded representatives. But the top two primary deals with this by noting that such districts exist and that it's better, for example, to let two Democrats advance to the general election than a certain-to-win Democrat and a sacrificial Republican.

Still, this will happen in only seven legislative races in the state – all single-party districts. The 7th in Eastern Washington hasn't elected a Democrat since 1988, and the 8th in Eastern Washington hasn't elected one since 1992.

On the west side of the state, the 22nd in Thurston County hasn't elected a Republican since 1980. And in four King County districts, the 11th elected its last Republican in 1988, the 32nd in 1968, the 36th in 1976 and the 46th in 1980.

Each of these districts will enjoy a more interesting general election. For the others, the new primary will look a lot like the blanket primary – which was sort of the point.


Peter Callaghan: 253-597-8657

peter.callaghan@thenewstribune.com

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Article published Jun 12, 2008

It's the top two, without the two

By [Tracy Warner](#)
Editorial Page editor

They call it the top-two primary, but what do you call it when there's only one candidate?

The question is relevant this summer, as voters in North Central Washington face many runoff elections that feature either one party or one candidate.

Consider the absence of contests for the Legislature. Once again, in this swath of our the big blue state, Democrats just didn't show up. In the 12th Legislative District, Reps. Mike Armstrong and Cary Condotta, and Sen. Linda Evans-Parlette, R-Wenatchee, once again have no opposition. North in the 7th District, Rep. Joel Kretz, R-Wauconda, is lonesome. A crowd of candidates did file for the House seat vacated by Rep. Bob Sump, R-Republic — all Republicans: Sue Madsen of Edwall, Shelly Short of Addy, Kelly White of Kettle Falls and Mike Davis of Deer Park.

Down in the 13th, Reps. Judith Warnick, R-Moses Lake, and Bill Hinkle, R-Cle Elum, get a free pass.

This is not how it was supposed to be — a massive landscape, larger than many states, with Democrats in hiding. The top-two primary, which we will undergo for the first time Aug. 19, was supposed to shame the parties into fielding stronger candidates, lest they be embarrassed by their absence from the November ballot. Now we see they are perfectly satisfied with their absence. Nothing ventured, nothing lost.

Party officials will tell you they approached people about running for the Legislature but got no takers. It's too hard, too expensive, too mean and nasty. Democrats are supposed to be on the rise in Eastern Washington — demographic change, an influx of westsiders and westside attitudes, new money, new enthusiasm, etc. But for the Legislature, not even a decent sacrificial lamb.

It's only slightly better down ballot. In Chelan County, a slew of candidates is seeking the commissioner seat to be vacated by Buell Hawkins — all Republicans: Jay Witherbee, Stan Morse and Deanna Walter of Chelan, and Doug England of Manson.

Incumbent Commissioner Ron Walter does have a Democratic challenger in Wenatchee School Board member Chuck Largent. Democrats say Largent is "our hero." Those of us who are unattached may or may not consider him heroic, but we can thank him for giving us a choice.

In Douglas County, Democrat Russell Clark of Rock Island will challenge incumbent Commissioner Dane Keane. So will two more Republicans: Terry Barnes of East Wenatchee and Dale Snyder of Waterville. The top two vote-getters regardless of party will move the general election. Look for Republicans to split the vote and give us a traditional R-vs.-D race in November, an increasing rarity.

Elsewhere, all R's. Republican Douglas County Commissioner Ken Stanton is unopposed. In Grant County, it's R vs. R again: Incumbent Commissioner LeRoy Allison of Warden against Carolann Swartz of Moses Lake. Incumbent Richard Stevens of Soap Lake, no opposition. In Okanogan County, Commissioner Andy Lampe, R-Omak, meets challenger Larry Campbell, R-Okanogan. Commissioner Don "Bud" Hover is unopposed.

The tally: three counties, six commissioner seats, two Democrats; three legislative districts, seven seats, no Democrats.

From the standpoint of democracy, at least the top-two primary gives us a slight improvement. We in the one-party state will no longer have a relative handful of voters choose our leaders in September and give us one name and a blank in November. Instead, a relative handful of voters will sort out the Republicans in August, and let us choose from the survivors in November. It is better than no choice at all.

Tracy Warner's column appears Tuesday through Friday. He can be reached at warner@wenworld.com or 665-1163.

Published June 12, 2008

Justice Stephens' opponent drops out; more drop out in other races

Brad Shannon

The opponent of state Supreme Court Justice Debra Stephens withdrew from the race this week, ensuring that Stephens gets a free ride in the Aug. 19 primary and November general election.

One of three candidates for a Thurston County judgeship also withdrew this week, as did a candidate for the county Public Utility District.

Tacoma lawyer Jack Hill withdrew his name for the high court seat race less than a week after he filed to run.

"In the case of Stephens, she is as good as elected as we sit here. Her name will be alone on both ballots," said David Ammons, a spokesman for the Secretary of State's Office.

That leaves two contested Supreme Court races that still could be decided in the primary.

In another change of candidacy, Kevin L. Johnson, who handles criminal defense and personal-injury cases in Olympia, withdrew his name Thursday for Superior Court position 3. Thursday was the final day in which withdrawals were allowed.

"I believe that the campaign and everything would run into my personal life, and I just have too many irons in the fire to fully concentrate on a judicial race," Johnson said.

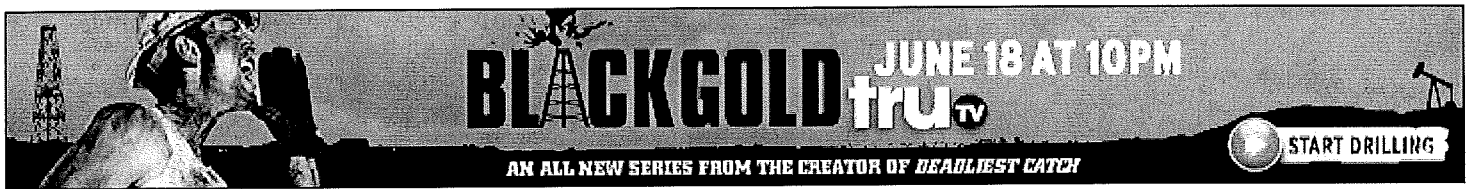
Johnson's decision means that either Charles Williams or Carol Murphy, in effect, will win that Superior Court seat in the primary, replacing retiring Judge Richard Strophy. One exception is if someone files as a write-in candidate no more than 10 days after the primary, which forces a November election with only the primary winner's name on the ballot, Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman said.

The same is true in the position 7 race, which pits prosecutor Ed Holm against Superior Court Judge Gary Tabor.

The state's new primary lets the top two vote-getters advance to the general election regardless of party, but the citizen initiative creating the top two in 2004 did not change the rules for nonpartisan races, such as judgeships or state schools chief. The top-two is being run for the first time this year after overcoming a court challenge.

In the other two Supreme Court races, Justice Mary Fairhurst of Olympia faces Seattle attorney Michael J. Bond, and Associate Chief Justice Charles Johnson squares off against C.F. (Frank) Vulliet of Mercer Island and James M. Beecher of Seattle.

In the utility district race, candidate John Blacklaw of Rochester withdrew Thursday, leaving Lowell Deguise of Rochester and Chris Stearns Thurston County in the running.



Weekly news for the citizens of
Sammamish, WA

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

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Local elections take shape

June 10, 2008

By Staff

Filing deadlines passed for Washington's elections and the ballot is brimming with would-be leaders.

This year, the state will implement its top-two primary system. The two candidates who receive the most votes on primary day will move on to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

<http://sammamishreview.com/2008/06/10/local-elections-take-shape>

6/11/2008

Some pundits say this will result in some districts with only a single party showing up on the November ballot, but some surprises could be in store for candidates who perform better (or worse) than expected during the August 19 primary.

For a complete list of candidates across the state, and locally, visit <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/candidatefiling/Pages/CandidatesWhoHaveFiled.aspx>.

Some key local races:

Governor

Chris Gregoire (Democratic) (Incumbent); Dino Rossi (Republican); Will Baker (Reform); Duff Badgley (Green); John W. Aiken, Jr. (Republican); Christian Pierre Joubert (Democratic); Christopher A Tudor (no party); Javier O. Lopez (Republican); Mohammad Hasan Said (no party); James White (Independent).

8th Congressional district

Dave Reichert (Republican) (Incumbent); Darcy Burner (Democratic); Bloeslaw (John) Orlinski (no party); Richard Todd (no party); James Vaughn (Democratic); Keith Arnold (Democratic).

5th Legislative District

State Senate: Cheryl Pflug (Republican) (Incumbent); Phyllis Huster (Democratic); Sterling Strickland (Republican).

Representative 1: Jay Rodne (Republican) (Incumbent); Jon Viebrock (Democratic).

Representative 2: Glenn Anderson (Republican) (Incumbent); David Spring (Democratic).

45th Legislative District

Representative 1: Roger Goodman (Democratic) (Incumbent); Toby Nixon (Republican)

Representative 2: Larry Springer (Democratic) (Incumbent); Kevin Haistings (Republican).

Written by Staff · Filed Under [Local News](#)

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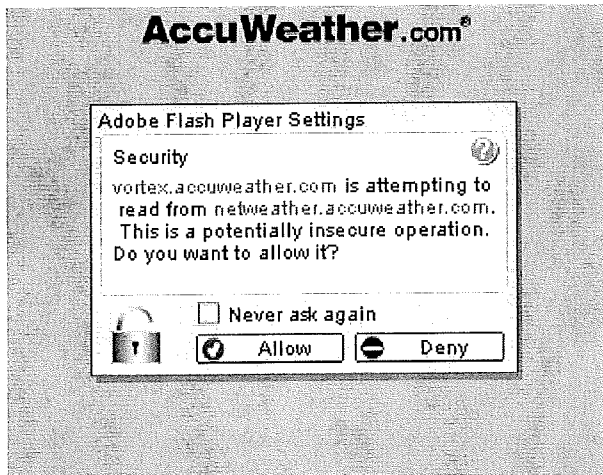
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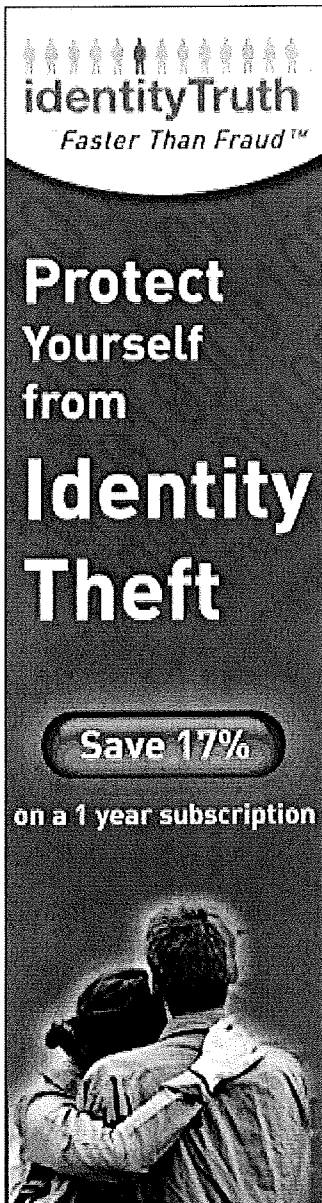
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A black and white photograph of a man and a woman embracing from behind, with the man's arms around the woman.

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Jun, 11, 2008

ELECTIONS

Democrats don't limit their candidates

40th District's rules change at last minute

SAM TAYLOR

BELLINGHAM — Top two Democrats? Nah? How about just Democrats.

So said the powers that be in a last-minute decision to change the way the 40th Legislative District Democrats endorse candidates seeking the seat of retiring state Sen. Harriet Spanel.

Local Democrats met Tuesday night to listen to candidates and, they thought, select the top two of five candidates to endorse.

"We changed the rules at the Nth hour," said Roni Beall, the 40th District Democrats' vice chair for Whatcom County.

Organization leaders made the change because only one Republican — Steve Van Luven — is seeking the seat, and Steve Hopley, a Democrat who was going to run as an independent, decided at the last minute not to run.

About 70 people attended the meeting at the Bloedel Donovan Community Building and were allowed to endorse any and all of the five candidates.

The votes for the meeting, as well as four others held throughout the 40th District, won't be opened and counted until 5:30 p.m. today in the Democrats' Skagit offices.

SIMILAR STANCES

All candidates — Hue Beattie, Paul Gonzalez, Ken Henderson, Kevin Ranker and Stephanie Kountouros — espoused nearly the same views during the event:

Guns need to be strictly regulated, they agreed.

Agricultural land needs to be protected for future generations and viable, sustainable farming needs to be promoted in the area.

Education revenues must be increased along with a variety of other tweaks to the system to help youth attain the knowledge they need.

Climate change is being more widely acknowledged and the legislature and communities need to take advantage of that to look at alternative forms of energy.

The meeting is just one in what will likely be a long line of forums for the candidates.

It appears that the race will include at least three Democrats into August. Kountouros and Beattie have said they haven't decided whether they'll continue. Friday is the deadline to withdraw a candidacy.

Some in the audience also expressed displeasure about the meetings, saying they were still confused by the process of endorsing candidates. Many didn't know the top-two endorsement format had changed.

Beattie took his thoughts on the issue to the microphone.

"It's kind of ridiculous, really, that we're endorsing five Democrats in a primary," he said. "That's where I'm at on this."

Reach Sam Taylor at sam.taylor@bellinghamherald.com or call 715-2263.

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Journal of the San Juans

Election: Voters will test 'top two' primary system for the first time

RICHARD WALKER, Editor
rwalker@sanjuanjournal.com

Published: June 10, 2008 4:00:00 PM
Updated: June 10, 2008 4:55:10 PM

This election season, there's been a lot of talk about change.

As the campaign season gets under way locally, there will also undoubtedly be a lot of talk about choices.

On the federal level, San Juan County voters will have four choices for the U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District.

On the state level, there are 10 candidates for governor, five for lieutenant governor, four for secretary of state, three for state treasurer, three for state auditor, two for attorney general, two for commissioner of public lands, six for superintendent of public instruction, and three for insurance commissioner.

There are seven candidates for 40th District state Senate, two for 40th District State House Position 2, seven for three state Supreme Court positions.

In the county, there are four candidates for County Council, San Juan South; two for County Council, Friday Harbor; and five for County Council, Orcas West.

All are vying to make decisions on your behalf in Washington, D.C., Olympia and Friday Harbor. Salaries range from \$169,300 for members of Congress, to \$166,891 for governor, \$148,832 for Superior Court judge (half paid by state, half by county), \$42,106 for state legislator, and \$34,000 for County Council member.

The candidate filing period ended Friday. The primary election is Aug. 19; the general election is Nov. 4. To register to vote, you have until up to 30 days before the election to do so by mail, up to 15 days before the election to do it in person, Elections Supervisor Doris Schaller said Monday. Seventeen-year-olds can register to vote as long as they are 18 by election day.

This election is also an opportunity for San Juan residents to participate in something historic:

— For the first time since San Juan County was created in 1873, we will elect a Superior Court judge of our own; we formerly shared judges with Island County.

— County Councilman Kevin Ranker is vying to become the first San Juan resident elected to the state Senate.

— For the first time, the SalmonYoga party has a candidate for 40th District state Senate. (We're not making that up).

<http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&expire=&urlID=29087975&fb=Y&url=http%3A...> 6/11/2008

— And the “top two” primary will get its first test; in Washington state, the top two vote-getters in any contest will advance to the general election regardless of political party affiliation.

Candidates for 2nd District U.S. House of Representatives: Rick Bart, a Republican and former Snohomish County sheriff; Glen S. Johnson, a Democrat and farmer from Mount Vernon who has run for the state House and Congress; Rick Larsen, a Democrat serving his fourth term in Congress; and Doug Schaffer, a Democrat from Snohomish.

Candidates for 40th District state Senate: Hue Beattie, a Bellingham resident and state Democratic Party committee member; Paul Gonzalez of Mount Vernon, Democrat and a 22-year State Patrol officer; Ken Henderson, Democrat and former Whatcom County Council member; Stephanie Kountouros of Bellingham, Democrat and member of the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force; Kevin Ranker, Democrat and San Juan County Council member; Timothy “Cleaver” Stoddard of Anacortes, who put SalmonYoga Party as his preference; and Steve Van Luven of Samish Island, a Republican who formerly represented Bellevue in the state House of Representatives.

Candidates for 40th District state House of Representatives, Position 1: Dave Quall of Mount Vernon, Democrat, is unopposed for reelection.

Candidates for 40th District state House, Position 2: Jeff Morris of Anacortes, a Democrat and House speaker pro tem; and Howard Pellett of Anacortes, Green Party.

Candidates for San Juan County Superior Court judge: Randy Gaylord, county prosecuting attorney; and John Linde, a longtime attorney and former District Court judge who was appointed to the Superior Court position by the governor when it was created last year.

Candidates for County Council, Friday Harbor: Fay Chaffee, a permit coordinator in the county Department of Community Development and Planning; and Howie Rosenfeld, councilman, who is seeking a second term.

Candidates for County Council, San Juan South: Lisa Guard, a former Friday Harbor business owner; Daniel Miller Jr., a landscaper and former candidate for state Legislature and County Commission; Gordy Petersen, who served on the county Board of Freeholders; and Lovel Pratt, a county planning commissioner.

For County Council, Orcas West: Jessica B. Bense, owner of a company specializing in biofeedback devices; Richard Fralick, a former freeholder; Mindy Kayl, a former freeholder; Alan Lichter, councilman, who is seeking a second term, and Bruce Orchid, a former San Juan County Commission member.

For a list of candidates for all offices in Washington state, visit www.secstate.wa.gov.

In addition, registered Democrats and Republicans in San Juan County will vote for precinct committee officers to represent their political parties in each of the county’s 17 voting precincts. There are a total of 12 Republicans and eight Democrats running for precinct committee positions.

Journal of the San Juans Editor Richard Walker can be reached at rwalker@sanjuanjournal.com or 360-378-5696.

Find this article at:


<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/jsj/news/19706794.html>

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
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June 10, 2008 4:47 PM

Primary ballot allows candidates to re-brand

Posted by David Postman

There is much talk this year - the eighth of an increasingly unpopular president - of damage done to the "Republican brand." John McCain's campaign manager says the political environment for Republicans is "one of the worst in our party's history." And retiring Virginia Congressman Tom Davis told E.J. Dionne recently that if Republicans "were dog food, they'd take us off the shelf and put us in a landfill."

What's a Republican to do? Re-brand of course. On Washington's 2008 primary and general election ballots, Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi will be identified as a member of the "G.O.P. Party."

That's an abbreviation for the Grand Old Party, the nickname the Republicans picked up in the 1870s. "GOP" is used in newspapers and political blogs. But until now it hasn't served as an official party designation on an election ballot.

But if Kentucky Fried Chicken can become KFC, why can't Republicans become the GOP in a state where a Republican hasn't been elected governor since long before diners tired of fried Kentucky poultry parts and some sort of breakfast xenophobia turned the International House of Pancakes into IHOP?

This year it can. The state's new top-two primary allows candidates to state their party preference when they filed for office last week. And they could say anything they wanted as long as it wasn't profane, though they were urged by Secretary of State Sam Reed not to engage in any "funny business." (Reed has said, "Voting is cool," but, apparently, not funny.)

Most Republican candidates, including three incumbent Republican statewide officials, listed their party preference as "Republican."

But Rossi is carrying forward with a re-branding effort began four years ago during his first run against Democrat Chris Gregoire. The tag lines on his TV commercials said "Rossi for governor, GOP," as do his lawn signs. Campaign spokeswoman Jill Strait said:

We have found that voters know what GOP means and we spent millions of dollars saying GOP on the last campaign, so we decided to stick with it.

Reed said that Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna had considered going with "GOP." But Reed talked him out of it, and says he wishes Rossi and other "GOP"s had stuck to the party line.

I just think it's clearer to the voters and actually a little more respectful in some ways to

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give the full party name. But it's their right. They can say what they want.

Seattle pollster Stuart Elway said he didn't know how widely voters will recognize "GOP" as meaning Republican. But he figures Rossi wants to look to voters like something other than a member of the Republican Party.

That would be my first interpretation. Why else would you do it?

Reed is giving candidates until tomorrow to change their party identifications, though he is only allowing essentially copy-editing changes. That's necessary, in part, because some candidates were confused by the online form they had to fill out. It called for party identification, and some people didn't realize that whatever was filled in would be followed by "party."

So if someone wrote "Democratic Party," as longshot Democratic gubernatorial candidate Christian Pierre Joubert did, it will show up as "Democratic Party Party." That has a nice beer-commercial ring to it: *It's a party-party! Vote once, party twice!*

There likely will be a few "Democrat" candidates changing their party preference. Some candidates filled in "Democrat" thinking that word alone would follow their name, as it has on ballots in past years.

But some Democrats say "Democrat Party" is a Republican construct and should be avoided. Blogger [Daniel Kirkdorffer](#) pointed out which candidates were listing themselves without the "ic" and e-mailed them to point out the problem.

It is well known in the Democratic Party that the phrase "Democrat Party" is consider an insult to many Democrats, so to see Democratic candidates use the phrase is surprising.

Here's why it's considered an insult, according to the liberal watchdog group, Media Matters for America.

Republicans consistently refer to the "Democrat Party," even though that is not what members of the Democratic Party call themselves, and use the noun "Democrat" as an adjective, which New Yorker magazine senior editor Hendrik Hertzberg identified as an attempt to deny the opposing party the claim to being "democratic," or as Hertzberg wrote, "to deny the enemy the positive connotations of its chosen appellation."

Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines, is one who listed his party preference as "Democrat."



I don't think it matters one way or the other. Voters just want to know which party we belong to. Either wording gives them that information. Any concern is much ado about nothing.

Rep. Jim McIntire, leaving the Legislature for a run for state treasurer, said he has asked to make the change, though he doesn't understand why anyone cares.

I've been a Democrat all my life, so I don't consider that an insult. ... People are worked up about semantics.

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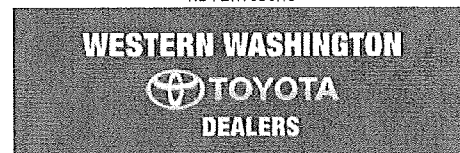
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Posted by Daniel K	<p>8:19 PM, Jun 10, 2008</p> <p>It is amazing to me that some Democrats don't seem to know the name of their party.</p> <p>Maybe they need a history lesson:</p> <p>http://www.democrats.org/a/party/history.html</p> <p>"Thomas Jefferson founded the Democratic Party in 1792 as a congressional caucus to fight for the Bill of Rights and against the elitist Federalist Party. In 1798, the "party of the common man" was officially named the Democratic-Republican Party and in 1800 elected Jefferson as the first Democratic President of the United States."</p> <p>"...In 1844, the National Convention simplified the Party's name to the Democratic Party."</p>
Posted by Jan	<p>9:49 PM, Jun 10, 2008</p> <p>Just because Dino Rossi spent millions to be known as the GOP candidate instead of the Republican candidate doesn't mean the people of the state should be required to back the same stunt and pay to have GOP printed on a ballot next to his name.</p> <p>Sam Reed should know better and not allow it.</p> <p>All this does is exposed the depths deception that Rossi will go through to try to get elected statewide.</p> <p>Was Dino Rossi the GOP Party candidate on the ballot in his last election? Or is this a change?</p>
Posted by JimD	<p>10:11 PM, Jun 10, 2008</p> <p>If Rossi using GOP so the disgraced word "republican" doesn't appear with his name, that's pretty funny - and silly.</p> <p>I think most folks know that GOP and Republican are the same thing.</p> <p>And for all those who don't what GOP stands for, there are many more who will be reminded how grand old republicans of the past are rolling over in their graves over what the likes of Rossi and his ilk has wrought on what once WAS a Grand Old Party.</p>
Posted by Richard Pope	<p>2:04 AM, Jun 11, 2008</p> <p>Someone should find a couple of crackpots to run for President and Vice-President on the "G.O.P. Party" ticket in this state. Then find 11 people to sign up as presidential elector candidates, and get 1,000 signatures to put this "G.O.P. Party" on the presidential ballot in this state. The nuttier and crazier the platform, the better.</p> <p>That way, come November, Dino Rossi won't be identified with the more mainstream John McCain/Republican Party ticket, which should appeal to at least 35 to 40 percent of the state's voters. Instead, Rossi will be self-identified with some totally kooky "G.O.P. Party", whose presidential ticket is spouting some ideas that are highly offensive to the vast majority of voters.</p>
Posted by Rich Miller	<p>8:33 AM, Jun 11, 2008</p> <p>What a left wing gas bag!</p>
Posted by John	<p>9:24 AM, Jun 11, 2008</p> <p>Well, if where going down the path of history perhaps we can call todays democrat party KKK. which they sure where in the old days and still today with Senator Byrd head of the Senate who is the Grand Dragon of the KKK.</p> <p>Ok,JimD waiting for your clever revision of history.</p> <p>Oh what is the D in your screen name JIMD is that D for symbol of the partys mascot?</p>

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Posted by JimD	10:05 AM, Jun 11, 2008 John, What are you babbling about??? You think Byrd "is" the Grand Dragon of the KKK? You need to get caught-up on your history, bud.
Posted by Scott/Redmond	10:23 AM, Jun 11, 2008 People don't realize this is a consequence of a greater underlying issue. As Dave points out, we don't have a party based election system. Nor do we have formal membership in the two party system (as Oregon does, for instance). As a result, the party isn't an affiliation but a "preference" where the candidate can list it to show their general alignment. So in theory, someone like Jim McDermott could run listing his preference as the "Barney the Dinosaur" party.... you get the drift.

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Monday, Jun. 09, 2008

Dude. Pross takes fourth shot at Rep. Hastings.

Ellensburg's surfer dude sounding Gordon Allen Pross, who once told the Herald during a previous campaign that "My life's a movie. I'm riding the wave here," is back once again taking on U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Pasco.

Pross has become perhaps Eastern Washington's version of Mike the Mover — a perennial candidate who shows up at elections offices during filing week to blow some dough on a filing fee. And for it he gets a little ink, perhaps some ridicule, space in the voters guide and a whitewash on election day.

This will be the sixth campaign for Pross, 53, who once talked of laying the groundwork for a presidential bid. He first ran as a Democrat against Hastings in 1998, then filed as a Republican in subsequent challenges in 2000 and 2002.

In 2004 he ran for U.S. Sen. Patty Murray's seat and he ran for U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell's seat in 2006.

I can't find a current website for him but he listed 38 former occupations on his 2000 campaign website including "tree planter," "tractor driver" and "wheelbarrow, shovel and rake operator."

You can check out a few of his past voters guide statements [here](#) and [here](#).

Pross will face off against Hastings and Richland Democrat George Fearing in the Aug. 19 "top two" primary.

Stay updated with the Olympia Dispatch RSS feed: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/944/v-highlights/index.rss>

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Article published Jun 8, 2008

Field gets busier for Sullivan's county commissioner seat

By Erik Hidle and Brian Gawley, Peninsula Daily News

Richard Hild has made August's top-two primary relevant in Jefferson County races.

On Friday, Hild identified himself as a Republican from Port Townsend and declared his candidacy for the County Commissioner District 2 position now held by David Sullivan, D-Cape George.

His declaration on the last day of the candidate filing period makes it a three way race among Sullivan, Hild and Sandy Hershelman of Port Hadlock, who filed as an Independent.

Hild was not available for comment on Friday or Saturday.

The three candidates will all be listed on the primary ballot on Aug. 19, with only the top two vote-getters advancing to the general election ballot on Nov. 4.

Under the state's newly reinstated "top two" primary system, if more than two candidates vie for the same office, the two who receive the most votes will advance to the Nov. 4 general election — regardless of political party and even if one wins more than 50 percent of the vote.

Washington state voters approved the top-two primary in 2004, but political parties tied it up in court until March 18.

That's when the state Supreme Court put it back into effect.

In total, eight candidates filed for Jefferson County races last week.

Superior Court Judge Craddock Verser will run unopposed in the fall.

Phil Johnson, D-Port Townsend, county commissioner for District 1, will face challenger Dennis Shultz, a Republican from Port Townsend.

Jim Pivarnik of Port Townsend and Kenneth McMillen of Port Hadlock both seek the non-partisan District 2 commissioner seat on the Jefferson County Public Utility District board of directors.

The present commissioner, Kelly Hays, is not seeking re-election.

The list of candidates can be found at

<http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/jefferson/Pages/CandidateFilings.aspx>. **Legislative races**

The 24th Legislative District will have races for the two Representatives positions but not Hoquiam Democrat Jim Hargrove's Senate seat.

Robert Randall "Randy" Dutton, a retired naval officer who lives near Montesano, filed Thursday with the Clallam County Auditor's Office.

He is challenging House Majority Leader Rep. Lynn Kessler, D-Hoquiam, for her Position 2 seat in the state House of Representatives. She filed on Monday.

Kessler, along with Rep. Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim, and Sen. Jim Hargrove, D-Hoquiam, represent the 24th District.

It includes Clallam and Jefferson counties and one third of Grays Harbor County, which includes Hoquiam, but not Aberdeen.

Kessler will seek her ninth term in the House, although this is her first opponent since Teri Schwiethale of Port Angeles unsuccessfully ran against her in 2000.

In the Position 1 race, Van De Wege is being challenged by Joyce Republican Thomas Thomas, owner of Strait Broadband.

Thomas Thomas filed on Wednesday and Van De Wege filed Monday.

The 39-year-old Thomas, who describes himself as a moderate Republican, moved to the North Olympic Peninsula from Dallas-Fort Worth in 2002.

Van De Wege, a 33-year-old Sequim firefighter and paramedic, is seeking his second term after winning the Position 1 seat in the 2006 election.

Over in the state Senate, no one has either publicly announced nor officially filed against Hargrove, who is seeking a fifth term.

He first won election to the House in November 1984, then ran successfully for the Senate in November 1992.

6th Congressional District
In the 6th Congressional District race, U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, will face three opponents, including one from his own party, as he seeks a 17th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dicks' 6th District includes Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties, most of the Kitsap Peninsula and most of the city of Tacoma.

Gig Harbor attorney Doug Cloud — who also ran in 2004 and 2006 — filed Monday as a Republican to challenge Dicks.

Then Port Townsend Democrat Paul Richmond, an attorney and media producer, and Green Party candidate Gary Murrell of Hoquiam filed Wednesday to run against the longtime congressman.

Reporter Erik Hidle can be reached at 360-385-2335 or at erik.hidle@peninsuladailynews.com.

Reporter Brian Gawley can be reached at 360-417-3532 or brian.gawley@peninsuladailynews.com.

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Jun, 8, 2008

ELECTIONS

Dems hold endorsement meetings

Members can help back candidates for party nomination

SAM TAYLOR

Nearly 300 new members were added to the roster of the 40th District Democrats before their endorsement meetings to select which two Democratic Senate candidates to support.

But the endorsement meetings, where Democrats will try to select their two favorite of five candidates, may not offer any answers for voters in the 40th Legislative District, which includes the southern half of Whatcom County.

The five endorsement meetings, which started Saturday and continue through Tuesday, are being held in Bellingham, Mount Vernon, Lopez Island, Orcas Island and San Juan Island. They could potentially offer up a top endorsement for all five candidates seeking the seat of Sen. Harriet Spinel, who is retiring.

"I guess anything is possible," said Tom Pasma, chairman of the 40th District Democrats. "Hopefully we come out with a couple candidates that have a majority and we get an idea of what's going on here. That's the whole goal of it."

Political parties in Washington have been struggling to figure out how to retain some semblance of control over who seeks office on behalf of their organizations after the U.S. Supreme Court in April approved the state's top-two primary system.

In the new system, which will be in effect for the first time in August, only the top two vote-getters move forward to the general election, no matter what their party affiliation is. Two Democrats could move forward. Or two Republicans. Minor parties could effectively be shut out of the November general election. For them, the new system makes the primary count the most.

The state Democratic Party, based on the Supreme Court ruling, required all legislative district Democratic organizations to nominate one candidate for each office to forward on, and if they couldn't, the party chairperson would do it for them.

The 40th District precinct committee officers — party volunteers who help organize each precinct and are often considered insiders — are the only ones allowed to vote in that nominating process based on state rules. So the 40th Democrats decided to have the endorsement meetings where all members of the party who are registered with their organization can help pick candidates.

Pasma said that this year's form of endorsements is a learning process because of the very recent court decision.

"Hopefully we set the groundwork to make it a lot easier so people know what's going on (in future years)," he said.

Reach Sam Taylor at sam.taylor@bellinghamherald.com or call 715-2263.

The Columbian

Dunn faces challenges from within, outside party

Sunday, June 08, 2008

By KATHIE DURBIN, Columbian staff writer

Republican Joseph James is running for the Legislature out of a converted gas station on St. Johns Boulevard filled with his oversized blue-and-yellow campaign signs.

Tim Probst's campaign operates out of a nondescript office suite he shares with several other Democratic candidates in a building just off Interstate 205 near Gher Road.

As usual, Rep. Jim Dunn will be running his campaign out of his house and car.

With the filing deadline past, all three will compete for the votes of 17th District residents between now and the Aug. 19 top two primary. The two candidates who survive, regardless of party, will face each other in the Nov. 4 general election.

It's one of a handful of Clark County races in which the primary will winnow the field.

The 17th is a wild card. Voters there defied expectations in 2006 when they picked maverick Pat Campbell over Jack Burkman, the state Democratic Party's choice, in the primary, then re-elected Republican Dunn by a slim margin in November.

Dunn, 65, was stripped of his legislative committee assignments and travel reimbursement privileges for the 2008 session by House Republican leaders after he made an offensive remark to a female legislative staff member at a social gathering in Kennewick in November. Dunn acknowledged at the time that the comment was inappropriate but said the punishment was disproportionate.

He didn't decide to run for another term until mid-April.

He says he's not worried that he faces primary opposition from within his own party — in fact, he says, he welcomes it.

"I was looking for someone to run against me in the primary," he said. "If you look at election history, the party that has a primary race gets more voters to turn out in the general election."

As of May 7, James was leading in fundraising with about \$50,000 in cash contributions, mostly from small donors, and \$30,000 in in-kind contributions. Those include the \$3,000 a month he donates to his campaign for the use of the converted gas station and the \$700 a month he lists as a contribution for the use of a big pickup truck.

"That truck has become very valuable," James said. "We drive it all over the 17th district."


He's been spending the money as fast as he raises it. According to his most recent report to the Public Disclosure Commission, his campaign had just \$3,000 on hand.

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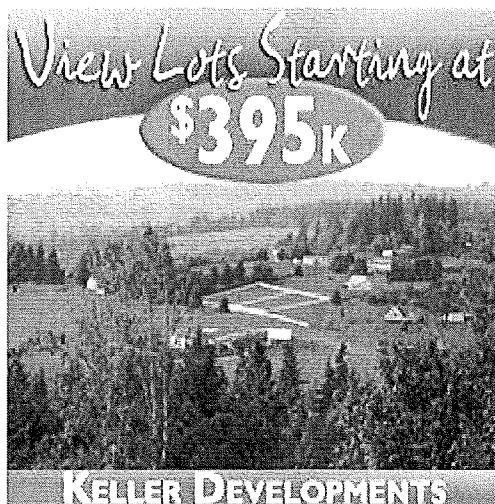
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Probst has raised about \$40,000.

Dunn reports no fundraising activity in the current election cycle. He has \$1,300 in unspent funds carried over from the 2006 campaign. But he says he's not worried about raising campaign cash, either.

"Most of the money you need to spend is on buying signs and getting name recognition," he said. "I have the signs and I have the name recognition."

Clear choices

Dunn has had a long run in the Legislature. He served from 1996 through 2002, lost to Deb Wallace, a Democrat, in 2002, and regained his seat in 2004.

This year's race presents clear options for voters in the 17th if they choose to replace him.

James, 27, got his college degrees from a mail-order university; Probst, 37, graduated from the University of Notre Dame.

James started his own business at 20; Probst worked in state government in Illinois and for the past nine years has directed a statewide network in Washington that works to prevent high school dropouts and train students for 21st century jobs.

James moved from his home state of Utah to Clark County in 2003 hoping to expand the mail-order clothing business he'd launched in Provo and start a dog boarding business here. He bought five acres in Stevenson and established the Dog Adventure Camp, a place where dogs can run free while their owners go windsurfing on the Columbia River or play golf at Skamania Lodge.

An observant Mormon, he has been an active fundraiser and volunteer for the Shriners Hospital in Portland, which provides health care for uninsured children. In the process, he has built a network of friends, many of them Oregon residents, who have donated to his campaign.

James has bachelor's and master's degrees from Alameda University, an unaccredited mail-order college. He says the decision to go that route was practical: "It allowed me to start these two businesses while earning my degree and be the successful entrepreneur that I am today. "

When he decided last year to run for the Legislature, James initially filed in the 49th District, a Democratic stronghold. But advisers urged him to run in the 17th instead. He moved from the 49th to the 17th last fall to establish the required one year's residency.

Initially James filed to run against Wallace. But he said that after Dunn was sanctioned by his caucus, party members urged him to take on the incumbent.

"That's when people started approaching me, saying, 'Why aren't you running against Jim Dunn instead of Deb Wallace? We have to clean our own house first.'"

He says he's rung 2,500 doorbells in the 17th. If there's a dog in the house, that breaks the ice. ("I can teach any dog not to jump, bark or pull on the leash in 20 minutes," James claims).

Moving to politics, he'll ask, "Tell me the most important issue to you in one minute or less." The answer, overwhelmingly, is the economy, he said. "When I get elected, I'll be able to help people by reducing taxes."

James married in May and honeymooned with his bride at Niagara Falls, taking a brief vacation from his campaign.

He considers state Sen. Don Benton his mentor. Although the Vancouver Republican has not formally endorsed him, James said Benton has been showing him the ropes.

James followed Benton around during the one-day special session last Nov. 29, during which the Legislature reinstated the 1 percent limit on property tax increases. He shows off a photo of himself with Benton that day on the Senate floor.

"He and I are already making plans for what we want to do in the next session," James said. "He feels I'm a breath of fresh air."

Education, middle class

State Rep. Deb Wallace was on her way to a legislative strategy session for House Democrats Friday when she stopped off for a quick stand-up meeting with legislative candidate Tim Probst. Wallace wanted information about how Washington businesses are helping expose high schools to the workplace.

Probst offered her several examples: partnerships, job shadows, summer camps for students interested in careers in the biosciences. "If you put the pieces together for high school students, that's better than just saying, 'Here are the pieces'" he said.

Wallace, who chairs the House Higher Education Committee, depends on Probst for this kind of background information. "The preparation we do now during the interim helps us deliver during the long session," she said. "Tim has been really helpful with work force issues."

If he's elected, Wallace would like to see him get appointed to the House Education Committee, which has no members from Southwest Washington.

Probst directs the Washington Workforce Association, an organization created by Congress that works with businesses, labor groups and schools and colleges to achieve a widely shared goal: Preparing today's students for the jobs of tomorrow. The state's 12 local workforce councils help 6,000 students annually get into college or apprenticeships and keep another 1,100 students from dropping out of high school.

"This is one place where business and labor see things the same way," Probst said.

Though his name may not be a household word, Probst has been endorsed by virtually every Democratic office-holder in Clark County and has raised about \$40,000 since last fall.

Probst first considered running for the Legislature in 2005, but with a demanding job and a family that includes four young children, he decided to support Burkman instead.

This year, he said, the time was right. He's spending 25 to 30 hours a week campaigning door to door, mainly evenings and weekends. "I really like doorbelling because it grounds you," he said. "I really want to know my district. Basically, I'm not sleeping much."

A self-described moderate, Probst says his issues are "education and the middle class." With the economy struggling, "I'm against raising taxes," he said, "because people are already having to tighten their belts."

Stimulus checks from the federal government won't change that, he said. One thing that will help, he said, is the development, over time, of a highly trained work force.

Probst said he's well aware that the state of Washington may face a \$2 billion budget shortfall in 2009. As a budget analyst for the state of Illinois in the mid-1990s, he said, he found an upside to that situation.

"When you have less revenue, there's more creativity to restructure and find efficiencies. You can find ways to get more bang for the buck."

Probst said he has no desire to attack Dunn directly. But he noted that in 2007, Dunn was the only lawmaker to vote against a college affordability bill and one of only four to oppose a dropout prevention measure.

"I'm against divisive politics," he said. "That's one reason I'm running. I believe in being effective and getting results. Neither of the other candidates can point to a record of getting results."

Kathie Durbin covers politics and the Legislature. Call her at 360-735-4523 or e-mail kathie.durbin@columbian.com.

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Saturday, June 7, 2008 - Page updated at 12:00 AM

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Many of November's legislative races will be single-party

By Emily Heffter
Seattle Times staff reporter

The deadline to file for elective office passed Friday, and it appears that candidates from the same political party will face off in at least five legislative races in November's general election.

For the first time this year, the top two vote-getters in the Aug. 19 primary will move on to the general election, regardless of party affiliation. In the past, the top vote-getter from each party moved forward.

In five legislative races, only Republicans or only Democrats filed for office.

Those races include the 11th District, where Sen. Margarita Prentice, D-Renton, has drawn a challenge from two other Democrats, including Juan Martinez, a housing commissioner for the Seattle Housing Authority and former co-director for the Washington Tax Fairness Coalition. The third candidate who filed for the seat is Scott McKay.

In the 32nd District, Rep. Ruth Kagi, D-Lake Forest Park, faces Democrat L. Kyle Nelson of Kenmore. And in Northeastern Washington, only Republicans have filed for the 7th District state representative seats.

Same-party candidates also could face each other in a handful of other districts dominated by either Republicans or Democrats. In those districts, the top two candidates likely will be from the same party.

State Republican and Democratic party leaders oppose the top-two primary system, which was approved by voters in 2004. It had been mired in legal challenges until March, when the U.S. Supreme Court rule the primary is legal.

The most closely watched contest this year will be the governor's race, which drew 10 candidates, including Republican Dino Rossi and incumbent Democrat Christine Gregoire.

The 8th Congressional District race drew five challengers against Republican Rep. Dave Reichert. His key opponent, former Microsoft manager Darcy Burner, a Democrat, narrowly lost to Reichert in 2006.

Three well-known candidates have filed for the state treasurer's seat being vacated by retiring Treasurer Mike Murphy.

Assistant State Treasurer Allan Martin is running as a Republican, and two Democrats have entered the race: State Rep. Jim McIntire, of Seattle, and ChangMook Sohn, who recently retired as executive director of a state council that forecasts revenues. McIntire is the council's chairman.

Republican state Attorney General Rob McKenna is being challenged by Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, a Democrat. In the commissioner of public lands race, Republican incumbent Doug Sutherland faces rancher Peter Goldmark, a Democrat and former state agriculture director.

Terry Bergeson has five opponents in her re-election bid as superintendent of public instruction, but her chances may have improved last month when Richland Schools Superintendent Rich Semler dropped out of the race. Semler had been endorsed by the state teachers union.

Democrat Jason Osgood and two independent party candidates have filed to run against Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed.

All three state Supreme Court seats are contested.

Under the new primary system, candidates filing for office declared a party preference, but they could put the preference in their own words. Most candidates said they preferred either "Democratic Party" or "Republican Party," but a few strayed. Rossi, a Republican, wrote "Prefers G.O.P. Party."

A few others took advantage of the opportunity. In the 35th Legislative District, one candidate listed his name as "(Blue Collar) Brad Gehring" and another, Randy Neatherlin, listed his party preference as "No Gas Taxes (R) Party."

Those descriptions will show up on the primary ballot, a Secretary of State spokesman said.

Emily Heffter: 206-464-8246 or ehetter@seattletimes.com

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Final filing day: Who's running in local races

Two more candidates stepped up to run for state Supreme Court Friday, rounding out challenges to all three incumbents seeking new six-year terms.

C.F. "Frank" Vulliet is from Mercer Island, and James M. Beecher is from Seattle. Both are taking on Charles W. Johnson, the three-term associate chief justice on the court.

•3rd Congressional District: Republican Christine Webb filed to take on Democratic U.S. Rep. Brian Baird of Vancouver. Olympia Democrat Cheryl Crist and Washougal Republican Michael Delavar filed previously.

•9th District: Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Smith of Tacoma drew an opponent, Republican James Postma of Steilacoom.

More candidates filed for the governor's race, swelling the field to 10 on the final day of filing. Filers included people without much public profile and Will Baker, a Reform Party candidate. Baker ran for state auditor as a Republican in 2004, shortly after spending time in jail for harassing Tacoma officials.

All but two candidates — likely Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire and Republican Dino Rossi, who lost by 133 votes in 2004 — will be eliminated in the Aug. 19 top two primary.

The top two also invited what Secretary of State Sam Reed feared would be "funny business." It no longer lets candidates state a party affiliation but lets them state a party preference, which could be any phrase of up to 16 characters that is not obscene.

State Rep. Brendan Williams of the 22nd Legislative District in Olympia was among those who had a little fun. He listed a preference for the "Progressive Dem. Party." Rossi and state Reps. Gary Alexander and Richard DeBolt went with "G.O.P. Party." In the 35th District, Republican hopeful Randy Neatherlin favored the "No Gas Taxes (R) Party."

Complete filings

Following is a roster of statewide, judicial and local filings in Thurston and Mason counties. Those who filed Friday are marked with an asterisk (*).

•U.S. House District 6: Doug Cloud, Tacoma (R); Norm Dicks, Belfair (D); Paul Richmond, Port Townsend, (D); Gary Murrell, Hoquiam (Green)

•Governor: Chris Gregoire, Olympia (D); John W. Aiken Jr., Medical Lake (R); Christopher A. Tudor, Indianola (no party listed); James White, Marysville (independent); Javier O. Lopez, Lacey (R); Dino Rossi, Issaquah (G.O.P.); * Mohammad Hasan Said, Ephrata (no party listed); * Will Baker, Tacoma (Reform); * Duff Badgley, Seattle (Green); * Christian Pierre Joubert, Edmonds (D)

•Lieutenant governor: Brad Owen, Shelton (D); Marcia McCraw, Seattle (R); Arlene A. Peck, Spokane Valley (Constitution); * Randel Bell, Olympia (D); * Jim Wiest, Olympia (G.O.P.)

•Secretary of state: Sam Reed, Olympia (R); Mark Greene, Bellevue (Party of Commons); Jason Osgood, Seattle (D); Marilyn Montgomery, Spokane (Constitution)

•Attorney general: John Ladenburg, Tacoma (D); Rob McKenna, Bellevue (R)

•Auditor: Brian Sonntag, University Place (D); Glenn Freeman, Kent (Constitution); * J. Richard (Dick) McEntee, University Place (R)

•Treasurer: Allan Martin, Tumwater (R); Jim McIntire, Seattle (D); * ChangMook Sohn, Olympia (D)

•Insurance commissioner: Mike Kreidler, Thurston County (D); John R. Adams, Seattle (R); * Curtis Fackler, Spokane (no party listed)

•Public lands commissioner: Peter J. Goldmark, Okanogan (D); Doug Sutherland, Lacey (R)

•Superintendent of public instruction: Don Hansler, Spanaway; Randy Dorn, Eatonville; David Blomstrom, Seattle; Teresa (Terry) Bergeson, Olympia; Enid Duncan, Milton; * John Patterson Blair, Vashon

•State Supreme Court Position 3: Mary Fairhurst, Tumwater; Michael J. Bond, Mercer Island

•State Supreme Court Position 7: Debra L. Stephens, Spokane; Jack Hill, Tacoma

•Court of Appeals Division 2, District 2, position 1: (Joyce) Robin Hunt, Kingston; Tim Ford, Olympia

•2nd Legislative District: Senate: Randi Becker, Graham (R); Marilyn Rasmussen, Eatonville (D); and Kelly Mainard, Spanaway (R). House position 1: Jim McCune, Graham (prefers R party); Chuck Collins, Spanaway (D); JeanMarie Christenson, Rainier (D); * Ray Harper, Eatonville (D). House position 2: Tom Campbell, Roy (R); Michael C. Powell, Puyallup (D); * Rick Payne, Graham (D)

•20th District: Senate: Neal Kirby, Centralia (R); Dan Swecker, Rochester (R); Ted Shannon, Centralia (R); Chuck Bojarski, Centralia (D). House position 1: Richard DeBolt, Chehalis (G.O.P.); * Mike Rechner, Thurston County (D). House position 2: Gary Alexander, Thurston County (G.O.P.); Jim Cutler, Tenino (D)

•22nd District: Senate position: Karen Fraser, Thurston County (D); Erik Lee, Olympia (D); House position 1: * Brendan Williams, Olympia (Progressive Dem. Party); House position 2: Sam Hunt, Olympia (D); Don Crawford, Olympia (R)

•35th District: House position 1: Kathy Haigh, Shelton (D); Marco Brown, Belfair (R); Brad Gehring, Bremerton (R). House position 2: Fred Finn, Thurston County (D); Daryl Daus, Belfair (D); Herb Baze, Shelton (prefers R Party); Randy Neatherlin, Belfair (prefers No Gas Taxes (R) Party)

•Thurston County Commission, District 1: Cathy Wolfe, Olympia (D); Judy Wilson, Lacey (R)

•Thurston County Commission, District 2: Bill Pilkey, Olympia (Independent); Sandra Romero, Lacey (D), Jon Halvorson, Lacey (D); Lucius Daye, Olympia (D); Robin Edmondson, Rainier (R)

•Thurston County Superior Court, Position 1: Chris Wickham, Olympia

- Superior Court, Position 2:** Paula Casey, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 3:** Charles Williams, Olympia; Carol Murphy, Olympia; * Kevin L. Johnson, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 4:** Tom McPhee, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 5:** Richard Cork Hicks, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 6:** Chris Pomeroy, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 7:** Gary Tabor, Lacey; * Ed Holm, Olympia
 - Superior Court, Position 8:** Anne Hirsch, Olympia
 - Thurston County Public Utility District, District 3:** Chris Stearns, Thurston County; Terence Artz, Olympia; Lowell Deguise, Rochester; * John Blacklaw, Rochester
- Thurston County precinct committee officers:** Several people filed for Republican or Democratic PCO positions. For a full list, go to www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor and click "Elections" and "2008 Candidate Filing."
- Mason County Commission, District 1:** Lynda Ring-Erickson, Shelton (D); Rick Ryan, Shelton (D)
 - Mason County Commission, District 2:** Tim Sheldon, Potlatch (D); Roslynne Reed, Hoodspout (D); Deborah Reis, Union (R); Frank Benavente, Hoodspout (Independent)
 - Mason County Superior Court, Position 1:** Richard C. Adamson, Shelton; Dan Goodell, Belfair; Amber Finlay, Shelton
 - Mason County Superior Court, Position 2:** Toni A. Sheldon, Shelton; Monty Cobb, Shelton
 - Mason Public Utility District No. 1, Position 2:** Ronald S. Gold, Shelton; Tom Strong, Shelton
 - Mason Public Utility District No. 3, Position 2:** Tom Farmer, Allyn; Doug Womack, Belfair; Herb Gerhardt, Belfair

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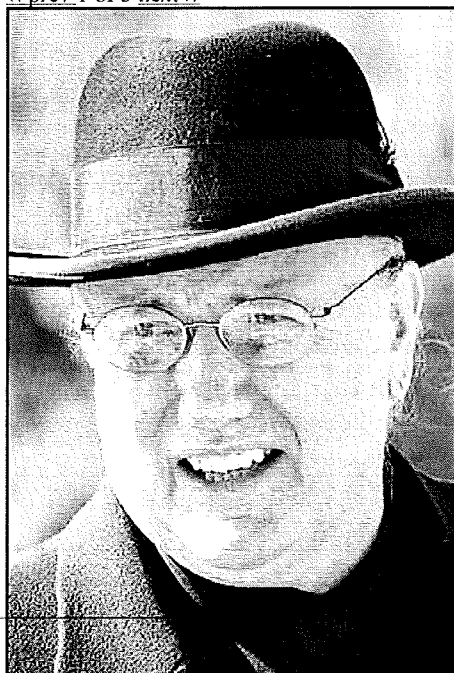
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Republican state Rep. Charles Ross got a Democratic opponent Friday, and the field of hopefuls for Mary Skinner's state House seat swelled to seven, with four more joining the race on the last day of candidate filing.

Political newcomer Chris Ramirez of Yakima, a 22-year-old who graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in May, will represent the Democratic Party against Ross. Because the top two vote-getters in the Aug. 19 primary advance to the Nov. 4 general election, both are assured a spot on the final ballot.

The race for the other 14th District state House position, which Skinner will leave vacant after seven terms in office, is a whole other story.

Former Union Gap Mayor Aubrey Reeves, attorney Al Schweppe, attorney J.J. Sandlin and Scott Hess, who works for the National Federation of Independent Business, all filed as Republicans on Friday. They join Yakima Councilman Norm Johnson and former Union Gap schools chief Bob McLaughlin, both Republicans, and Yakima school board President Vickie Ybarra, a Democrat.

The newly filed candidates are:

Aubrey Reeves

Reeves, 67, has owned Aubrey's RV in Union Gap for 40 years and served as mayor in that city for a decade before falling one vote shy of the general election ballot last year in a heated three-way primary. He believes that combination of public and private experience sets him apart from the other Republican candidates.

"I have experience on both sides," he said.

His top priority if elected would be legislating a friendlier business environment statewide. Though he doesn't know exactly how he would do it, Reeves said something clearly needs to be changed.

"Anyone you talk to basically says Washington state is not business friendly," he said.

The solution does not necessarily lie in tax breaks but there has to be a way to lure businesses to Central Washington, he said, describing himself as a "a little on the conservative side but not a radical."

"I guess I'll have to look at the laws and see what needs to be changed," Reeves said.

He also pledged to be accessible and open-minded when listening to constituents.

"That would be my purpose of being there in the first place," he said.

Al Schweppe

Another veteran of both public- and private-sector jobs, 46-year-old Schweppe

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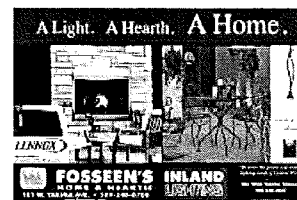
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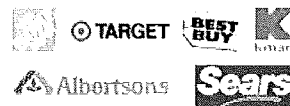
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has been involved with politics in one way or another since graduating from the Seattle University School of Law in 1991. His first job after law school was as an aide to Republican U.S. Rep. Rod Chandler, R-Wash.

Since then he has participated in numerous political campaigns, including his current role as John McCain's Yakima County chairman. He ran unsuccessfully for Yakima County Auditor in 1996 and was a finalist to replace retiring Sen. Alex Deccio in early 2007.

Professionally, Schweppe served as a Yakima County deputy prosecutor from 1995 to 2001 and has since worked for the private firm of Meyer, Fluegge and Tenney.

Describing himself as a "center-right" moderate Republican, he listed adequate funding for local criminal justice needs and equitable funding for education as top priorities. He also pledged to work for a better small-business environment statewide -- one without over-regulation and with lower taxes.

"You have to create an environment, or climate, where (business) people know that the government is not going to get in their way," Schweppe said.

J.J. Sandlin

Sandlin, 63, who is a criminal defense attorney as well as practicing other types of law, nevertheless wants to get tough on crime. He's in favor of allowing police to "stop and frisk" people without probable cause and said he believes society has become too politically correct in its handling of ills such as gangs.

If people appear to be gang members, police should be able to stop and question them, Sandlin said. Asked whether he was concerned that could lead to racial profiling of Latinos in the Yakima Valley, he was undeterred.

"I don't care if there's profiling," he said. "I think profiling is legitimate."

He emphasized, however, that he is not a one-issue candidate. He knows about agribusiness, water allocation and issues facing local school districts because he has represented all of those interests as an attorney, he said. He also believes he could clear up some of the backlog afflicting local courts with measures that clearly separate criminal, civil and family-law judges.

"I am so looking forward to the opportunity of drafting some laws rather than having to twist them around to make them work," Sandlin said.

Scott Hess

Hess, 35, did not return phone calls seeking comment Friday afternoon.

According to his campaign Web site, www.yes2integrity.com, he works for the National Federation of Independent Business, a largely conservative group that works to boost small business.

A native of Burien, Hess attended Western Washington University and has worked primarily in the media industry, according to the site. His listed priorities -- small business, illegal immigration, taxes and crime -- appear to put him on the conservative side of the candidate spectrum.

"Don't you agree that welfare recipients should be required to both partake in a drug test and prove their citizenship?" his Web site asks.

According to the site, he is particularly steadfast in his opposition to illegal immigration and "flabbergasted" it hasn't been more of an issue in the early stages of the 14th District campaigns.

"I will do everything I can to pass legislation that insists on assimilation into our society, instead of us catering to their languages and cultures," the site says.

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Chris Ramirez

Ramirez, the 22-year-old Democratic challenger to Republican incumbent Charles Ross, wouldn't mind putting off law school this fall if it means he's got a shot at winning the state House seat. The recent Pacific Lutheran graduate had planned to enroll in law school at Willamette University in Oregon.

"They said they would defer (my admission) for a year or two," Ramirez said.

The former Davis High School sports standout, who also ran track at Pacific Lutheran, said he believes running for office in his hometown is a civic responsibility. He has witnessed first-hand the tendency of classmates to leave for college and never return, and he wants to make sure there are opportunities in the Yakima Valley so young graduates won't have to do that.

"I've grown up here," he said. "I was born here. I have a vested interest in seeing the community do well."

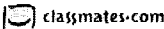
Ramirez listed encouraging energy-efficient, environmentally sound development for sites such as the former Boise Cascade sawmill in Yakima. Recognizing the anti-regulation stance of many local developers and politicians, he said he knows that could be an unpopular position. But he hopes to provide incentives that would make such development profitable.

Increasing graduation rates is another priority for Ramirez, who said he didn't know enough about the role of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning to say whether he supports its use as a graduation requirement.

His plan would be to reach kids early and to legislate for higher-education funding so kids would know they'll be able to attend college if they're academically able.

"That would definitely be something I'll look into," he said.

** Pat Muir can be reached at 577-7693 or pmuir@yakimaherald.com.*

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