

State reps face primary contests

The 61st district in northeast Oakland County drew the most interest as candidates filed last week for the Aug. 5 state representative primary races.

Five of the seven state representative districts in the Observer & Eccentric area will have primary contests. Three incumbents are being challenged in their parties' primaries.

IN THE 61st district, which includes Oakland Township, first-term incumbent Democrat Alice Tomboulion faces two Democratic and six Republican challengers.

Other Democrats in the race are Robert Singleton Jr. of Pontiac and Joseph E. Smalley of Oxford.

The state Republican Party has targeted the 61st district, which was held for three terms by current state GOP Chairman Mel Larsen.

Republican hopefuls include Oakland County Commissioner Mat J. Dunaskiss of Lake Orion, Stanley M. Brown of Pontiac, Thomas S. Barlow Jr. of Oxford, Gary L. Printz of Pontiac, Douglas A. Fraser of Oxford and Kenneth R. Griffith of Auburn Heights.

The 63rd District, including Avon Township, Rochester, Birmingham and part of Troy, will have a Democratic primary race between candidates Paul Dain of Birmingham and Robert W. Gagnik of Troy.

William D. McMaster, of Troy, had filed earlier last week for the Republican primary but withdrew his candidacy Friday. Incumbent state Rep. Ruth B. McNamee of Birmingham, will thus be unopposed Aug. 5.

THE 65TH DISTRICT, which includes Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township and part of West Bloomfield, will have a Republican race between incumbent state Rep. James E. Debaugh of Birmingham and Michael L. Stein of Bloomfield Hills.

Paul Calvin Peterson, of Birmingham, was the only Democrat to file.

A three-way Republican race in the 64th District (Farmington, Farmington Hills and part of Southfield) will pit incumbent Wilbur V. Brotherton against John M. Mulroy and Joseph Schmidt, both of Southfield. The sole Democratic candidate is Karen Artinian of Southfield.

In the 67th district (eastern Southfield, all of Lathrup Village), Republicans Jeffrey H. Burss and Henry G. Leeds, both of Southfield, will run off Aug. 5 for the right to oppose Democratic incumbent Joseph Forbes of Oak Park. Forbes was the only Democrat to file.

THE CANDIDATES for the 71st (eastern half of Troy) and 24th (including Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor and half of West Bloomfield) district seats face no primary opposition.

In the 24th Republican incumbent Richard D. Fessler of West Bloomfield will face Democrat William T. Roberts of Walled Lake in the Nov. 4 general election.

The 71st District race between incumbent Democrat Sal Rocca of Sterling Heights and Republican challenger Douglas Cruce of Troy will be a repeat of the 1978 election.

Congressional hopefuls line up for August battle

Primary races Aug. 5 are assured in all but one U.S. congressional district in southern Oakland and western Wayne counties.

The filing deadline for congressional candidates was early last week. The withdrawal deadline was Friday afternoon.

In the 18th District, which includes all of Troy, incumbent U.S. Rep. James Blanchard of Pleasant Ridge has no Democratic primary opponent. Challenger Betty Suida of Royal Oak is the sole Republican candidate.

In the 19th District, which includes the bulk of Oakland County, three Democrats will be on the August ballot — the Rev. Leroy J. Peterson of Birmingham, Wayne E. Daniels of Union Lake and James M. Pidgeon of Bloomfield Hills. The winner will face Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, running for a 13th term.

IN THE 17TH DISTRICT (the Farmington area, Southfield, Redford Township and northwest Detroit), incumbent Democrat William M. Brodhead of Detroit has no primary opponent. Republican challengers are Arve Bakken of Redford Township and Raymond Cochran of Detroit.

Two-term incumbent Rep. David Bonior of Mt. Clemens has three Democratic opponents for his 12th District seat. The predominantly Macomb County district includes the eastern half of Avon Township and the city of Rochester.

Other Democrats in the race are Owen Oscar Love of Roseville, Danny Nolan of Port Huron and Anthony J. Pelfelli of Mt. Clemens.

County board race loses 4-term veteran

Commissioner Henry W. Hoot dropped his re-election bid for a fifth term on the Oakland County board.

Citing "business demands" and two "strong Republican candidates," Hoot, a conservative Republican from Bloomfield Township, withdrew his name from the Aug. 5 primary election ballot.

His action left Republicans Marilyn E. Goeling of Bloomfield Hills and Douglas J. Schroeder of Troy on the GOP ballot for the 14th District nomination. Lose Democrat in the race is Charles J. Salgat of Troy. The district includes most of Troy and part of Bloomfield Township.

HOOT, A self-employed radio broadcasting consultant, said his new business was "demanding more and more of my time." He said his work often took him out of the state.

During his nearly eight years on the Board of Commissioners, Hoot gained a reputation of being the most consistently conservative Republican. He often differed with his more moderate Republican colleagues on county spend-

ing, support of the county executive's powers, support of such regional agencies as SEMTA and SEMCOG and other issues.

Hoot said Friday he went "back and forth for a couple of days" on dropping out. "I finally made up my mind this morning," he said.

But after November, the Board of Commissioners may yet have another Hoot. Edward W. Hoot, Henry's father, is a Republican candidate for 3rd District commissioner, a seat being vacated by state representative candidate Matt Dunaskiss, of Lake Orion.

THE ONLY other county commissioner candidate to withdraw Friday was Robert Gariepy, of Southfield, who filed for the Republican ballot in the 15th District (parts of Bloomfield Township, Southfield and Farmington Hills).

His action leaves incumbent Lillian Moffitt, R-Bloomfield, unopposed in the August primary. Mrs. Moffitt, vice chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners, will face Democrat Barbara Kukes Goldman of Bloomfield Township in the Nov. 4 general election.

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