

Open seats draw numerous candidates

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Election season is well underway, with the initial candidate filing period for the June 8 Statewide Direct Primary Election coming to a close last Friday — except for a handful of races where the incumbent did not file for reelection.

Potential candidates still have until 5 p.m. today to throw their hats in the ring for the state posts of Attorney General and Insurance Commissioner. Locally controlled seats for State Assembly District 25 and Senate District 14, as well as U.S. Representative District 19, are also still open for candidates.

The county positions of Assessor, Auditor-Controller and District 3 Supervisor remain open to additional applicants as well.

June's primaries already have a slew of candidates in nearly all races, however, including a number of crowded local campaigns.

Turlock Police Capt. Rob Jackson will face off against incumbent Sheriff-Coroner Adam Christianson. Incumbent Clerk-Recorder Lee Lundrigan will also see a challenger in former Alliance Title division president Terry Harwell.

The seat of retiring Office 6 Judge Donald Shaver has drawn six challengers, including Nancy Williamsen, Martha Carlton-Magaña, Shawn Bessey, William Mussman, Philip Pimentel and Geoffrey Hutcheson.

Lauren Klein and Rick Dahlseid will vie for retiring Auditor-Controller Larry Haugh's seat, and Dave Cogdill and John McDermott will challenge for the seat of Assessor, being vacated by retiring Doug Harms.

The two available county supervisor seats have also drawn numerous applicants. Incumbent District 4 Supervisor Dick Monteith will be challenged by former Modesto Mayor Carmen Sabatino and former Modesto City Councilman Balvino Irizarry, while former state agriculture secretary Bill Lyons Jr. will square off against certified public accountant Terry Withrow for the District 3 seat, which Supervisor Jeff Grover is vacating.

Local Republican, Democrat and American Independent Central Committees will also elect their leadership on June 3, with a handful of contested races in the county.

The Secretary of State has yet to release official candidate information for state races, including the hotly contested Gubernatorial primary and numerous local legislative seats.

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