

Area Dems plan forum

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POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

Candidates seeking western Washtenaw offices to appear

The Western Washtenaw Democrats are hosting a candidate forum for all party hopefuls running for public office in the county's western townships on Thursday, June 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chelsea Depot.

"The forum will provide a venue for the candidates to explain their positions on the issues, and the reception will be a perfect way for voters to get to know the candidates in a more personal setting," said party Chairman Roy Schmidt.

State Sen. Mark Schauer of Battle Creek and Munith farmer Sharon Renier, both Democratic candidates for the 7th Congressional District seat that includes western Washtenaw County, are expected to attend.

Other candidates who confirmed attendance are state Rep. Pam Byrnes, D-Lyndon Township, who does not have a primary opponent; Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie, who is unopposed; and county Drain Commissioner Janis Bobrin, who faces challengers Richard Deitering and Douglas Egeler in the Aug. 5 primary. Egeler plans to attend, but Deitering has not confirmed whether he will be there.

It's also unclear whether Sheriff Dan Minzey, another incumbent Democrat facing a primary challenge, will attend. Jerry Clayton, one of Minzey's two Democratic challengers, said he will attend, but the other, Iva Jo Bielec, has not confirmed.

Also attending are Lyndon Township Clerk Linda Reilly; Bob Mester, candidate for Lyndon Township trustee; Bob Lange, who is running for Sylvan Township supervisor; Frank Parkinson, a candidate for county commissioner in District 3; and Eric Borregard, who is running for county commissioner in District 1.

Candidates from Freedom Township who will attend include treasurer hopeful Lorna Brown and trustee candidates Beth Heuser and David Davis. Attending from Scio Township will be Supervisor Charlie Nielsen and former supervisor Spaulding Clark; Trustee Chuck Ream and trustee candidates Gordon Darr and Jack Knowles; and clerk candidate Mary Shindell.

County board race

Plenty of new faces are running for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners this year.

David Schmittou, a Republican from Superior Township, is a middle school teacher with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. He's running against incumbent Democrat Ken Schwartz in District 2 in the November election.

In District 7, there's no incumbent, and three Democrats are competing in the primary for a spot on the November ballot:

* Kristin Judge from Pittsfield Township is a former sixth-grade teacher turned community volunteer, wife and mother.

* Jeff Jordan of Ypsilanti is a real estate investor who was an autoworker at Ford Motor Co. for 14 years.

* Larry Cox of Saline was a supervisor at Chrysler for 35 years before retiring.

In District 9, David Kanaan is running against incumbent Democrat Leah Gunn in the August primary. Kanaan is the president and CEO of Smart Dining Inc., a magazine that offers a directory of area restaurants.

The primary is Aug. 5. The last day to register to vote in the primary election is Monday, July 7.

By Art Aisner and Tom Gantert, The Ann Arbor News. Political Notebook is a regular feature about local politics. Have information or a suggestion for a topic? E-mail aaisner@annarbornews.com or jmcgovern@annarbornews.com. Stay up to date online at blog.mlive.com/a2politics.

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