

Community

Filing deadline for May election for school boards and taxing district boards is Thursday

Daily Courier

Thursday is the deadline to file for the May ballot, in which seats are up for grabs on every school board and fire district in Jackson and Josephine counties.

In Jackson County, every school board has two or more openings: Ashland, Butte Falls, Central Point, Eagle Point, Medford, Phoenix-Talent, Pinehurst, Prospect and Rogue River.

In Medford, where the school board has been roiled by dissension and the superintendent recently announced his resignation, there is already a four-way battle for one of three seats up for grabs on the school board. Ditto for Ashland.

There are also six positions available on the Southern Oregon Education Service District — four representing Jackson County, two representing Josephine County.

All 10 fire districts in Jackson County also have board positions up for grabs, and there are openings on the Elk City Water District, the Rogue Valley Sewer Services District and the Rogue Valley Transportation District.

Finally, there are two openings on the board of the Jackson County Library District and two on the Rogue Community College Board of Education.

In Josephine County, there are four openings on both the Grants Pass School Board and three on the Three Rivers School Board. Both boards have been targeted by the local Republican Party in recent elections.

All members of the Grants Pass School Board are elected at-large. Board members technically cover a "position," but the only residency requirement is to live somewhere in the district (which mostly mirrors the city of Grants Pass).

There are three openings on the Three Rivers School Board, and they do have residency requirements. Zone 1 covers the Illinois Valley, Zone 3 covers the Applegate Valley and Williams, and Zone 5 covers the North Valley. The Zone 3 position also covers some portions of Jackson County in the Applegate Valley.

All three fire districts in Josephine County — Illinois Valley, Williams and Wolf Creek — have openings, as do the Merlin Park District and the Kerby Water District.

The Josephine Community Library board has two seats available, and RCC has an opening on the board for a position that covers Josephine County.

Finally there is the new Josephine County Rural Fire Protection District, which doesn't have any fire engines, firefighters or stations yet, but is in the process of forming. Five positions make up the district.

No tax levies or other measures are on the ballot for Jos-ephine County. Jackson County has two so far: a five-year levy of \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for Jackson County Fire District 4, and a five-year levy of \$1.39 per \$1,000 for the Prospect Fire District.

Thursday is also the deadline to file a measure, or to withdraw from a race.

To learn more, or to file electronically, visit the county clerk websites for both counties.

Reach city editor Chris Bristol at 541-474-3716 or cbristol@thedailycourier.com.



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