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The political pulse

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Write-in rival enters contest

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Galen Williams, 32-year-old Ucon mason and farmer, paid his \$40 filing fee and qualified as a Republican candidate for county commissioner in District 1, Bonneville Election Clerk Ellen Bingham announced Wednesday following completion of the official canvass of the May 25 primary election.

He will oppose the incumbent Democrat, Clyde A. Burtenshaw, Shelton farmer, who has served six years, the last four as chairman.

The two will vie in the Nov. 2 general election for the four year term in District 1 which embraces the north and eastern section of the county but all county voters cast ballot for the position.

Williams received 58 write-in votes for the position and the right to qualify as a candidate by accepting the nomination and paying the filing fee.

Three Democratic precinct committeemen also accepted the nomination but don't need to pay a filing fee for receiving write-ins for vacancies. They included Lew Johnson for Precinct 15, James McFadden for Precinct 20 and Philip Anderson for Precinct 20.

Doyle Miner, now director of the Idaho Board of Pharmacy at Boise but a former state representative from St. Anthony, received 185 write-in votes to help him in amassing more than 1,000 write-ins in the state and qualify as a Republican state treasurer candidate. He will oppose longtime Democrat incumbent, State Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon.

Mrs. Bingham said the official canvass showed very few changes from the unofficial results reported by The Post-Register on election night. Most were exactly the same and a few were less than 5 votes difference.

Mrs. Bingham explained the slight differences showed up when the ballots were run through a second time and "blew out the holes" of some ballots which had not been punched through completely.

In the only two close local races, there were no material changes.

The vote totals for J. F. Chadband, K. Dale Leatham and George J. Bever for Republican candidate for state representative in Legislative District 30 were exactly the same as reported on election night. Chadband led in Bonneville with 1,405, to Leatham's 1,167 and Bever's 320. In the west half of Shelley which is part of District 30, Leatham was in front with 204, followed by Chadband 120 and Bever 13. The two totals gave Chadband 1,525, or a slim 148-vote lead over Leatham 1,327 and Bever trailing at 333.

In the other local contest, Assessor John Wasden widened his lead by 10 votes over his former appraiser, Sherman L. Norris. Wasden received 2,938, or four more than the 2,934 reported election night, and Norris 2,778, or six less than the 2,784 previously reported, giving Wasden a 160 vote lead instead of the 150 reported election night. John Lurus trailed at 584.

For Republican state auditor which is only 168 votes difference in the state, Nolan G. Young, Boise, former longtime Idaho Falls CPA, received three more votes for a total of 4,421 while State Sen. Dean Van Engelen, Burley, lost one to a total of 1,497.

The canvass confirmed only 8,763 cast ballots, or only 26 percent of the 33,597 registered. Of this 5,909 voted the Republican ticket, or 79.9 percent; and 1,744 the Democratic ticket, or 20 percent. The others were 18 votes for the American Party and 15 for Libertarians.

Mrs. Bingham reported interest for the general election appears to be gaining and close to 1,000 more have registered. She estimated the total registered at over 34,000. Registration will continue until the deadline of about two weeks before the election.