

Interest high in 1986 election in state

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register columnist

Political interest is unusually high for this early before the 1986 general elections, with conjectures buzzing about potential candidates.

Contenders at the top of the ticket appear pretty well settled on both sides of the ticket, but there is also talk for lesser state offices.

Idaho electors will vote for one senator, two congressmen, a full slate of state officers, all of the 126 state legislators and about half of the county offices next year.

After the 1984 general elections, Democrats are licking their wounds from the disastrous outcome and hoping for better luck in the future. They probably will fare better as they can only go up after last year.

It can be said safely that a majority of the current officer holders in Idaho will seek re-election on the federal, state and county levels. Generally, those seeking other offices or retirement announce their moves well beforehand. That's true, for example, for Gov. John V. Evans and Lt. Gov. David H. Leroy.

The elections this year are generally limited to the municipalities in November, many school overrid-

and bond elections this spring, and some special elections, such as the Bonneville County hospital proposal for May 14.

County elections next year are generally limited to one county commissioner, clerk, assessor and treasurer, plus vacancies that develop during the biennium, in each of the 44 counties.

Two county commissioners, sheriff, prosecuting attorney and coroner, and filling of vacancies, were elected in 1984 and hold over for two more years. This brings up the question of why all county officials can't be elected the same time every four years, rather than be split biennially.

After a statewide survey and check at key political sources, the prospective candidates at present for federal and state offices appear as follows:

U.S. senator: Republican, U.S. Sen. Steve Symms; Democrat, Gov. John V. Evans.

U.S. Congress, 2nd District: Republican, George V. Hansen, former congressman; or his wife, Connie; Don Adamson, Jerome attorney; Attorney General Jim Jones; State Sens. Dane Watkins and Ann

Rydalch, both of Idaho Falls; State Rep. Linden B. Bateman, Idaho Falls; House Assistant Majority Leader Robert Geddes, Preston; Democrat, Congressman Richard H. Stallings, Rexburg.

U.S. Congress, 1st District: Republican, Congressman Larry Craig; Democrat, Bill Hellar, Post Falls businessman, who unsuccessfully ran in 1984; and State Sens. Ron Beitel-spacher, Grangeville, and Vernon Lannen, Pinehurst.

Governor: Republican, Lt. Gov. David H. Leroy; Democrat, Cecil D. Andrus, former governor and U.S. secretary of interior.

Lieutenant governor: Republican, Chuck Lampesis, Post Falls attorney; Sens. Rydalch, and Skip Smyser, Parma; Reps. Bateman; Steve Antone, Rupert, and Kitty Gurnsey, Boise; Democrat, State Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon; State Sens. John Peavey, Carey, and Lannen; Reps. Larry EchoHawk and Patricia McDermott, both of Pocatello; former State Sen. Terry Reilly, Nampa; Payette Mayor Dick Butcher; and Larry LaRocca, Boise, who was beaten for 1st district congressman in 1982.

Secretary of State: Republican,

Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa, and if he doesn't run, then Chief Deputy Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, and Dick Bauer, American Falls, state Republican Party treasurer; Democrat, Lannen, and Pete Busch, Lewiston, who has been living recently in Idaho Falls, and lost to U.S. Sen. James McClure in 1984.

State Treasurer: Republican, Bobette Chapman, investment officer in the state treasurer offices; Democrat, Miss Moon.

State Auditor: Republican, Eric Feldstad, Boise, businessman for the attorney general; Democrat, State Auditor Joe Williams, and if he doesn't run, Douglas McConaughay, former Boise radio station news director; and J. D. Williams, Preston attorney, who ran unsuccessfully for attorney general in 1982.

Attorney General: Republican, Jones, and if he doesn't run, then Adamson; Deputy Attorney General Robie Russell, and Glen E. Walker, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County prosecuting attorney; Democrat, Keith Roark, Hailey, Blaine County prosecuting attorney.

State School Superintendent: Republican, State School Supt. Jerry Evans.