The election eye

Little opposition looming for city council elections

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The city election opening date for filing is next Thursday but there have been no signs of any candidate seeking to challenge the three incumbents who have indicated strongly they will file for re-election.

The four-year terms of Councilmen Sam Sakaguchi, Wesley Deist and Art Chandler expire this year and they have told friends they are considering strongly another term but none have announced formally.

Councilmen have until Oct. 11 as the last date for filing for the parttime job. The pay for council starting next year was increased from $4,800 to $5,400 annually and that of mayor from $35,568 to $39,499.20.

Mayor Thomas Campbell and the other three councilmen, Ralph Wood, Melvin Erickson and Paul Hovey, will hold over for two more years.

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Conjectures on legislative and county races are premature, particularly for the former. The entire legislative reapportionment proposal is now in the hands of the court and there isn't even a decision on what proposal will be considered, much less who will be the potential candidates.

The present legislators are all expected to seek re-election because none of them have indicated they intend to step down.

Sen. William L. Floyd, R-Idaho Falls, has submitted his resignation because of the press of personal business. Lt.Gov. David H. Leroy is expected to name a replacement the coming week. All signs indicate it will be Ann Rydalch, Idaho Republican party second vice president and employee of Catalyst, a Department of Energy contractor at the INEL. However, two other names have been submitted, Reed Christensen, Driggs, retired farmer and for 17 years the Senate sergeant-at-arms, and Don Davis, Skyline High School government an economic teacher and former athletic coach.

The reapportionment controversy still has not been settled. Judge Dar Cogswell heard arguments last month but Attorney General Jim Jones has indicated he will appeal again to the Idaho Supreme Court, regardless of what happens in district court. It is assumed the plaintiff will take the same step in case of an adverse decision. Cogswell had agreed not to order an election this fall. It would appear the matter will be settled next year, hopefully.

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There could be some interesting races on the Bonneville County level for six offices open for contests.

On the Bonneville County level, Sheriff Richard Ackerman, Prosecuting Attorney Kimball Mason, County Commissioners Tom Loertscher and A. Wylie Snarr and County Coroner Vernon Rydalch are expected to seek re-election. County Commission Chairman Clyde R. Burtenshaw holds over for two more years.

Assessor Boyd J. Cripps also faces the test of voters because he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late John J. Wasden.

In view of the controversy surrounding the recent firing of two of his top workers, this office may be one of the most hotly contested races next year.

The prosecuting attorney will be elected for a four-year term in 1984, a constitutional change from the previous two years. However, the coroner's office remains at a two-year tenure.

Ackerman and Burtenshaw are Democrats; the others are Republicans.

It is far too early to speculate who will enter these races but it can be assumed that all incumbents unless they announce well ahead of filing time they are not candidates for election will choose to seek another term. This can apply to the present crop.