

Candidates prepared in 1981 for elections

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Elections in eastern Idaho in 1981 were confined primarily to those for cities, school trustees and special bond levies and plant facility funds. There was, however, considerable activity in the political arena preparing for the 1982 balloting.

Announcing for the Republican gubernatorial nomination were: House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, Twin Falls area farmer; Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt, onion farmer and packer from Wilder; Kuna farmer and congressional medal winner Bernie Fisher; and Sheiley naturopath Dr. Lee Richardson.

Democrat Gov. John V. Evans is expected to be unopposed for his party's nomination and he indicated he will formally announce early next year.

State Sen. Mike P. Mitchell, D-Lewiston, a seven-term legislator, announced for lieutenant governor. Two Republicans, Attorney General David H. Leroy and C.H. "Butch" Otter, Boise, Simplot

International president and former legislator, said they would run for the Republican nomination, but are withholding their formal announcement, also until early next year.

Two Republicans also announced for attorney general to replace Leroy. They are Jim Jones, Burley attorney, who lost two congressional races to Rep. George V. Hansen, and Ada County Prosecutor Jim Harris. Jones has scheduled a statewide aerial campaign tour Tuesday to outline his views.

A Democrat, J. D. Williams, of Preston and Franklin County prosecutor, said he plans to formally announce Jan. 6 for the Democratic attorney general nomination.

State Auditor Joe Williams and Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon, both Democrats; and secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa, and State School Supt. Jerry Evans, Republican, are expected to seek re-election. None have formally announced.

State Sen. Dean Van Engelen, R-Bur-

ley, has indicated interest in running for state auditor on the Republican ticket, but added he likely would not make his decision until early next year.

On the congressional level, both Congressmen Hansen, of the 2nd District, and Larry Craig, of the 1st District, are expected to seek re-election, but neither has formally announced.

Larry LaRocca, a former 10-year aide to Idaho Sen. Frank Church has announced for the Democratic nomination to challenge Craig, but so far Hansen faces no announced opposition.

Two potential 2nd District Democratic congressional candidates, Sen. Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, who manages the Trading Post at Fort Hall; and Fort Hall Attorney Larry Echohawk, announced only two weeks ago they would not run.

There will be no senatorial elections as Sen. James A. McClure's term doesn't expire until 1984 and Sen. Steve D. Symms in 1986.

On the city scene, all incumbents in Idaho Falls were re-elected, Mayor Thomas Campbell without opposition, and City Councilmen Ralph Wood, Melvin Erickson and Paul Hovey running well ahead of two challengers, Jan Brown and William Lattin.

In other east Idaho cities, incumbent mayors and most councilmen were re-elected where they desired to retain offices except at Rigby where Claude Tremelling replaced Mayor Ralph Petersen and at Blackfoot where former Mayor Dan Daniels succeeded Mayor Howard Packham.

In special elections, Rexburg voters turned down a \$95,000 supplemental tax levy but Mud Lake approved a water and sewer district formation, and Firth voters favored continuing a 10-year plant facility proposal.

All of the 18 incumbent legislators in the nine east Idaho counties and most incumbents for county offices are expected to seek re-election.