The city scene . . .

# City citizens offered wide candidate choice

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The final field of 14 candidates filing for the three Idaho Falls City Council seats at the Nov. 6 biennial municipal elections gives city voters a wide choice.

**The record large field apparently was occasioned by the decision of two incumbent councilmen, Jim Freeman and Charles Clark, not to run again. The third incumbent, Sam Sakaguchi, was appointed to fill a vacancy two years ago but he has not been tested at an election.**

The previous record of nine candidates took place in the 1955 election when there were runoffs. There were eight contenders in 1969. Until 1963, the council had only four members and since then, there have been six. Runoffs for the top spots also were junked in 1967, so that only the highest vote-getters were elected.

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**The overcrowded field of 14 includes Sakaguchi, an irrigation company executive; former City Clerk Roy C. Barnes; former city fireman and now credit union executive Art Chandler; William Hatch, presently a realtor but former foreign attache; Wesley W. Deist, sporting goods store employee and prominent in ski and recreation circles; and Marion Orme, EG&G employee and planning board member.**

Also competitors are Albert S. Pasta, speech therapist; Wendell Camp, now retired but who ran twice for county assessor; Van Frandsen, battery company employee who ran for mayor two years ago; Donald Duane Patterson, telephone company employee; Milton F. Adam and Peter W. Schuelke, Argonne National Laboratory employees; Joseph L. Plum, EG&G employee; and David Archuleta, former Rexburg radio announcer who lives in the city.

Frandsen and Camp did not run strong in their previous elections.

The candidates represent a wide range of political philosophies. One obvious representative is missing — a woman. This might have been the year for a woman candidate. A number indicated some interest, but not enough to file.

One woman, Mrs. Richard (Lyn) Smith led the ticket in 1965 for a four-year term but did not seek re-election. A half dozen others have tried in the past 20 years.

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With the election only a month away, it's obvious the winners will be decided on how they conduct their campaign. On that basis all 14 have a chance to win.

At this point, however, six candidates must be considered the favorite but this will depend on their campaign and it by no means rules out the other eight, one or two whom might forge ahead of the back pack.

**On basis of their past public involvement and name identities, the six who at this point must be considered the leaders are Barnes, Sakaguchi, Chandler, Deist, Hatch and Orme, not necessarily in that order.**

Barnes, Sakaguchi and Chandler carry considerable city administration support and public identity, Deist rolled up a creditable 6,600 votes in his bid two years ago; the Hatch family name is well known in the city; and Orme has been prominent in both the city and county planning boards, and also barely lost a race for county commissioner three years ago.

**All of the others have a certain base of followers which they must expand in an effort to get in the winners' circle. How well they do this remains to be seen. One of these might embrace a vibrant emotional issue, such as the park beer ban, airport development and Jennie Mall commercial zoning, which could propel him to the forefront, for example.**

Because of the 1 percent Tax Initiative, finances for the first time will not be a paramount issue.

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Records show 18,356 registered for the 1977 city elections and all of these are automatically qualified to vote. Since then hundreds more qualified by voting for the May bond election and the 1978 county elections, or have newly registered. City Clerk Velma Chandler and County Election Judge Ellen Bingham report well over 20,000 are now registered and it could reach 25,000 by election time.

Records also show 11,205 voted in the 1977 elections a new record.

It would appear that with a large field this record may be broken although it lacks the aura of a mayoralty contest. Perhaps 12,000 will vote.

**Anyone who can amass a block of 3,000 votes or more thus stands an excellent chance of winning. This will depend how strong run the the tailenders but most of these may attract less than 1,000 votes each.**

At any rate how the 14 candidates fare is up to them and the time, effort and desire they are willing to exert. But there will only be three winners and 11 losers.

The political philosophies range from Adam and Archuleta on the liberal left to Scheulke on the extreme right, with the others in between. Adam's frequent Post-Register letter writing and Archuleta's involvement with liberal Democratic senatorial candidate Dwight Jensen in 1978 gives them the liberal tag. Schuelke's constant letter writing for the Liberty Amendment and his active participation in the Freeman Institute and other rightest organizations earn him the "right" label.