

The election eye. . .

County contests few for primary election

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Although there are a number of contests assured for the Nov. 4 general elections, the fare is skimpy for the May 27 primary balloting.

The feature, of course, is the presidential primary and the Idahoans will have an opportunity to cast votes for Reagan, Bush and others on the Republican ballot, and President Carter and Kennedy on the Democratic side. There are a number of minor candidates to clutter up the ticket.

In Bonneville County, a proposal to expand the library's taxing district to include the entire county also will whet the political appetite. This proposal will be subject to a vote only of those residents who live outside the city.

As observed previously, there are only three legislative primary races, all on the Republican side. Those are between Don Penfold, Darby farmer, and William Floyd, Idaho Falls real estate agent, in District 29; Rep. Wayne E. Tibbitts, R-Lorenzo, and Jerry Van Leuven, Roberts, in District 20; and Rich Orme, St. Anthony farmer, and Dan S. Hess, Rexburg, in District 28.

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Sheriff races are the feature but county commissioner contests also provide an attraction, particularly in the general, but to some extent in the primary.

In Bonneville County, the only local fracas is in the Republican primary where the incumbent, Tom Loertscher, is challenged by Delmar Anderson, cattle feeder, in District 2, the Ammon-Lincoln area.

Jefferson County offers as the feature a scrap among the incumbent sheriff, Joe Potter; his former deputy and now a Bonneville deputy, Garth M. Gunderson; and J. Lloyd Leavitt, in the Republican primary. It's puzzling why Leavitt changed party labels when he lost by only a slim margin to Potter in the last election. Under this setup, the incumbent generally retains his vote and the others must split the opposition vote.

County Commissioner

The Post-Register The political pulse

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Idaho Falls, Idaho, Wednesday, May 7, 1980

Bingham County also serves up an appetizing fare for sheriff contests in both the Republican and Democratic primaries. Republican incumbent Sheriff Dee Jorgensen is challenged by Charles Bastian and Noble G. Taylor in the Republican primary. Over on the Democratic ticket, Mike Shiosaki, former sheriff, and Fred McLain book up in a duel for the nomination.

There are also Republican contests for both county com-

missioners. Dale Arave, incumbent, is challenged by Ronald Truman in District 2 and Vincent O'Brian, incumbent, is opposed by LaMar Whyte in District 3.

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Madison County also offers a sheriff battle on the Republican ticket between Edmund A. Richardson and Gray I. Clawson.

For county commissioner on the Republican ballot, Ruth Smith and Wayne Beck are battling for the nomination.

An unusual contest for the part-time coroner job pairs Layne K. Ellis and Rick Davis.

In Custer County, Democrats Carl Ellis, Daryl C. Hancock and Bill Woolsey and Republicans Robert G. Esterholdt, Gerald Hansen, Hal Moore and Gary H. Kelley are all battling for sheriff.

Butte County also furnishes a sheriff primary contest between Republicans Dale Merrill and Clare Bowden.

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Fremont County also has scheduled primary races for

sheriff with six candidates, all former or current law enforcement officers. They include Republicans Tom Stegelmeier, Robert Davis, Kenny Worrell and Carlos Watts and Democrats Glenn Haws and Terry Thomson.

Primary contests also are on tap in county commissioner District 3 between Frank Tanner, incumbent, and Lyle Nielsen on the Democrat ballot, and Laurence Parker and John S. Dexter on the Republican side.

In tiny Teton County, Democrats Leo W. Ellis and David L. Johnson have filed for sheriff.

In county commissioner District 3, Democrats Dean E. Wade and Danny K. Arnold are the contenders in a primary scuffle.

There are no primary contests in Lemhi and Clark counties in either the primary or general election on the county level.

The sheriff contests are engendered by the fact five are not seeking re-election: Sid Teuscher, Custer; Earl Holden, Clark; Ford Smith, Madison; Karl Ljunggren, Fremont; and Donald Beckman, Teton.