

The election eye . . .

Sheriffs main targets in county elections

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It's never happened before as long as can be remembered but the sheriff contests appear the feature in most county races for both the May 27 and Nov. 4 general elections.

Generally, battles for county commissioners and the Legislature take top billing but not this time, although there are a few for these offices.

In the 10-county area served by The Post-Register, five sheriffs are not seeking re-election. There are brisk contests in all of them except for two. There are 10 primary contests and eight in the general election, an unprecedented record number for this office.

The lucky one who apparently escapes competition is in Clark County where Chief Deputy Dan Jerberg is the only entry.

However, it must be remembered that county central committees have until April 22 to fill vacancies and the Clark Democratic Central Committee has this option open.

The five incumbents who are not seeking office this year, mostly because they feel the duty and responsibility is too much for the salary are Sid Teuscher at Custer County, Early Holden at Clark, Ford Smith at Madison, Karl Ljunggren at Fremont and Donald Beckman at Teton.

This leaves the post wide open and thus attracts a number of candidates in all cases except in Clark.

The only incumbent who also escapes competition is the veteran Democratic Sheriff William N. Baker in Lemhi.

In Custer County, no less than seven have jumped into the arena, three Democrats and four Republicans. The Democratic contenders are Carl Ellis, Caryl C. Hancock and Bill Woolsey while the Republican entries include Robert Esterholdt, Gerald Hansen, Hal Moore and Gary H. Kellev.

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The political pulse

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In Jefferson County, Republican Sheriff Joe Potter is opposed in the Republican primary by Garth M. Gunder and J. Lloyd Leavitt, but here again a Democrat nominee could be appointed.

Bingham County Republican Sheriff Dee Jorgensen faces primary contests from Charles Bastian and Noble G. Taylor while the Democratic contenders are Mike Shiosaki, a former sheriff, and Fred McLain.

In Butte County, Democrat Sheriff Darrell Richards will

face either Dale Merrill or Clare Bowden, who filed for the Republican nomination.

In Madison, Smith's chief deputy, Lionel Koon filed on the Democratic ticket to succeed his boss, while the Republican hopefuls are Gray I Clawson and Edmund A. Richardson. Richardson.

A large field of six vying for the Fremont sheriff post, four Republicans and two Democrats. The Republican rivals are Tom Stegelmeier, a former sheriff; Robert Davis, Kenny Worrell and Charles Watts and the Democratic ticket will bear the names of Glenn Haws and Terry Thompson, former deputy sheriff.

Two Democrats, one Republican, and one independent seek the Teton sheriff post. They include Democrats Leo W.

Ellis and David L. Johnson, Republican Tomothy L. Trout, and independent, A. B. Custer.

Undoubtedly the feature in Bonneville County will be between Republican Sheriff Blaine Skinner and Democrat Dick Ackerman, a veteran city police detective sergeant.

Skinner has served 10 years but has incurred opposition by other law enforcement officers who charge him with non-cooperation, besides a rapidly rising budget with a staff of 41.

Many of these deputies, however, are of high caliber.

Ackerman, who has a wide aquatintanceship, plans to capitalize on this situation, as well as on a popular following of his own.