

# Contests badly lacking for legislative posts

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The previously forecasted lack of election contests, particularly on the legislative level, poses the question of whether citizens are satisfied in the way the incumbents are performing or potential candidates aren't interested enough to spend the time and money.

As observed earlier a number of challengers, most of them Democrats, sought legislative offices two years ago and all were decisively beaten. It set the present mood that an incumbent is almost impossible to beat, which may or may not be an advantage.

The present situation may be surmounted by the legislative district committees and county central committees of both parties who can appoint nominees to vacancies by not later than April 22.

These can then qualify by filing declaration of candidacy, paying the filing fee and filing the petitions by no later than April 29. For legislative candidates, they may file not less than 50 bona fide signatures and no more than 200, with a filing fee of \$15. For county candidates, the filing fee is \$40 and petitions signed by at least five and not more than 10.

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In East Idaho, all 18 legislative incumbents are unopposed with the exception of four.

The only incumbent who decided not to seek re-election is Rep. Doyle C. Miner, R-St. Anthony, in District 28, made up of Fremont and Madison counties.

This is House Seat B and two Republicans, Daniel Hess, Rexburg, Ricks College professor, and Rich Orme, St. Anthony farmer, filed. No Democrats entered but rumors indicate one will be named by the Democratic Legislative 28 Committee.

In District 31, Sen. Richard A. Egbert, D-Tetonia, is challenged by Republicans William Floyd, Idaho Falls, and Don Penfold, Driggs, both real

tors.

In District 27, Bingham County except for Shelley and Aberdeen areas, Sen. Israel Merrill, D-Blackfoot, is opposed by Dean Jones, Republican, and Peter Hull, Moreland, a Libertarian, who is the only one of that party to enter in Idaho.

In District 20, made up of Jefferson, Clark, Lemhi and Custer counties, both incumbent representatives face competition.

Rep. Wayne E. Tibbitts, R-Lorenzo, is opposed by Jerry Van Leuven, Roberts, Republican; and Wayne Olaverson, Menan, Democrat.

Rep. Ray E. Infanger, R-Salmon, faces the challenge of two Democrats, Douglas Holm, Roberts, and Tom Harrington, Rigby High School teachers.

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It's ironic that the two most effective state senators from East Idaho, Merrill and Egbert, face challenges while the others who mostly have negative voting records do not.

The Democratic Legislative District Committees all have legislative caucuses Thursday night and this may be the propitious time for them to name their nominees for the

many existing vacancies.

There are rumors of many prospective candidates but none filed before the April 7 deadline.

The fact they can be nominated now and face no primary contest may induce them to enter.

Among those mentioned and possible candidates in District 30 are Cyril Slansky, scientist, and Idaho Falls businessmen Don Aupperle, former longtime music teacher, none of whom have shown great enthusiasm as yet.

Legislative committee chairmen and supporters say they are seeking possible candidates, and urge anyone interested in filling the many vacancies to contact them or the county chairmen.

In Fremont County, Dick May, Ashton High School teacher and a former farmer, and Ken Remington, St. Anthony farmer, are mentioned as the Democratic nominees for the minor positions. There are rumblings of the other contenders who may accept their party nominations in other legislative districts but none have attained enough serious proportion to mention at this time.



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## Top Democratic senators

BOISE — Top East Idaho Democratic staff senators in the Idaho Legislature are, from left, Chick Bilyeu, Pocatello; Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, caucus chairman, and Richard

A. Egbert, Tetonia, dean of the legislature with 29 years service. All face tough general election contests.