

The city scene . . .

City candidates jostle for favored positions

Oct 28 1979

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political
editor

As the record 14 City Council candidates elbow each other in the overcrowded field, it would appear those who have worked the hardest are forging to the front.

It still seems largely a popularity and name identification contest, although such issues as the Jennie Lee Mall, the overall issue of annexations and zoning, the park liquor ban and city finances and policies have some influence.

One of the most puzzling situations in all elections is why many candidates competing have never previously widely participated in public affairs, yet expect citizens to vote for them. In most cases, they are not successful, and this can apply to the current city campaign candidates.

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The candidates battling for the three top positions are Art Chandler, retired city firemen and credit union executive; Roy C. Barnes, former city clerk; Sam Sakaguchi, the appointive incumbent and irrigation company representative; Wesley W. Deist, sporting goods store representative who is active in recreation circles and who ran a strong race for City Council two years ago; and Marion Orme, EG&G employee and city and county planning board member.

Others include William Hatch, realtor and former foreign attache and farmer; Albert S. Pasta, speech therapist; and Van Frandsen, tire-battery company employee and who unsuccessfully ran for mayor two years ago.

Also in the field of candidates are Donald Duwayne Patterson, telephone company employee; Milton F. Adam and William Peter Schuelke, ANL employees and who have participated somewhat in community affairs; Joseph L. Plum, an EG&G employee who at one time was active in the Democratic Party; Wendell Camp, now retired and who ran twice for county assessor; and Dave Archuleta, former radio broadcaster.

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It is readily apparent now the most vigorous campaigns have

been mounted by Chandler, Barnes, Deist, Orme and Pasta, as witnessed by newspaper ads, yard and auto signs, citywide canvassing and distribution of campaign literature.

At this time, most political observers feel that Chandler, Barnes, Deist, Sakaguchi and Orme appear the front runners, mainly as result of their vigorous efforts and previously wide community participation.

Hatch seems fading, in view of his comparatively light efforts to campaign, while Pasta's intensive house-to-house campaigning gives him a chance.

All have had a chance to appear at a number of meetings and forums, which give them personal appearance to 500 or less. It's the exposure they get through the news media and their own individual efforts with the silent voters that are most decisive.

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Past election records show those candidates who heartily back the city administration have been the most successful.

Most of the aspirants can be considered friendly to the present administration, with the exception of Adam and Plum, who are leading in the opposition. In such a large field, they could expect to receive the bulk of the anti-city vote, although this is not necessarily the case.

The Jennie Lee Mall opponents are banded together,

but most residents in other sections of the city don't feel that strongly about the issue, and in most cases, they feel the City Council and planning commission took the right step.

After all, 17th St. and Holmes Avenue, are largely commercial arterials. Jennie Lee residents claim their residential property values will decrease, which is open to question, in view of similar situations at 1st Street, Skyline Drive and other locations on 17th.

Yet, this bloc of Jennie Lee residents could harm Sakaguchi, who voted for the mall. Marion Orme, City Planning Commission chairman, did not vote as chairman, but said he strongly favored the mall approval.

It might be observed the Jennie Lee residents can save themselves money by foregoing a threatened court suit because in the past the courts have given cities, counties and schools wide latitude of powers in actions on judgment. Only in cases of flagrant legal violations do complainants have a chance.

Most other issues have been barely mentioned, and most handle the touchy park alcohol ban by noting a referendum could settle the question.

Much of the present political assessment can change drastically in the crucial two weeks ahead. Those less well-knowns will get a chance to get more exposure and test the apparent current leaders to hold their position.