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## Filing deadline Tuesday creates opposition for county candidates

By DON NORFLEET  
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Contested party races for presiding commissioner, recorder, and county clerk means a primary election will be necessary for county offices on Aug. 3 in Callaway County.

March 30 was the 2010 filing deadline for Democratic Party and Republican Party candidates in Callaway County.

Two Callaway County offices -- presiding commissioner and county clerk -- will have Democratic Party contests. The Republican Party has two candidates for Callaway County recorder.

Callaway County Presiding Commissioner Lee Fritz, a Democrat who has filed for re-election, is facing primary election opposition from Democrat David White, a local businessman who was a vocal opponent of the city's plan to transfer operation of the city's garbage collection to Allied Waste.

The winner of the Democratic primary for Callaway County presiding commissioner, either Fritz or White, will face general election opposition from Gary Jungermann, a construction firm owner who has filed as a Republican candidate for Callaway County presiding commissioner.

Three incumbent Democrat county officer holders -- County Clerk Linda Love, County Recorder Kenneth Dillon and Prosecuting Attorney Robert Sterner -- decided not to file for re-election. This sparked more interest in filings for those offices.

Love announced in January she will retire at the end of the year and Deputy County Clerk Edna O'Neal has filed as a Democrat to succeed her as county clerk. O'Neal has attracted Democratic opposition from Timothy Brady, a Fulton attorney.

Denise Hubbard of Fulton has filed as a Republican candidate for county clerk. Her husband Mitchell (Mitch) Hubbard was a Republican candidate against Missouri Secy. of State Robin Carnahan.

The other Democrat county office holder who decided not to file for re-election because of retirement is County Recorder Kenneth Dillon.

Christine E. Kleindienst, who has experience in real estate and deed title insurance recording, has filed as a Republican candidate for Callaway County recorder.

On the last day of filing, Danny Royal Bradley of Auxvasse filed as a Republican candidate for Callaway County recorder, forcing a Republican primary election in Callaway County on Aug. 3.

Callaway County Eastern District Commissioner Gabe Craighead's term in office does not expire for another two years. In the meantime, Craighead has filed for Callaway County recorder as a Democrat.

If he wins the election for recorder, Craighead said he will resign at the end of this year as Eastern District Commissioner.

That would allow Gov. Jay Nixon to appoint Craighead's replacement as the Eastern District Commissioner. The person appointed by Nixon would serve for two years as Callaway County Commissioner and then be able to run for the first time in two years as the incumbent office holder.

Craighead vowed to work hard the rest of the year campaigning for recorder throughout the county. He has no primary election opponent in the race for recorder.

Craighead said if he loses the race for recorder he will finish his term as Callaway County Western District Commissioner, which ends in two years.

"I'm 32 years old and I have served as a commissioner for six years and this office is not my lifetime ambition. I want to serve the people as recorder and I will campaign hard up until the election. I enjoy my work on the commission but I intend to move on. I have a lot of options. I could go back to school and teach, but I really want to serve the people of Callaway County as its recorder," Craighead said.

Craighead is a 2001 graduate of the College of Agriculture from the University of Missouri.

The last day for filing also produced some opposition for other county officeholder candidates in the Nov. 2 general election.

Callaway County Circuit Court Clerk Curtis Lee Quick, a Democrat, attracted Republican opposition from Judith Groner of Fulton.

Sterner decided not to file for re-election as Callaway County prosecuting attorney and instead filed as a Democrat for Division 7 associate circuit judge in Callaway County.

To replace Sterner as prosecutor, Christopher Wilson of Fulton, who has prosecuting experience as Sterner's assistant prosecuting attorney, filed as a Republican candidate for Callaway County prosecuting attorney.

Then on the last day to file for the office on Tuesday, Wilson attracted Democratic opposition from Leah Williamson Baker of Fulton, who now is a Callaway County public defender. She would switch from defending indigent people accused of crime to prosecuting them.

March 30 was the filing deadline for the Aug. 3 primary election. Aug. 17 is the filing deadline to place issues on the ballot for the Nov. 2 general election. To file as an independent or to form a new party, the person filing first must produce a petition signed by 2 percent of the people voting in the last election for the office they are seeking. The deadline for filing as an independent this year is July 26, according to Love.

Only four Callaway County offices escaped with no opponents filed against them in either party.

Offices with candidates who have filed in Callaway County that have no opponents are:

County Auditor: Rosemary Gannaway, a Democrat.

County Collector: Pam J. Oestreich, a Democrat.

Associate Circuit Judge, Division 6: Carol England, a Democrat.

Associate Circuit Judge, Division 7: Robert R. Sterner, a Democrat.

Jeanie Riddle, a Republican Callaway County member of the Missouri House of Representatives, also has no opposition from either party.

Several Callaway County office holders are not up for re-election until 2012. They include Sheriff Dennis Crane, Treasurer Marsha Chism, Assessor Dan Roe, Public Administrator Karen Digh, Eastern district Commissioner Gabe Craighead and Western District Commissioner Doc Kritzer.