Candidate Filing Week ends Friday

Local News

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OLYMPIA... Candidates who plan to run for public office in Washington this year have until late Friday afternoon to file the necessary paperwork and pay the filing fee. Candidate Filing Week began Monday.Candidate filing can be done in person, online or via mail. In-person filings are being accepted during regular business hours in County Auditor offices through Friday, June 5. The Office of Secretary of State is accepting filings for five offices at its Elections Division office, 520 Union Avenue SE in Olympia. The OSOS in-person filing deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday.

An increasingly popular way to submit a Declaration of Candidacy for office is online at http://www.vote.wa.gov/. Filings will be accepted until 4 p.m. on June 5. The secure filings may be submitted at any hour of the day or night this way.

So far, many candidates have taken advantage of the option to file online. As of 2:20 p.m. on Tuesday, 910 candidates filed through the Washington Election Information (WEI) system used by the Secretary of State's Elections Division and 31 of Washington's 39 counties."I'm pleased with the large number of people who have filed as a candidate so far this week," said Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections officer. "I hope we'll see at least two candidates in all of the races this year, especially the nonpartisan, local offices. For democracy to work, we need more citizens to get involved by becoming candidates." Reed said his call for more people to run for public office is part of his "Find Your One Thing" program in which students and citizens are encouraged to find one thing in which they become more civically involved. Click here to see a list of candidates who have filed with the Office of Secretary of State. Fifteen of the 31 counties using WEI are allowing candidates to file using Self-Service Candidate Filing modules on their Web sites. The self-service modules can be set up to allow people to submit a declaration of candidacy from home (available in Ferry, Klickitat, Okanogan, San Juan and Thurston counties) or as a kiosk in an Auditor's Office (Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skagit and Snohomish counties are doing it this way). Most candidates this year are filing for nonpartisan local office. Candidates for legislative, Superior Court and Court of Appeals offices may file with the Office of Secretary of State while all other filings must be done at County Auditor offices. For a list of County Auditor offices where candidates may file for local offices on the 2009 ballot, please visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections.

The Primary Election is August 18. The General Election is November 3.