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Some candidates reelected without opposition; County election qualifying set for June 18-22

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TRI-COUNTY AREA -- County court judges in Levy County, Dixie County and Gilchrist County and some circuit judges in the Eighth Judicial Circuit and the Third Judicial Circuit are finished with their races for reelection, according to records.

Qualifying for county constitutional offices runs from noon on June 18 until noon on June 22. As of noon today (May 21) the petition method to qualify is finished. Candidates for county offices, however, can pay 4 percent of one year's salary to run as a No Party Affiliation or 6 percent of one year's salary to run as a Democrat, Republican or other party affiliation.

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JUDGES

Levy County Court Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning was reelected without opposition.

Gilchrist County Court Judge Sheree H. Lancaster was reelected without opposition.

Dixie County Court Judge Jennifer J. Johnson has a term that did not call for her seeking reelection this year. She has served the people as a judge in her seat on the bench since January of 2015, according to records.

The Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties includes two of Florida's 20 judicial circuits.

Dixie County is in the Third Judicial Circuit. Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge Melissa Gates Olin, Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge David W. Fina, and Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge Wes Douglas were all elected because they were unopposed. The Third Judicial Circuit is comprised of Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor counties.

In the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which includes Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties, Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Denise R. Ferrero, Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Stanley "Stan" H. Griffis III and Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Susanne Wilson Bullard were all reelected without opposition.

Three candidates are seeking to fill one Eighth Judicial Circuit Court judge seat. Those candidates are David Robertson (NOP), Julie Waldman (NOP) and Gloria Walker (NOP).

Candidates to be a Justice on the Florida District Court of Appeal, District 1, are Harvey Jay III (NOP), Stephanie Ray (NOP), Brad Thomas (NOP), Kemmerly Thomas (NOP) and Allen Winsor (NOP).

Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson was reelected without opposition.

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LEVY COUNTY

In Levy County, there are races for two County Commission seats and three School Board seats.

Seeking reelection to Levy County Commission, District 2, is County Commissioner Rock Meeks (Rep.). So far, his only announced opponent is Terance Reed (Rep.).

If no Democrat qualifies, then either Meeks or Reed will be the winner after the primary election on Aug. 28. Also, if no Democrat qualifies for this race, then people who are registered Democrats will see these two names on the Democratic Party primary ballot and they can choose between these two.

As a reminder, though, any voter can choose to not mark a choice in every race.

Seeking reelection to Levy County Commission, District 4, is County Commissioner Lilly Rooks (Rep.). So far, her only announced opponent is Ryan Bell (Rep.). And just like in the other

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Levy County Commission race, if no Democrat qualifies, then that race will be decided Aug. 28.

There are three Levy County School Board seats open. The three incumbents are Cameron Asbell, District 1; Brad Etheridge, District 3; and Rick Turner, District 5.

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DIXIE COUNTY

Qualifying for county constitutional offices in Dixie County runs from noon on June 18 until noon on June 22. As of noon today (May 21) the petition method to qualify is finished. Candidates for county offices, however, can pay 4 percent of one year's salary to run as a No Party Affiliation or 6 percent of one year's salary to run as a Democrat, Republican or other party affiliation.

In Dixie County there are races for two County Commission seats and three School Board seats.

Seeking reelection to Dixie County Commission, District 2, is W.C. Mills Jr. (NPA). Most candidates in Dixie County now, Dixie County Supervisor of Elections Starlet Cannon said, are running as No Party Affiliation.

The Dixie County Commission District 4 incumbent chose against seeking reelection. The two announced candidates so far are Jamie Storey (NPA) and John L. Driggers Jr. (NPA).

Incumbent Dixie County School Board, District 2, Member Charles "Chuck" Farmer is seeking reelection, and so far, no person has announced publicly his or her intent to seek that seat other than Farmer.

Incumbent Dixie County School Board, District 3, Member Paul Gainey is seeking reelection, and thus far no person has announced publicly his or her intent to seek that seat other than Farmer.

The incumbent Dixie County School Board District 5 member is not seeking reelection. The two people who have announced their intent to seek that seat thus far are Tammy Nicole Bryan, and Lacey Mathis Corbin.

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GILCHRIST COUNTY

Qualifying for county constitutional offices in Gilchrist County runs from noon on June 18 until noon on June 22. As of noon today (May 21) the petition method to qualify is finished. Candidates for county offices, however, can pay 4 percent of one year's salary to run as a No Party Affiliation or 6 percent of one year's salary to run as a Democrat, Republican or other party affiliation.

In Gilchrist County there are races for two County Commission seats and three School Board seats.

The incumbent for Gilchrist County Commission, District 2, chose against seeking reelection. There are four Republicans in Gilchrist County who want that seat. They are Robert B. Clemons (Rep.), William M. Martin (Rep.), Richard L. Fuller (Rep.) and John Yencho (Rep.).

County Commissioner, District 4 incumbent Marion Poiteviant (Rep.) has announced an intent to seek reelection. No other candidate thus far has noted their intent to run for that seat.

Gilchrist County School Board members who are incumbents in the three districts are the only announced candidates for those three seats so far. They are
* Christie Lynn McElroy (NP), District 1; Frances Michelle Walker Crawford (NP), District 3; and D. Deen Lancaster (NP), District 5.

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STATE RACES

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Florida House of Representatives, District 21, Member Charles Wesley “Chuck” Clemons Sr. (Rep.) has announced his intention to seek reelection. So far, he is the only Republican seeking this seat. Therefore, he has won the Republican primary.

On Aug. 28, registered Democrats in District 21 will have a choice between Jason Haeseler (Dem.) and Shreyas Amol Kumar Jethwani (Dem.). Then it will be either Haeseler or Jethwani against Clemons in the Nov. 6 general election. District 21 includes all of Dixie and Gilchrist counties and the western part of Alachua County.

Florida House of Representatives, District 22, Member Charlie Stone (Rep.) has announced his intention to seek reelection. Brigitte Smith (Rep.) is a Republican whom he will face. The winner of that race in August will be running against Bernard Parker (Dem.) in the general election on Nov. 6. District 22 includes all of Levy County and the western part of Marion County.

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The field of announced potential candidates for **governor, attorney general, chief financial officer and commissioner of agriculture** is currently rather extensive.

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FEDERAL RACES

The federal races where voters in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties can vote are for United States senator, and for United States House of Representatives, District 2.

In the race for U.S. Senate, incumbent Bill Nelson (Dem.) has won the Democratic primary. Roque “Rocky” De La Fuente (Rep.) and Rick Scott (Rep.) are Republican contenders in the primary race for that party. Other candidates for United States Senate, Florida, are Lateresa Jones (WRI), Howard Knepper (WRI), Michael S. Levinson, Charles Frederick Tolbert (WRI) and David Weeks (WRI).

Incumbent Rep. Neal Dunn (Rep.) is the Republican in the race for United States Representative, District 2.

Brandon Peters (Dem.) and Bob Rackleff (Dem.) are the qualified Democrats who are competing with each other in the primary and then either Peters or Rackleff will face Dunn in the general election.