

Farris won't run; Ingle signs with GOP

Republicans sign up for most local races

By ED HOWELL
Eagle Senior Writer

District 2 Walker County Commissioner Larry Farris announced Friday he will not run for re-election, while Republicans secured Brad Ingle in his run for chairman of the county school board, not to mention candidates for most of the major positions in the June 3 primary.

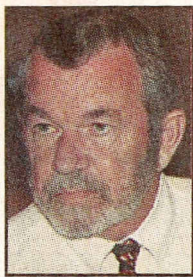
On the last day of qualifying with local party committees for the primaries, Republican and Democratic officials camped out Friday afternoon at the Walker County Probate Judge's Office, accepting last minute entries. State qualifying also ended, resulting in an all-Walker County Democratic primary for the 4th Congressional District.

Local Republicans, who had kept some of its candidates under wraps until the last day, wound up fielding candidates in all the major local positions except for Districts 4 and 5 of the county commission. The district judge's race, which is signed up for through the state parties, also will not field a Republican.

Except for constable races, all Republicans automatically secured nominations for the fall campaign.

Four Democrats and one Republican were in place to run for county treasurer Friday, the day that Walker County Treasurer Annette Burton resigned from office and pled guilty to theft and possession of forged instrument charges. State Sen. Charles Bishop, R-Arley, announced Friday he will not support a local bill to end the treasurer's position with the current term, saying candidates had already qualified and the position allows for a checks-and-balances system with the county commission. That all but insures the position will be up again for election.

The Walker County Commission will appoint a replacement to fill out



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"It came up
at once," said

The hearing concluded with the last day of qualifying for treasurer. State Rep. Tommy Sherer, D-Jasper, has pushed a local bill to eliminate the office at the end of this term, but state Sen. Charles Bishop, R-Arley, said Friday

deposits in the General Fund. Two of the bank deposit tickets involved the General Fund account, while the other five involved the Solid Waste Department.

As custodian of all county funds, the Walker County

sne was never needed at home to deal with a series of family medical needs, particularly with her son Matt, 30.

Dr. Kendall C. Vague of Southern Orthopedic and Sports Medicine, who attends Woodland Trace Church of

trust with the "people of Walker County," but that the state was also mindful of the medical conditions in the family. As a result, he said the state would defer to the sentence of the court.

Qualifying

the term until the new treasurer is elected.

Ingle goes to GOP

Ingle, who had already announced his candidacy, was expected to be signed up by the Democrats, much like commission chairman candidate Jerry Bishop. However, Ingle went to the Republicans, as did Bishop.

In the end, three of the five commission seats have Republican opposition.

"I think every county commissioner and the chairman could be beat and should be beat," said local GOP Chairman Curtis Poe. "They have all created the financial problem this county is in. I think they're all vulnerable, all of them. I think all the positions being run for are vulnerable if people will look at what those people have done to the county."

Democratic Chairman Chris Pendley declined to respond to the comment.

District 1 Walker County Commissioner Dual Tubbs, Revenue Commissioner Jerry Guthrie, and Commission Chairman Bruce Hamrick all secured their Democratic nominations and will face Republican challengers in the fall.

Farris, who has served two terms on the commission, waited until the last day to announce that he will not run for re-election.

"I'll be 65 in August and my wife retired last year," he said. "We want to do some things that are different. That's what we've striven for all our life is retirement. I just feel it is time for me to go on and let some different folks try their hand at it."

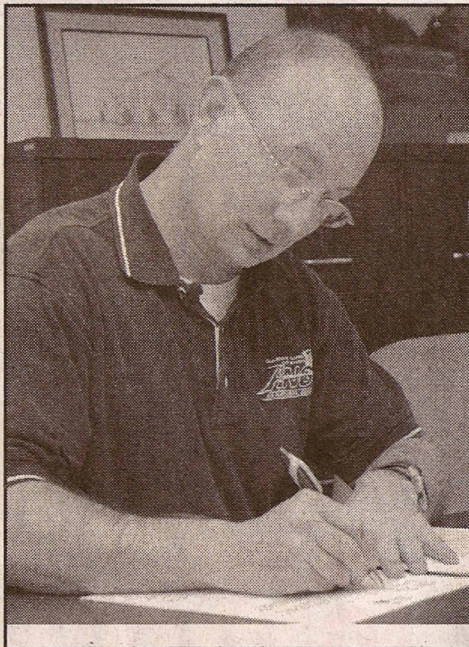
Farris said it was not the issue of electronic bingo or other issues. He did say that his own health problems in recent months played a factor.

He said he was proud of equipment upgrades in his district and the fact more than 50 miles have been paved.

"We tried to spend the county's money like we would have spent our own," he said. "We're sorta stingy and we tried to do the best we could with what we had. I'm proud of what we've done."

Farris said he does not plan to endorse anyone in his position.

The deadline for voter registration for the June 3 primaries is set for May 23. Runoffs, if necessary, will be held on July 15, while the general election will



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Republican Greg Fanin signs his papers to qualify to run for Walker County Revenue Commissioner.

be held Nov. 4.

Local candidates

Local Democratic and Republican candidates who qualified by 5 p.m. Friday include the following (with "I" signifying incumbents):

Walker County Commission, Chairman

Democrats: Bruce Hamrick (I), 751 Phillipstown Rd., Empire. Republicans: Jerry Bishop, 1298 Hickory Hill Lane, Jasper.

Walker County Commission, District 1

Democrats: Dual Tubbs (I), 789 Alexander Road, Jasper. Republicans: Larry J. Cain, 79 Gregory Rd., Jasper.

Walker County Commission, District 2

Democrats: James "Pete" Bray, 346 4th Avenue NW, Carbon Hill; Tex Spark, 1968 Ripley Road, Carbon Hill; Dan Wright, 1019 Pleasant Grove Rd, Oakman. Republicans: Sandy Grace Pennington, 300 Pennington Circle, Nauvoo.

Walker County Commission, District 3

Democrats: Ben L. Huggins (I), 30 Huggins Rd., Cordova; Daniel "Dan"

From A1

Earnest, 1306 Blackwell Dr., Parrish. Republicans: None.

Walker County Commission, District 4

Democrats: Randy Bridges (I), 2826 Pineywoods/Sipseay Road, Jasper; Steven Aderholt, 392 Rocky Ridge Road, Dora. Republicans: None.

Walker County Revenue Commissioner

Democrats: Jerry Guthrie (I), 235 Prospect Rd., Nauvoo. Republicans: Greg Fanin, 807 15th Ave. W., Jasper.

Walker County Board of Education, Chairman

Democrats: Erwin Peake, 736 South Lowell Rd., Jasper; Bill Smith, 2929 Hillard Loop, Townley. Republicans: Brad Ingle, 4394 Cordova Gorgas Rd., Cordova.

Walker County Treasurer

Democrats: A. Ruth Cloud, 3544 N. Airport Rd., Jasper; Jason Maloy, 234 Lela Ave., Sumiton; Sheila Rice, 640 Pinedale Dr., Jasper; Morris Studdard Jr., 509 Crest Circle N., Jasper. Republicans: Keith Duncan, 706 9th Ave., Jasper.

A list of constable candidates will be published at a later date.

State, federal races

The race for the 4th Congressional District will include an all-Walker County Democratic primary. Nicholas B. Sparks, 2499 Main St., Sumiton, signed up to give competition to Greg Warren of 1148 Nauvoo Road, Nauvoo. The winner of the primary will run against U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, a Haleyville Republican, in November.

Republican Gary Warren of Haleyville has qualified for the District 7 state Board of Education race, while the incumbent Democrat, Sandra Ray, did not sign up. Earl Gardner of Florence will be the Democratic candidate for the district, which includes Walker County. Ray has held the seat since 1994.

Walker County District Judge Jim Wells, 1815 Brown Dr., Jasper, and Henry Allred, 1816 3rd Ave. S., Jasper, have qualified with the Alabama Democratic Party for the district judge's race. No Republicans were signed up for the race.

For the complete state lists, go to www.aladems.org and www.algop.org.