

# Wave of candidates file for Kootenai County office

## Scott Maben/Spokesman Review

A wave of candidates filed for Kootenai County offices in the past two days, setting up nine contested races for six positions in the May 20 primary election. The two-week filing period ended Friday at 5 p.m.

At the top of the ballot, two incumbents on the Board of Commissioners each face two Republican challengers. The county clerk, assessor and coroner also face competition within the GOP.

Commissioner Todd Tondee is seeking a fourth term in District 1 and again will square off with Tim Herzog and Marc Eberlein, both of whom sought the seat in 2012. This time, it's for a four-year term, and the GOP nominee this fall will go up against the winner of the Democratic primary, Bruce Noble or Tamra Dale II.

Commissioner Jai Nelson in District 2 is running again, for a two-year term on the board, and will face David Stewart and Terry Lee Wall in the Republican primary. No Democrat filed for that seat.

Jim Brannon, appointed county clerk after the previous clerk, Cliff Hayes, died in December, is running to retain the position. He faces Don Pischner for the GOP nomination. Two Democrats, Larry Belmont and Alanna Brooks, also are running.

Patrick Galles is seeking to unseat Assessor Mike McDowell in the GOP primary. Larry Spencer filed for the race as a Democrat.

Laurie Thomas, the county's chief deputy treasurer, is running to succeed her boss, Tom Malzahn, who is retiring after 12 years in the position. Thomas will face Steven Matheson in the Republican primary, and the winner will go up against the Democratic primary victor, Janet Callen or Gordy Ormesher.

Coroner Debbie Wilkey is seeking re-election as a Republican and faces a challenge from Warren Keene. No Democrat is running.