

Filing period for elections starts Tuesday

By Dan Linehan

dlinehan@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — The filing period for most local elective offices begins Tuesday, but there are already several competitive races lining up — including mayor of Mankato.

Christopher Frederick announced he'll be running for mayor, a seat held by John Brady, who won an eight-way contest in 2006 and has said he'll be defending his seat this year.

Frederick ran for City Council president in 2008, losing to Mike Laven 7,732 votes to 8,147.

"I received a lot more support from the community than a lot of us were expecting," Frederick said.

"The city's ready for a new face and a different direction."

The state's filing period was moved ahead as a result of the primary being moved up to the second Tuesday in August to provide a 45-day absentee voting period for overseas voters, including those in the military.

The filing period for most elections runs from May 18 to June 1.

Of the other two Mankato City Council seats up for election, one will be defended by incumbent Jack Considine and the other will be an open seat vacated by Vance Stuehrenberg.

Two people — Tim Adams and Karen Foreman — have said they intend to file for Stuehrenberg's City Council seat.

Considine, who works for the county, said, "Four years ago I said I could not see myself continuing both jobs. I started looking at which one would I want to continue doing. I decided I'd like to run one more time for the City Council ... if the people of the 5th Ward will have me."

On the Blue Earth County Board, incumbents Drew Campbell and Will Purvis say they intend to refile. Campbell was elected in a September 2009 special election, and Purvis is seeking a second four-year term.

Commissioner Tom McLaughlin said he will retire, with Stuehrenberg saying he'll file for the seat.

Sheriff Brad Peterson and County Attorney Ross Arneson are also up for election this year.

Filing for North Mankato offices does not begin until August. Mayor Gary Zellmer is up for election, as are council members Diane Norland and Kenneth DeWitte.

Last time around, Norland and DeWitte took the top spots in a field of five while Zellmer ran unopposed.