

Legislative filers are trickling in

By Mark Fischenich

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MANKATO — Local government candidates are popping up on a daily basis since the two-week filing period started on Tuesday, but legislative candidates have been slow to sign on.

Part of the reason is the growth in party- organized mass-filing days, where dozens of candidates show up at the Secretary of State's office to write out their \$100 checks and fill out the paperwork required to get on the ballot.

Republicans, for instance, are filing en masse on May 25.

"I think it's really insurance that everybody files," said Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Good Thunder, recalling a case where a candidate once forgot to file by the deadline. The big crowd of candidates also makes for a media opportunity for a political party, and allows party staff to be on hand to help first-time candidates with the paperwork.

Cornish, though, won't be there next week. He filed Thursday, partly to avoid the long line that will be at the State Office Building on Tuesday and partly because he's got someplace better than St. Paul to be.

"I'm going to be gone to Canada fishing," he said.

House and Senate

Of the five state Senate districts and seven House districts in The Free Press coverage area, Cornish was just the sixth candidate to file.

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The others, all of whom had previously announced their plans to run, include: In Senate District 21, where longtime Republican Sen. Dennis Frederickson of New Ulm is retiring, Republican- endorsed candidate Gary Dahms of Redwood Falls filed. District 21 stretches from New Ulm and Madelia to Marshall.

In District 23, first-term incumbent Sen. Kathy Sheran, DFL-Mankato, signed up for another run.

The district's population is centered in Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter, but it includes all of Nicollet County and southwestern Sibley County as well.

Sen. Kevin Dahle, DFL-Northfield, filed for election in District 25 — seeking his first general election victory after winning his seat in a special election in January of 2008. District 25 includes all of Le Sueur County and parts of Sibley, Scott and Rice counties.

The only filers in area House races are Rep. Kory Kath, DFL-Owatonna, in District 26A (Waseca, Owatonna and nearby rural areas), and Montgomery Mayor Mick McGuire, the DFL- endorsed candidate in District 25A (Le Sueur County, New Prague, and southeastern Sibley County).

Cities and counties

Two longtime elected officials in Mankato and Nicollet County filed to run for another term Thursday.

Mankato Councilman Jack Considine of Mankato filed in the 5th Ward, which includes west Mankato, stretches to the west side of Minnesota State University, and reaches to the western edges of downtown. That filing sets up a competitive race in the ward because challenger Joe Steck filed Wednesday for the City Council seat.

Mike Riley, currently unopposed, filed for reelection as Nicollet County attorney.

The filing deadline is 5 p.m. June 1.

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