

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Mattie Scott
Administrative Assistant
406-258-4232

mScott@missoulacounty.us



Commissioners Cancel Certain Special District Board Elections, Declare Board Members Elected by Acclamation

The Missoula County commissioners on March 14 voted to cancel certain special district board elections and elect unopposed candidates by acclamation.

Write-in candidate filing for the 2024 special elections closed on March 4. While the Missoula County Elections Office received many valid candidate filings, several positions remain unfilled (see list below). When the number of candidates equals the number of vacant positions, the candidate is elected by a process of acclamation and no election is held for that race.

The May 7 special election will still be held for some school and special district positions. More information for levies and positions related to school districts can be found [online](#).

The commissioners are seeking applicants for positions that no candidates filed to run for. These positions will become vacant May 31. Applicants must be residents of Missoula County and at least 18 years old. Additional residency requirements may apply for specific positions. All board positions are served on a volunteer basis.

Applications for vacant positions are available [online](#). Submissions may be filed electronically by emailing bcc@missoulacounty.us. The deadline to submit applications is 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Per resolutions adopted by the county commissioners on March 14, 2024, the following special district elections have been canceled:

Big Flat Irrigation District: Candidate Jeffery Koch was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill a vacant seat through May 31, 2026. At that time, if the board member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Bonner-Milltown Community Council: Candidates Emily Herndon and Richard Hall were elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Clinton Community Council: Candidate Frances Feinstein was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill new three-year term that runs June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. In addition, seeking applicants for two alternate seats ending May

31, 2026. Council members act as a liaison between the citizens of the Clinton area and the county commissioners, providing information deemed useful, beneficial and helpful in decisions that affect the community. Applicants must be residents of the Clinton community.

Clinton Irrigation District: Candidate George G. Stitt was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Clinton Rural Fire District: Candidates Ryan Martin Handley and Kate Steenberg were elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill the remainder of one three-year term that runs through May 31, 2025. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

East Frenchtown Water District: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill two new four-year terms that run June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. In addition, seeking applicants for the alternate seat for a new four-year term that runs June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028.

East Missoula Community Council: Candidates Stephanie Lemberg and Lisa A. Thomas were elected by acclamation to new three-year terms.

East Missoula Rural Fire District: Candidate Richard Neff was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill new three-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

East Missoula Sewer District: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill three four-year terms from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Elk Meadows ranchettes County Water District: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill two four-year terms from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Evaro-Finley O'Keefe Community Council: No candidates filed for election.

Frenchtown Irrigation District: Candidate Joe Boyer was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Goodan-Keil County Water District: Candidates Pri Fernando and Alan Bronec were elected by acclamation to new four-year terms.

Greenough-Potomac Rural Fire Service Area: Candidate Jason Johnson was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill new three-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Lolo Community Council: Candidates Hannah Zuraff, Marilyn Hatch and Marta Brown were elected by acclamation to new three-year terms.

Missoula Irrigation District: (Division 2): Candidate Shane Clouse was elected by acclamation to new three-year term.

Seeley Lake Community Council: Candidates Garry Swain and Bruce Friede were elected by acclamation to new three-year terms.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill one alternate seat for a new three-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections. Council members act as a liaison between the citizens of the Seeley Lake area and the county commissioners, providing information deemed useful, beneficial and helpful in decisions that affect the community. Applicants must be residents of the Seeley Lake community.

Seeley Lake Rural Fire District: Candidates Gary A. Lewis and Shirley Goudzwaard were elected by acclamation to new three-year term.

Seeley Lake Sewer District: Candidate Tom Morris was elected by acclamation to a new four-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applications for one new four-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. At that time, if the council member wishes to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Seeley-Swan Hospital District: Candidates Suzette Baker and Terryl Bartlett were elected by acclamation to new three-year terms.

Seeley Lake Water District: Candidates Todd Johnson, Chris Lorentz and Kristine B. Martin were elected by acclamation to new four-year term.

Shelby Addition Water District: Candidates Mary Hawkes and Jerry Jochinsen were elected by acclamation to new four-year terms.

Spring Meadows County Water District: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill three four-year terms from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. In addition, seeking to fill the remainder of two vacant two-year terms that run through May 31, 2026. At that time, if the council members wish to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Sunny Meadows Missoula County Water and Sewer District: Candidates Michael Bushey, Meggan Quigley and Paula Niccum were elected by acclamation to new four-year terms.

Swan Valley Community Council: Candidates Jesse Arno and Brian A. Praschak were elected by acclamation to new three-year terms.

Swan Valley Fire Service Area: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill one three-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. At that time, if the council members wish to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

Target Range Sewer and Water District: Candidates Scott C. David and George Hart were elected by acclamation to new four-year terms.

Turah Meadows Sewer and Water District: No candidates filed for election.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill two four-year terms from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2028. At that time, if the council members wish to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections.

West Valley Community Council: Candidate Tom Tucker was elected by acclamation to a new three-year term.

Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill one new three-year term from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2027. In, addition, there are two vacant partial terms through May 31, 2025, and May 31, 2026. At that time, if the council members wish to continue serving, they will need to file as a candidate in the special district elections. Council members act as a liaison between the citizens of the West Valley area and the county commissioners, providing information deemed useful, beneficial and helpful in decisions that affect the community. Applicants must be residents of the West Valley community.

These elections were canceled pursuant to the following state statutes: [MCA 7-5-2101](#), [MCA 85-7-1702\(3\)](#) and [MCA 13-1-304](#).