

March 10, 2011

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The unexpired term for the Place 6 seat on the Burleson City Council is now a contested race. Joshua Pickrell filed for the seat that longtime council member Chip Stephens held until Stephens turned in his resignation letter Feb. 21. Stephens will serve until after the May 14 election.

Three of the four council seats on the May 14 city ballot are now contested. Place 1 Councilmember Stuart Gillaspie has not drawn an opponent.

Larry Pool was the first candidate to file for Place 6. Pool, 49, is employed in the insurance industry. He is a 15-year resident of the state and a two-year resident of the city. Pickrell, 31, is a 6-year resident of Texas. He has lived in Burleson for just over a year. Pickrell is employed in software development.

The years of residence listed on the council applications that are posted on the City website, www.burlesontx.com, are length of continuous residence as of the date of the application, not necessarily the total number of years the candidate has lived in the state or in the city.

Leslee Clark Ahrend filed against Place 5 incumbent Dan McClendon. Ahrend, 40, is employed as a teacher. She is a lifetime resident of Texas and a 19-year resident of Burleson. McClendon, 58, is employed as a contractor. He is a lifetime resident of Texas and a 33-year resident of Burleson.

Place 3 Council member Matt Powell faces two challengers – Jerry Allen and Brian Cameron. Powell, 46, is a land surveyor. He has lived in Texas for more than 9-1/2 years, all of which have been in Burleson. Allen, 62, is a real estate investor. He is a 41-year resident of the state and a 22-year resident of Burleson. Cameron, 61, is a software engineer. He has been a Texas resident for 32 years and a Burleson resident for just over one year.

Gillaspie, 48, is a transportation manager. He is a lifetime resident of the state and Burleson.

The filing deadline is March 14. Election Day is May 14. Council applications are available through the city secretary's office at Burleson City Hall. The last day to file as a write-in candidate is March 21.

If you want to vote in the May 2011 Burleson City Council election, you must be a resident of Burleson (you pay City taxes) and you must register to vote by April 14. Voter registration cards are available at city hall and the Burleson Public Library as well as through election offices in Tarrant County and Johnson County.

Early voting will be May 2-May 7 (Monday-Saturday), 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and May 9-10 (Monday-Tuesday), 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day is Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. All voting takes place at Burleson City Hall, 141 W. Renfro St.

For more information, go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com, Departments, City Secretary, Elections. You can also call the city secretary's office at 817-426-9660 or e-mail City Secretary Amanda McCrory at amccrory@burlesontx.com.