

BALLOT: Reps. Barreto, Smith file

Continued from 1A
his re-election campaign. According to the Oregon Secretary of State’s website, Smith’s campaign account has received \$24,000. A late entrance into the race won’t be a setback for Smith — no one has entered either the Republican or Democratic primaries to face Smith, who hasn’t had an electoral opponent since 2010.

District 57 encompasses Hermiston, Umatilla and Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County as well as the entirety of Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties and a part of Wasco County.

Smith’s colleague to the east — District 58 Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove — filed for re-election in September and remains the only entrant in the race.

The deputy leader of House Republicans, Barreto has raised \$16,225 in 2018 and has a total cash balance of \$80,776.

After beating John Turner in the primary and Heidi Van Schoonhoven in the general election in 2014, Barreto ran unopposed in 2016.

District 58 covers Pendleton and most of Umatilla County in addition to Union and Wallowa counties.

Circuit Court Sixth District
For the second election cycle in a row, Umatilla and Morrow county voters will have a competitive judge race.

The latest entrant in the race for Circuit Court Position 1, an open seat that will be vacated by Lynn Hampton’s retirement, is Pendleton attorney Rob Collins.

He is a partner at Collins & Collins, a law firm he’s run with his brother Mike since 1981.

A Pendleton High School graduate, Collins has a bachelor’s degree from Centre College, a university in Danville, Kentucky, and John

Marshall Law School in Chicago.

According to his firm’s website, Collins specializes in estate planning, real estate, business advice and personal injury.

He’s been a member of the Pendleton Round-Up Board of Directors since 2010 and served on the Umatilla/Morrow County Housing Authority Board of Directors and the Pendleton Rotary Club.

Collins will face Michael Breiling, a Pendleton defense attorney from the Breiling & Van Kirk law firm.

In a previous interview, Breiling said he has handled both criminal and family cases over his 22 years in law and would be well qualified for the bench.

Both Position 4 Judge Eva Temple and Position 5 Judge Christopher Brauer remain unopposed.

Commissioners and councils
There hasn’t been any movement in the two board of commissioners’ races since Athena Mayor John Shafer announced his run against incumbent Commissioner Larry Givens for his Position 2 seat.

This will be Givens’ fourth consecutive contested election. Shafer is a communications sergeant for the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office.

Position 1 Commissioner George Murdock has filed, but not yet drawn an opponent.

Pendleton got its first competitive council race when Carole Innes, a retired operations auditor for Northwest Farm Credit Services, filed to run for the open Pendleton City Council Ward 1 seat on Feb. 20.

In her filing paperwork, Innes highlighted her “numerous workshops and trainings” in “conflict resolution, planning, fraud detection, mental health, writing, fundraising, teamwork and human resources issues.”

Innes is running against John Cook, a retired firefighter. The seat became open when incumbent John Brenne died in January.

Two other incumbents have filed for their seats but don’t have any challengers.

Ward 2 City Councilor McKennon McDonald is running for her second term while at-large Councilor Jake Cambier is running for his first full term after he was appointed in 2016.

Despite the impending retirement for Ward 3 Councilor Neil Brown, no one has yet filed for the seat.

Hermiston city recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong was out of the office Tuesday and could not provide the latest filing information for the four Hermiston City Council seats up for election.

As of Feb. 21, three people had filed for four seats.

Hermiston School Board member Mark Gomolski is running for the Ward 1 seat held by Lori Davis, who hadn’t filed as of that date.

Gomolski ran in the city council at-large race, just missing out on one of the four top spots in a field of five. He was elected to the school board as a write-in in 2017.

Semi-retired operating engineer Shean Fitzgerald is running to replace his wife, retiring Ward 2 Councilor Clara Beas Fitzgerald, while incumbent Ward 4 Councilor Doug Smith has filed for re-election.

No one is facing a contested election and there are no candidates for Ward 3, which is currently filled by Councilor Jackie Myers.

In Milton-Freewater, all three incumbents — Ward 1 Councilor Orrin Lyon and at-large councilors Steve Irving and Ed Chesnut — have filed for re-election while drawing no challengers so far.

From 2008 to 2016, the council has only had two contested elections.

DOWNTOWN: \$50M value

Continued from 1A
private projects, four public projects and 10 spearheaded by private entities that received assistance from the city or urban renewal agency.

The result has been a 20 percent increase in assessed property values, from \$42.3 million in 2013 to \$50.6 million at the end of 2017. Spencer said about half of the increase can be attributed to the new Holiday Inn Express that opened in late 2016.

The urban renewal agency (overseen by a committee made up of all city councilors) gets its money by freezing the amount of property taxes going to taxing districts like the fire district at 2013 levels for the next 20 years, then skimming off the extra revenue generated by property value increases in that urban renewal district to funnel back into projects that will push property values even higher.

Some property owners have made improvements without the help of the urban renewal agency, such as the extensive remodel and expansion completed by the owners of the Mexican restaurant La Palma, the transformation of the old Pendleton Grain Growers building into NAPA Auto Parts and the completion of the Maxwell Siding Event Center by Mitch Myers. Affordable Family Eyewear is also working to remodel the building on the corner of Gladys Avenue and Northeast Third Street before opening there this summer.

Others have gotten help sprucing up their storefronts from a façade grant program started by the agency. A few of those include Julissa’s Meat

Market, Lucky Endz Gifts, the East Oregonian, Simmons Insurance Agency, Holiday Inn Express and State Farm insurance agent LuAnn Davidson. Public-private partnerships also include a deal made by Mitch Myers and the city to allow the public to use parking that Myers is building along the railroad tracks.

As for public projects, Hermiston Energy Services recently replaced old utility poles downtown with more decorative lighting, complete with hooks and irrigation for hanging flower baskets. Spencer said the urban renewal agency plans to expand that lighting throughout the downtown district (which is bordered by Ridgeway Avenue, Highland Avenue, Southwest Sixth Street and Southeast Seventh Street) and add decorative wayfinding signs, additional landscaping and possibly arches leading into areas of downtown.

The capstone of the urban renewal district is the festival street currently under construction. When complete, the block of Northeast Second Street bordering city hall will feature landscaping, decorative brickwork and lighting, a more pedestrian-friendly design and the ability to be blocked off for events. Spencer said while the city and local groups like the farmers market hope to hold events there to draw people downtown, it will also be available for reserving by residents similar to shelters available at city parks.

Future phases of the festival street with push it farther along Second Street and add a fountain to the parking lot across from city hall.

MORE WINNERS. MORE OFTEN.

\$72,000
Anniversary Cash
GIVEAWAY

FOUR
\$10,000 CASH
GRAND PRIZE WINNERS!

Win a qualifying drawing
and receive:

\$200 CASH

Entry into the
POWER HOUR drawing
for **\$1,000 cash**

Entry into the
GRAND PRIZE drawing
for **\$10,000 cash**

Earn entries all month long!
Drawings Every Thursday-Sunday | 8-9:30pm
10pm Power Hour Drawings
Grand Prize Drawing March 29-April 1

WE'RE CELEBRATING
23
YEARS!
ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS SHOW

Saturday, March 10
Show begins at 8pm

For Pyro-Musical tune into **KCUW 104.3fm**





WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV • MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA
800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216, wildhorseresort.com. Owned and operated by CTUIR
Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time.