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Northampton County municipal officials submit petitions to square off on the May 19 primary ballot

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FROM STAFF REPORTS

Robert Balum won't waste any time jumping back into the fray in Hellertown.

Balum, who's retiring as police chief this month amid complaints that he threatened and retaliated against officers in the police union, apparently wants to be a borough councilman.

He's one of five Democrats who filed petitions to be on the May primary election ballot for borough council.

Tuesday was the deadline for county and municipal candidates to file nominating petitions with the Northampton County Elections Office for the May 19 primary. The elections office released a complete but what it labeled "unofficial" list Wednesday.

Balum, whose wife Jane is already on Hellertown council, will be joined on the ballot by incumbents Gail Nolf and Philip J. Weber, and challengers Thomas J. Rieger and Michael McKenna.

Longtime incumbent Mayor Richard T. Fluck, also a Democrat, was the only candidate from either party to file a petition for mayor.

Elsewhere:

Easton

All three city council seats on the ballot will be contested. Democrats Peter R. Koehler and Reno Pesaresi filed in District 1, which covers Downtown and College Hill, as did Republican incumbent Roger Ruggles.

In District 2, which covers most of the West Ward, former councilman Michael Fleck will face Dennis R. Lieb in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed, according to the elections office.

On South Side, incumbent Councilwoman Sandra Vulcano will face fellow Democrat Kerry Myers, who's now on the school board, in the District 3 primary. Bill Timmann was the only Republican to file.

All city council seats used to be at-large seats until now, thanks to the city charter established last year.

Bethlehem

Mayor John Callahan is running unopposed for re-election, according to the elections office. Only Callahan, a Democrat, submitted a petition for city mayor.

Six people submitted petitions for four at-large city council seats: Council members Jean Belinski, Karen Dolan and Joseph Leeson Jr. and challengers David DiGiacinto, Eric Evans and Michael Recchiuti. All the council candidates are running as Democrats.

City Controller Meg Holland, a Republican, also faces no competition in her re-election bid this year.

Forks Township

Democratic incumbents Donald Miller and Bonnie Nicholas aren't seeking re-election to their supervisor

seats.

That will spell an end to Miller's 24-year run as a supervisor.

"I want to concentrate on the community center and the parks system, and let the others have a chance of running the township," said Miller, who is the township's parks and recreation director and has lived in the township for 46 years.

Five Republicans filed petitions for the two seats -- both six-year terms. Former supervisor Henning Holmgaard, who was defeated in 2005, is seeking a return to office. Other candidates are David Billings, Michele L. Rogers, Kevin L. Wall and Simon Sikora Jr.

Nicholas couldn't be reached for comment.

Williams Township

Incumbent Robert Doerr won't seek re-election to his supervisor seat -- the only supervisor office up for grabs this year.

Two Republicans, Alan Kirby and Tracy A. Brannon, and Democrat Thomas W. Houser filed petitions.

Doerr, who served one six-year term, said his decision against running had nothing to do with the controversial Chrin Sanitary Landfill, which is hoping to expand.

"It's a commitment you have to be willing to make for six years, and I just want to be able to focus on other things," he said.

Lower Nazareth

Four Republicans are seeking election to two open supervisor seats, which carry six-year terms. They are Martin Boucher, Joseph Leuser, James S. Pennington and Marc Suhr.

Incumbents Alan Dilsaver and Pat Murphy are not on the ballot.

Moore Township

One six-year supervisor seat is up for grabs, with two Democrats and two Republicans in the race. Democrats are incumbent Rodney Jarinko and challenger Lois Kerbacher; Republicans slated to be on the ballot are Richard Gable and David L. Gogel.

Plainfield Township

Incumbent supervisor Tim Frankenfield and Sam Sanguinito were the only Democrats to file for the two six-year-term seats that will be on the ballot.

Republican incumbent Matt Glennon and GOP challengers Glenn Borger, Michael Kresch, Kerri Tollinger and William Schmauder round out that party's slate.