

Three vie for Durant mayor in municipal election

By Matthew Breazeale
The qualifying deadline for candidates for municipal office was February 5. Several applications have been submitted for the town of Durant.

The Municipal Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, April 6, with the runoffs, if any, being on Tuesday, April 27. The Municipal General Election, for those running as independent candidates, is set for Tuesday, June 8.

Three are vying for the office of mayor, incumbent Dr. Henry Robinson, Jr., John Haynes, Sr., and Robert “Bobby” McDonald. Applications for aldermen positions were submitted for ward 1, Carolyn Riley (i), Terry Floyd and Jackie Killebrew; ward 2, Leotha “Bo” Patterson (i); ward 3, Ricky Fletcher (i) and Darlene Moss; ward 4, Fredia Boyd Johnson (i), Mary Sanders Patterson and Johnny Pritchard; and ward 5, Linda McDonald(i). All candidates who submitted applications are running as Democrat.

According to Durant City Clerk Ursula Perry, all candidates have been qualified by the election executive committee.

General qualifications for office, as outlined by the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office, are “Qualified

elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and in the municipality/ward of the office for which the candidate seeks election. Never have been convicted of bribery, perjury or other infamous crime, being defined as a crime punishable by a minimum of one (1) year confinement in the state penitentiary, unless pardoned for the offense. Never have been convicted of a felony in a court of this state or, of a felony in a federal court, or of a crime in the court of another state which is a felony under the laws of this state, on or after December 8, 1992; excluding, however, a conviction of manslaughter or a violation of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violation of the tax laws of this state, unless the offense also involved the misuse or abuse of an office or money coming into a candidate’s hands by virtue of an office.”

Vetting of candidates is the responsibility of the elections commissioners, ensuring they have committed no crimes outlined by the state secretary’s office.

Other requirements for qualifying for office include submitting to the municipal clerk’s office “a Qualifying Statement of Intent (for either a party nomination or running as independent).”

A fee of \$10 is incurred for those running as a party candidate, those running as independent “do not pay a qualifying fee.”

Those who have not registered still have until the first week in May to do so. According to the Secretary of State’s office, Michael Watson, “a voter must be registered in the municipality 30 days prior to Election Day.” April 27 will be the election day for Durant.

The deadline for voter registration in the Municipal General Election is Monday, March 29.

Voter registration forms can be obtained at Durant City Hall or the Holmes County Circuit Clerk’s Office, and can be submitted at either location.

Applicants who register in person in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk’s Office on March 29 and those who mail registration applications postmarked no later than that day are eligible to vote in the April 27, 2021 Primary Runoff Election. Two forms of ID, one picture ID, are required for voter registration.

Perry said Durant City Hall will hold voter registration from Monday, March 1, through Friday, March 5, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and on Saturday, March 6 from 8 a.m. until noon.

PSC to review State’s Public Utility Infrastructure in light of recent winter storms

Press Release
The three Mississippi Public Service Commissioners unanimously announced today the launching of a comprehensive review of the Magnolia State’s public utility infrastructure in light of horrifying events in other areas of the nation and the lingering after-effects of the recent winter storm. The Commission’s review will begin immediately.

The Commissioners stated that their goal was to ensure that all reasonable steps be taken to protect the reliability of electric, gas, water and sewer service at all times. While Mississippi utilities are accustomed to extreme weather events like hurricanes and tornadoes, winter storms are much rarer. The latest winter storm presented new challenges to Mississippi utilities that the Commission feels must be addressed immediately and forthrightly.

The Commissioners stressed the fact that our State’s electric utilities performed incredibly well dur-

ing recent, unprecedented weather, even producing more electricity than needed on the coldest day of the year. Additionally, preparations were made in advance to secure resources to assess outages and begin the restoration of electrical service as soon as safely able to do so. Natural gas utilities avoided supply disruptions and kept supplies flowing to their customers. However, the Commission said, these facts do not negate the responsibility of state regulators to ensure that utilities are doing all they can ensure its systems are resilient, services are reliable and that Mississippians avoid experiencing large-area outages that take a long time to recover from.

“Grid resiliency and reliability is an incredibly important issue and we must maintain a proactive approach to protect our systems and infrastructure,” Chairman Dane Maxwell said. “The extreme winter weather last week brought to light many issues throughout the region that must be

addressed to ensure forced outages on a massive scale do not happen here in Mississippi like we saw in other parts of the country.”

“Although the majority of utilities performed well during the recent extreme weather, the events have raised the bar of preparation and preventative actions utilities should take to minimize outages,” Commissioner Brent Bailey said. “Our emphasis remains on providing Mississippi residents with effective communication, ensuring reliability and preventing the loss of vital public utility services during any inclement weather conditions, particularly for the most vulnerable of customers.”

“It is our highest duty as Commissioners to make sure that we not only solve problems but anticipate them ahead of time,” Commissioner Brandon Presley said. “This latest winter storm has presented challenges that must be addressed in a formal and thorough manner. Mississippians deserve

Governor issues resolution for Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi’s 20th Anniversary

Celebrating 20 years of service and fight to end child abuse

Press Release

On January 11, 2021, Mississippi Governor, Tate Reeves, issued a state Resolution to honor and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi (CACM). The Resolution recognizes CACM’s dedication to service, their diligent work to grow the education, training, and support throughout the state, and the joining of Mississippians together in the fight to end child abuse and protect the children of our state.

“The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi is excited to have Governor Reeves and the Governor’s Office recognize 20 years of protecting Mississippi’s children. Our hope is that this recognition will open doors in communities that need the hope and healing services of a local child advocacy center, putting us closer to our goal of all children in Mississippi having access to a child advocacy center,” said Karla Tye, Executive Director of CACM.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Children’s Advo-

cacy Centers of Mississippi has grown to 12 local Child Advocacy Centers across the state and served 44,064 children. To honor all of the organization’s achievements in its 20 years, CACM launched a year-long, statewide movement, “I Protect Children,” with the hope to encourage all of Mississippi’s citizens to become aware and improve the environment for child victims and families of abuse and maltreatment.

“By launching the ‘I Protect Children’ movement, we hope to spread awareness of the groundbreaking work child advocacy centers around the state are achieving,” said Tye. “Some of our most important innovations include coordinating investigative training and teamwork across agencies, our nationally recognized educational collaborations with state colleges and universities, our research-based advances in investigative forensic interviewing, and our emphasis on victim advocacy and treatment.”

With “I Protect Children,” one of the many goals is to inform every Mississippian



March 4 - Burwell Barton, John L. Barnes, III, Darlene Ware, Art Sweeney, Lindsey Huffman, Megan Holland, Louis Alexander, Marcus Crockrell, Mark Underwood

March 5 - Robin Pierce, Bear Rosamond, Melanie Garrett, Karon Sinclair Barnes, Wes Sterling, Allison Hart, Clayton Nolan, Lucy Alexander, Nathan Hill, Dana Hill, Michael Howard, Maci Harris, Anabelle Burwell

March 6 - Ann Burrell, Bonnie Haffey, Joseph Walbert, Tim Johnson, Janice Gullett

March 7 - Bailey Britt, Hattie Melton, Swayze Gardner, James Holland, Richard Hammett, Jeff Burrell, Tonya Payton, Tyler Robertson

March 8 - Lavert Thomas,


Ruger Davis, Robert Killebrew, Torrey Moore, Jaelyn McKenzie Ables

March 9 - W.A. Edwards, Logan McBride, Allen Winstead, Linda L. Rogers, Jason Burrell, Ava Grace Coleman

March 10 - Cornelius Miller, Carmen Edwards, Britton Hoover, Eva Bethany, Jacqueline Wilson, Brandy Proctor, Karly Hubbard, Allin Murphy

that they are a mandated reporter by law. If someone suspects there is child abuse, neglect, or trafficking, they are required by law to report it. Anyone can call 1.800.222.8000 to file a report anonymously with MD-CPS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Join the “I Protect Children” movement by contacting your local child advocacy center or visiting childadvocacymys.org/I-Protect-Children and learn how you can get involved.

**Fish Day!**
It's Time To Stock Your Pond!
Delivery Will Be:
Tuesday, March 16
Winona 1:00-1:45 @ Hi-Grade Farm Supply
Lexington 2:45-3:30 @ Lexington Farm Supply
Yazoo City 4:30-5:15 @ Davis Feed & Farm Supply
"LIKE" us on Facebook!
FISH WAGON
To Place an Order Call
1-800-643-8439
www.fishwagon.com

**Bridal Registry**

Lily Fran McCrory
Rosario Guastella
May 22

Peoples Drug Store
Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

CASH PLUS
TITLE PLUS
205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS
(across from Double Quick)
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Payday Loans up to \$400.00
Title Loans up to \$2,500.00

WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!
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