

RE: Question Regarding Primary in Ward 3 and 5

Nathan Coyan <ncoyan@missoulacounty.us>

Wed 6/21/2023 1:07 PM

To: Claire Trimble <TrimbleC@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Stacie Anderson <andersons@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Bradley Seaman <bseaman@missoulacounty.us>

Cc: Vincent Pavlish <vpavlish@missoulacounty.us>

Greetings,

Thank you all for your patience while I expedited communications with these candidates and the County Attorney.

Here is summary of our guidance regarding the primary.

With five candidates filed for Mayor, a primary was automatically triggered in that race.

Candidates have a window of five days from filing to submit their paperwork to COPP.

Although Alex Kim had filed a withdrawal with the COPP, he had not filed one with our office – meaning he was still a viable candidate.

Alex Kim confirmed his intent to withdraw from the Ward 3 race via telephone and email to me this afternoon. Although the deadline for withdrawal was Mon. the 19th, our office will honor his written request for removal from the race. Based on these revelations, the primary election for City Council Ward 3 is hereby cancelled.

Ward 5 candidate Dave Bell indicated his plans to submit paperwork to the COPP, prior to their deadline.

Should the City Council determine that a primary election be held in Ward 5, a resolution to request that the primary be held could be written as to be contingent upon all candidates satisfying their obligations to file the required paperwork with the COPP. i.e.: Should all three candidates satisfy this requirement, move ahead with the primary; if the number of candidates falls to two, cancel the primary.

Alternately, the Ward 5 primary could simply be cancelled. If all three candidates met those requirements, they would all appear on the ballot in the general election. If not, only the two who met them would advance to the general.

All mail-ballot would be the most cost-effective method of conducting this election.

Please feel free to reach out to me for any further clarification.

I would be happy to attend today's meeting if requested.

Many thanks,

Nathan



Nathan D. Coyan

Deputy Elections Administrator

MISSOULA COUNTY

 406.531.4026



ncoyan@missoulacounty.us

From: Claire Trimble <TrimbleC@ci.missoula.mt.us>

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 10:40 AM

To: Stacie Anderson <andersons@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Bradley Seaman <bseaman@missoulacounty.us>; Nathan Coyan <ncoyan@missoulacounty.us>

Subject: Re: Question Regarding Primary in Ward 3 and 5

I'm looping in Nathan Coyan as I think Bradley may be out of office.

From: Stacie Anderson <andersons@ci.missoula.mt.us>

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:40 AM

To: bseaman@missoulacounty.us <bseaman@missoulacounty.us>; Claire Trimble <TrimbleC@ci.missoula.mt.us>

Subject: Question Regarding Primary in Ward 3 and 5

Greetings Bradley and Clair,

This afternoon in COW we will be voting on whether or not to hold a primary election in wards 3 and 5 given that one has been triggered in the Mayor's race.

In Ward 3, there are three candidates filed. However, Alex Kim has told the Missoulain that he was planning on withdrawing from running, but Alex did not turn in the necessary paperwork to the Missoula County Elections by the deadline on Monday, June 19th. Alex filed the necessary paperwork with the commissioner of political practices back in April when he originally filed with the county elections. Looking at the COPP website this morning it appears Alex Kim has filed paperwork with them to withdraw his candidacy, but didn't file anything with Missoula County elections. So looking for guidance on what to do in this ward? Does withdrawing with the COPP trigger his removal from the ballot?

In Ward 5 Dave Bell filed on Monday towards the end of the day, as of this morning he has not filed his paperwork with COPP. He is required to do so by what date? My understanding is that if he doesn't file by a specific date then he would be removed from the ballot. So if we call for a primary in Ward 5 today and ultimately Dave does not file the paperwork and is removed from the ballot then there would not longer be a need for a primary in Ward 5 correct?

Thank you for the clarification.

Thanks

Stacie

Stacie M. Anderson

Missoula City Council Ward 5

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Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

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