

# State and Local

Ringer, McIlhaney only 2 vying for mayor

## Filing for CS council election ends

By CRAIG RENFRO  
Staff Writer

If you don't like the way College Station is being run, and you think things would go smoother if you were the mayor or a council member, you'll have to wait until next year to prove it.

Filing deadlines for council positions ended Wednesday. And Come election day, April 5, the city will have a new mayor and at least one new councilman.

Larry Ringer and councilwoman Lynn McIlhaney have filed as candidates in the race for the successor to outgoing mayor Gary Halter.

Halter, a political science professor at A&M who has served three terms as mayor, said he will not run for re-election, but pursue other interests.

"You begin to lose enthusiasm for it (the mayor position), and I need to do other things with my academic career," Halter said.

Ringer, a statistics professor at Texas A&M, served as a College Station City Council member from 1976-83. He currently serves as a member of the A&M Faculty Senate.

"When I was a council member, I hope people felt I was someone they could talk to and someone who was willing to listen to other people's ideas," Ringer said earlier.

Ringer said he considered filing in 1984 but did not feel like running against Halter.

If elected, Ringer said he hopes to see many community development programs continued.

McIlhaney, who has served on the city council for four years, said she understands how the council works and, if elected, will tackle issues pressing the city.

McIlhaney said she would be able to put more time into the position because she does not have a full-time job.

"The mayor's position is one of working with the council to address problems facing the city," she said.

"We have a public relations aspect in that we are responsible for keeping the citizens informed."

Also up for election are council positions Place 2, Place 4 and Place 6.

Incumbent Robert C. Runnels will run again for his Place 2 position. A

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meteorology professor at A&M, he has been on the council since 1980.

"I see the council as a chance to bring about change in the city and the opportunity to have sound government," he said.

Runnels received his master's degree from A&M in 1962. He worked for NASA for two years before coming back to A&M to get his doctorate.

Runnels said the council process is one that involves the time and patience of members who are concerned with the growth of the city.

"We pride ourselves in trying to involve as many people as possible and to do as many projects as possible," he said.

Sara G. Jones also has filed for the Place 2 council position. Jones, who works for the law firm of Goode, Hoelscher, Lipsey and Talbert, is a newcomer to the council race.

"I wanted to be on it (council) for a long time," Jones said. "I have the experience and the education, and I felt the time was right for a change."

Jones received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1962. She received her law degree from Baylor University in 1984.

Jones said she has lived in College Station for most of her life and understands the needs of the city.

"A council member needs to have the ability to see the overall picture and decide what's good for the community and the people who live here," Jones said. "The library development issue needs to be addressed, as well as the economic development of the city."

Place 4 incumbent Pat Boughton is the only candidate to file for that position.

Boughton, who has been on the council since 1978, has lived in College Station all of her life.

"I enjoy doing my part in helping the city," Boughton said. "You get involved with the council, and it's a way of giving back to the city what it has given to me."

Boughton said that during the last four years the council has concentrated on single issues rather than what is good for the overall growth of the city.

"The way College Station is laid out around the campus has created a

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huge traffic problem," Boughton said. "The creation of a major transportation system should be of great concern."

The council will have a new member in Place 6 since McIlhaney, who currently holds the position, is running for mayor. Dick Haddox and

David Brochu have filed for the position.

Haddox, vice chairman of the board of directors of Anco Insurance, said he hopes to lend his 20 years experience in customer service-oriented business to the council.

"The time is right for me to give my experience to the community," Haddox said. "One council member can't do it alone, but by working together, we can do what's good for the city."

Haddox said he is concerned with the city's water, sewer and sanitation needs.

"I'm interested in the community, and these (water and sewer) are some of the problems that are going to need answers," he said.

Haddox said while the quality of life in College Station is better than in Houston, the city needs to plan for the future.

"We need to direct the city's economic growth so it doesn't impair the integrity of the individual or the neighborhood," he said.

Brochu said he decided to file for a council position after several friends and colleagues encouraged him to do so.

Brochu, who has been on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission since 1984, said he wanted to have more input into decisions that affect the city.

"I'm concerned about some of the decisions the council has made," he said. "We need to develop the city along the lines of the city's comprehensive plan."

If elected, Brochu said he has no immediate plans for the city, but would like to continue developing some current ideas.

"I don't look to change any programs, I would just like to be a part of it," Brochu said. "If anything, I would like to see more of a team approach between the council and the other committees."

## Brown's bid for attorney general challenged

Associated Press

AUSTIN — State Republican Chairman George Strake Jr. on Wednesday challenged Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown's candidacy for attorney general although Strake's lawyer said the chairman would be pleased to have Brown on the GOP primary ballot.

"We certainly feel he (Brown) is a qualified candidate and would make an excellent candidate," Strake's lawyer, Leonard Davis of Tyler, told the Texas Supreme Court.

The issue surfaced in the courts after Strake refused to accept Brown's filing fee, saying he was not eligible because he had voted as a state senator from Lake Jackson in 1985 to raise the attorney general's salary.

Brown appealed to the Supreme Court, which refused to hear his plea. Brown then got an order from the 1st Court of Appeals in Houston declaring him eligible, and Strake appealed to the Supreme Court.

Brown's lawyer, Robert Blumenthal of Dallas, said Brown has been hanging on by his nails, trying to get on the ballot and deserves a place in the primary election.

Eight justices listened to oral arguments Wednesday.

Blumenthal said the 3 percent salary increase authorized for the attorney general was so low that it did not come under the constitutional prohibition against increasing salaries.

Also, he said, the state appropriations bill called for a salary rollback if a legislator who voted for the increase should be elected to that office.

He said two former state senators — Max Sherman of Amalillo and Raul Longoria of Edinburg — in years past had moved on to new jobs with their salaries being rolled back, and they were never challenged.

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