

Where Have All the Candidates Gone?

September 3, 2024





Recently, *The Triplicate* published an article on the Crescent City Harbor District posting the only local election. The statement is technically incorrect but with a peculiar twist, but simple answer; the City was unable to publish the removal of the election notice in a timely manner due to the extension of 72 hours (three business days) overlapping the needed notice to the public and Secretary of State's Office, before the ballot printing deadline. The Council was unable to publish, then schedule a Special Meeting to post this announcement. The cost to the City to conduct the now superfluous election is about \$10,000.

Apparently, there continues to be a dearth of candidates filing papers to run for many offices. This regrettable dynamic is not new.

Two years ago, three City Councilors were up for election. Two of the terms were full, four year terms. One term was an abbreviated two year term when Beau Smith submitted his resignation to vie for one of three newly created fire captain positions on the Crescent Fire Protection District. Smith secured one of those new fire captain positions. Kelley Schellong was appointed for the balance of the Smith term. Councilors Ray Altman and Isaiah Wright filed for the four year City Council terms; Mayor Blake Inscore ran for the two year term.

Three full term vacancies became available this year.

Councilor and former Mayor Jason Greenough submitted his required signatures in support of his running for re-election. Inscore and Schellong chose not to run. Two newbie candidates filed papers: Community newcomer Daran Dooley and Measure S Committee Member Candace Tinkler.

Three vacancies, three candidates.

There are 1732 registered voters within City limits. No other candidates filed to run for Crescent City Council.

The three filings became official after the extended time period expired. Not unlike 2022, no additional candidates chose to throw their berets into the candidate ring. The three candidates, after the election results have been certified by County Elections Clerk Alissia Northrup, will take their Oaths and assume their councilor duties. The City will cough up the cost and that will be that. Unfortunate!

Jason Greenough: The former Mayor will begin his third term upon taking his Oath in November.

The Triplicate offers a thumbnail sketch of the two new faces on the Council.

Candace Tinkler: “ A key challenge is to balance growth with quality of life, planning for change and a sustainable and resilient future while honoring the past. Crescent City’s core issues include an aging infrastructure that threatens the community’s safety, sustainability, economy, and a limited budget due to, among other things, the areas’s high rate of poverty and the need to diversify our economic engines. The lack of affordable housing and a higher crime rate than national averages are both factors making it more difficult to recruit for our many vacant teaching, health services and law enforcement positions. Measure S funds and the millions of dollars of grant funding successfully awarded to the City through the outstanding efforts of our City management team. My vision is a community actively engaged in ensuring lives will be made better by the decision (the Council) makes and creating a place where our youth thrive as children and are given equitable opportunities and resources to succeed as adults.

Daran Dooley: “I’d like to start with simple goals and do what I can to realize them, as one of five. First, Crescent City owns numerous parcels of land that we are hardly using. I think we should transfer ownership of some of these pieces to businesses that may be able to bring jobs or tourism. The idea has been discussed before, but so far as I can tell, we’ve yet to do anything with it. Secondly, Crescent City still has an unacceptable high crime rate; it stands to reason the police department will need more resources that it has presently and there are always program-level tweaks to consider. Lastly, our Roads can use work; potholes are a notorious of complaints. My vision for the City can be described in one word: Revitalization. I recently moved to Crescent City. I’d like to be an example to others, in that regard. Sometimes the perspective of an outsider helps. We already have a great economic plan in place; I’d simply like to do what I can to contribute my own ideas to our future, without stepping on the toes of the excellent work others have already begun implementing.”

The Del Norte School District held two races for Areas Three and Four. No non-incumbent candidate filings were recorded.

Frank Magarino in Area Three was unopposed.

Charlaine Mazzei in Area Four was unopposed.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5.