

February 14, 2013

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One of the three races on the Burleson City Council ballot in May is now contested. Shannan Sutter filed for Place 3. Sutter, 41, is a hospice biller. She is a lifetime resident of Texas and a four-year resident of Burleson.

All three incumbents who are up for re-election have filed paperwork with the city secretary's office. The filing period for candidates who want a seat on the Burleson City Council opened Jan. 30. The incumbents include the following.

Place 1

Stuart Gillaspie, 50, is employed as a transportation manager. He is a lifetime resident of Texas and of Burleson.

Place 3

Jerry W. Allen, 64, is employed in real estate investment. He is a 45-year resident of Texas and a 25-year resident of Burleson.

Place 5

Dan McClendon, 60, is employed as a contractor. He is a lifelong resident of Texas and a 35-year resident of Burleson.

Packets for the May 11, 2013, City election are available at Burleson City Hall (during normal business hours) and at the Feb. 18 council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at Burleson City Hall. The filing period is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 1 (Monday-Friday). The last day to file as a write-in candidate is also March 1.

Burleson does not have districts, so a candidate can file for any seat on council. Candidates must be at least 18 years old; a citizen of the United States; a qualified (registered) voter of the city; not be delinquent in the payment of taxes or other liability due to the City of Burleson; and not be otherwise disqualified from serving on the city council by any other provision of law at the time the application for place on the ballot is submitted; a resident of the city or have resided in the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election. All terms are for 2 years. Council meets on the first and third Mondays and in special meetings and workshops throughout the year.

The 100-plus page candidate packet familiarizes candidates with City regulations as well as legal requirements by the Texas Ethics Commission pertaining to

campaign contributions and expenditures. The packet includes the filing form, instructions on how to appoint a campaign treasurer, the Code of Fair Campaign Practices, and information concerning political signs. Applications for a place on the ballot can be filed in person at city hall (141 W Renfro) during business hours, faxed to elections@burlson.tx or mailed to City Secretary, 141 W. Renfro St., Burleson, TX, before the deadline of March 1 at 5 p.m. The application cannot be emailed and electronic signatures are not acceptable. If a candidate has a change of heart, the last day to withdraw from the ballot is March 4. Candidates will draw for places on the ballot on March 8.

You must be a registered voter in order to mark a ballot for the city election. To vote May 11, residents must register by April 11. If you don't know if you are registered to vote, go to the Texas Secretary of State page, <http://votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/>. Voter registration must be done through the county in which you live. Contact the Johnson County Elections administrator at 817-556-6197 or go to www.johnsoncountyelections.com. Contact the Tarrant County Elections administrator at 817-831-8683 or go to www.tarrantcounty.com/elections.

The first day the City can accept applications for a voting by mail ballot is March 12. The last day to apply is April 26. The last day the City can receive an application for a mail ballot by mail is May 3. The dates to apply for emergency early voting due to a death in the family that originated on or after May 6 is May 8-10. The dates to apply for emergency early voting due to illness or a disability that originated on or after May 2 is May 8-11.

Early voting will take place at Burleson City Hall, 141 W. Renfro St. Early voting is Monday, April 29-Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Monday-Tuesday, May 6-7, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day voting is also at Burleson City Hall. The hours on Saturday, May 11, are 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

For more information about the May 11, 2013, Burleson City Council election, contact the city secretary's office at 817-426-9662 or email elections@burlson.tx.