

Wanted: Anyone to run for office

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Not too long ago, Doris Riley sat in on a couple of Village Council meetings in Chilo, a tiny Ohio River village of 104 in Clermont County.

Next thing she knew, she was appointed to Village Council. But this November, she won't run for election.

In fact, no one filed for four open seats on Village Council. No one filed to run for mayor, either. The same thing happened in 2007, said Judy Miller, director of the Clermont County Board of Elections.

"I have not seen this before, only in the Chilo area," Miller said.

She said the two Village Council members who are not up for election this term will appoint a mayor and more council members in consultation with their attorney.

While only Chilo sticks out in Clermont County, other Southwest Ohio counties have multiple races in small communities with no candidates, or not enough to fill the available seats.

Butler County's Seven Mile is gigantic when stacked alongside Chilo, with 770 residents, four open spots on Village Council and one seat on

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the Board of Public Affairs. No one filed there, either.

Thomas Owen, a Board of Public Affairs member, is not running again, but said he will probably apply for the job after the election. He did not file because of the fee and "hassle" of gathering petitions.

"It's a real pain," he said.

The filing fee is \$30 and 10 signatures are needed to run in Seven Mile.

Nancy Piper, administrative assistant for the Butler County Board of Elections,

said the positions are filled by appointment after the election if no one runs.

In Corwin, a village in Warren County, four council seats are up for election in November, but no one filed for any of them.

Village Clerk Beverly Campbell said this problem isn't unique for Corwin, which has a population of 323.

"In a lot of small communities, it's very common," she said. She said people are so busy that they do not feel like they have the time to serve.

Campbell said the number

of candidates in Corwin fluctuates, depending on interest in local government.

"We have more years where nobody runs," she said. Corwin Mayor Cheryl Davidson can appoint someone who shows interest, Campbell said.

Butlerville, in southern Warren County, has 247 residents, and no one filed for its four council seats.

Keir Holeman, director of the Warren County Board of Elections, said the larger the community, the smaller the chance of such a sparse field.

"I would say there's always

a chance in the smaller communities," he said. Holeman said when no one files, they put the race on the ballot with the explanation that no one filed. It is also reported in the results that way.

Clermont County's Miller said one candidate dropped out of the council race in Felicity, leaving three people running for four spots on Village Council. They will have to appoint someone after the election as well.

The ballots have already been printed, so candidates who withdraw will still appear on the ballot, including Carla

Benjamin in Felicity and Daniel Owings in the Pierce Township trustee race.

Bethel has four people who filed as write-in candidates for four positions on Village Council. Votes written in for people who did not file as write-ins will not be counted.

Miller said filing this way makes it harder for the board of elections because it forces poll workers to hand-count all of those ballots.

"If a voter goes to the polls to vote, they have to basically know who the write-in candidates are to write their name

on the ballot," Miller said.

Not having enough candidates is also not unknown in Hamilton County, Southwest Ohio's largest county.

Two cities, Deer Park and Mount Healthy, have elected seats with no candidates. In Deer Park, no one is running for law director, and no one filed for auditor in Mount Healthy.

In smaller communities, no one filed for the Board of Trustees of Public Affairs in Addyston, and only two candidates filed for three seats for the Finneytown school board.