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Side Lines

BY BRUCE HELBERG

Another primary election is coming down to the wire, and although there hasn't been much excitement in a lot of the races, there are two local contests which will in effect determine the winners in the finals.

Bellevue voters are divided into two state legislative districts - the 41st and the 48th.

In the 41st district, there are four Republican candidates for state representative, Position No. 1. And there are no Democrat candidates at all. This means, obviously, that the primary election will select the man who will serve the district for the next two years.

Of the four candidates, this writer is indorsing Axel Julin.

Julin, in our opinion, would give the district responsible, common-sense representation in Olympia. We have seen him at work as a member of the Bellevue School Board, where he has done an outstanding job of representing the taxpayer as well as serving the goals of quality education.

Julin, contrary to some of his primary opponents, won't promise you any "pie in the sky", but his record indicates he can be counted on to provide intelligent, positive leadership in Olympia.

He alone of all the candidates in the race has a substantial record of public service and experience. And when you go to Olympia as a freshman, you need all the experience you can get.

Another race - that for state representative, Position No. 2, in the 48th district - will also be decided in the primaries.

Two Republicans are vying for the nomination, and virtually certain victory over an unknown Democratic candidate in the finals.

This writer is indorsing Richard U. "Dick" Chapin for the Republican nomination.

Chapin has already served one term in the house, has received a "superior" rating from the Muni League, and has received indorsements from virtually every organization except the right and left wings.

After only one term, he has already been marked by his fellow legislators for Republican leadership in the house.

He is an intelligent, hard-working young man who has taken his legislative duties extremely seriously, and he also will provide his district with responsible, common-sense leadership.

And even though they are unopposed in the primaries, we'd like to put in a good work for State Senator James A. Andersen and Representative Alfred E. Leland from the 48th District, and for Representative George Clarke and for Brian J. Lewis, former representative now seeking a senate seat, in the 41st District.

We don't want to beat a good horse to death, but we can't let this last opportunity go by without putting in another plea for the nomination of Art Fletcher, a Negro, and a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor.

The more you see of this fellow, the more dedicated you become toward his candidacy.

The only real threat to his nomination would come from the state-wide name familiarity possessed by Bill Muncey and it would be a tragedy if this state went the old road of selecting a sports personality for an extremely important job.

Why Muncey filed isn't really clear to political observers, since he hasn't waged any campaign at all.

Fletcher, on the other hand, has worn himself to a frazzle trying to get some state-wide exposure for both himself and for his program.

He has pledged to use the office between sessions to set up self-improvement programs for minority groups, which is the first time in history anyone has come up with a practical proposal for what has in the past been merely a figure-head job.

And despite the rigors of the campaign to transform himself from an unknown to a known and positive force, he has never lost his cool or his sense of humor.

When someone asked him whether he could get along on the lieutenant governor's \$10,000 salary, he replied:

"I think so. I've had plenty of experience getting along on a lot less."