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Robert Cummings

Under the Capitol Dome



Despite the fact that there are a record number of candidates on the ballot this year, there isn't any indication that any records will be broken for voter participation in next Tuesday's primary election.

Interest in the coming primary has been at its lowest ebb in many years, although it was expected to pick up in the final week or 10 days.

Over the years, the average voter participation in a statewide primary has been about 55 per cent of the total registered vote, and it seldom varies either way, whatever the circumstances.

Voter turnout at the polls next Tuesday, however, will be below 55 per cent. The total vote, including absentees, may bring it up to the average, as applications for service men's ballots indicates considerable interest among the armed forces.

The lack of interest is strange, with so many spirited contests for party nominations to the partisan offices.

Intensive campaigns are being waged by many of the candidates, which should stir up more interest than has been advanced to date.

These include the campaigns for governor waged by Attorney General John J. O'Connell and Senator Martin J. Durkan, both seeking the Democratic nomination. Gov. Dan Evans hasn't been letting any grass grow under his feet, either. He has four challengers for the Republican nomination, headed by former State Rep. Al Canwell.

There also are spirited contests for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, between Art Fletcher and Bill Muncey, and for the Democratic nomination for attorney general, among five aspirants, State Senator Fred Dore, Marvin Durning, Don G. Abel Jr., John G. McCutcheon and Don Navoni.

There also are "token" contests for several other nominations, but the hectic campaigns waged by so many have failed to fire up the voters as much as usual.

Possibly the fact that the Democratic national convention was held so late has overshadowed the primary contests and robbed them of their usual attention.

Normally low interest and a small vote favors the incumbents, for the party "regulars" always vote.

This time, however, with the exception of Governor Evans and Lieutenant Governor John Chereberg, all the incumbent holders of partisan statewide offices who are seeking reelection are unopposed in the primaries.

All of the incumbent members of Congress except Thomas F. Foley and Brock Adams have taken opposition in the primaries, but would be certain of re-nomination, even with a record-size vote.

Vaughn Evans, Seattle attorney,

who has vowed he will run every two years against who ever happens to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is opposing the reelection of Chief Justice Robert C. Finley this year.

He first ran against Judge Richard Ott in 1964, losing by a vote of 358,765 to 259,287.

Two years ago, he ran against Judge Hugh Rosellini. Though Vaughn Evans isn't related to Gov. Dan Evans, some reporters billed it as "another Evans-Rosellini race" but Rosellini won, 314,277 to 196,937.

Governor Evans' name wasn't on the ballot two years ago, however. This year it is, and with his signs and bumper strips posted throughout the state, some members of the bar have expressed concern.

Attorneys, who know the judiciary best, conducted a statewide ballot by mail last month. They gave Judge Finley 1,866 votes to 231 for Vaughn Evans.

This race will be settled next Tuesday. The candidate receiving a majority will appear on the general election ballot unopposed.

No less than a dozen former legislators are attempting political comebacks this year. Of the group, eight are Democrats; four, Republicans.

All except two are running for the House, but the two running for the Senate have been out of politics for longer periods than any of the others.

Keiron W. Reardon, Olympia, who is seeking the Democratic nomination in the 22nd District, formerly served from Monroe, in the 39th District.

First elected in 1932, he served a total of 14 years in the Senate, from 1933 to 1941 and again from 1943 to 1949. A conservative Democrat, he was at one time one of the most powerful men in the Senate.

The other Senate candidate on the comeback trail is George Elmer Brown, Spokane Republican who is running in the 3rd District. Brown last served in the House in 1931.

Other Republicans attempting a political comeback, all candidates for the House, are Robert M. Phillips, Spokane; Morris M. Centralia, and Fred R. Seattle.

Democrats seeking to regain the House seats they held are Jack L. Everett, Charles R. Sawyer, Marian Gleason, Tacoma; Myrtle Valle, Seattle; Jack Everett; W. O. E. Everingham, and David Seattle.

Seven House members are running for the Senate this time, including five Republicans and two Democrats.

Republicans making the upper chamber are G. Holman, Seattle; Elicker, Poulsbo; B. all, Wenatchee; Ch



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...nd, Tacoma, and Brian
...Bellevue.
...Democrats attempting the
...House to Senate are
...aker William S. Day, Spok
...Gordon L. Walgren, Brea
...that assures at least seven
...ates in the House, and there
...nly will be at least 14,
...all those seeking reelec
...ould be successful.
...ix others, three from
...ery, aren't seeking reelec
...various reasons.
...of the Republicans, Virg
...nomy Hill, Seattle, has b
...ockain has moved out of
...ate with her husband, who
...en transferred by his employ
...lected to the city council, an
...Slade Gordon, Seattle, is remain
...for attorney general.
...Among the Democrats, Dick
...Taylor, Mukilteo, is retiring from
...politics; Sam Smith was elected
...to the Seattle city council, and
...George Sheridan, Tacoma, is run
...ning for Pierce county commis
...sioner.
...The redistricting law of 1965
...finally caught with the Senate
...this year, leading to the retire
...ment of Democrats Wilbur Hal
...lauer, Oroville; and Dewey Dono
...hue, Dayton; and Republican Er
...nest Lennart, Everson, while
...Democrat A. L. Rasmussen, who
...himself elected mayor of Tacoma.
...These, with two others, assure
...at least six new faces in the
...Senate. The others are Fred Red
...mon, Yakima Republican who is
...retiring from politics, and Karl
...Herrman, Spokane Democrat, who
...is running for insurance commis
...sioner.

...Reg. 83c
...Crocker Complete Butter
...Reg. 115
...Reg. 23c
...Reg. 48 oz.
...Reg. 1 lb.
...Reg. 1 lb.
...Reg. 1.33
...Reg. 1.61
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