

Local voters to decide races, special question Tuesday

(MSC News)--Registered voters in northeast Kansas will go to the polls Tuesday to decide federal, state and local races.

In addition, voters in Hiawatha will decide whether to renew a one-quarter percent citywide sales tax earmarked for economic development purposes.

The sales tax is currently set to expire March 31, 2020. If approved by voters, the sales tax would continue an additional 15 years until March 31, 2035.

Two candidates are vying for Hiawatha commissioner of finance. Incumbent David Middendorf, who is running as a write-in candidate, is being challenged by John Merchant Jr. Matthew Haws had also filed for the position, but recently withdrew from the race. However, his name will still appear on the ballot.

Running unopposed for Hiawatha mayor is Bill Collins. Collins was appointed to the position in July following the resignation of Steffen Shamburg.

There are contested races for 1st District county commissioner in Atchison, Brown and Marshall Counties.

In Atchison County, Republican incumbent Jack Bower is being challenged by Democrat and current Atchison City Commissioner Charlie Perdue.

In Brown County, incumbent Steve Roberts, who is running as a write-in candidate, is being challenged by fellow Republican Richard Lehmkuhl.

In Marshall County, Democrat Steve Boyda and Republican Barb Kickhaefer are vying to replace Robert Connell as 1st District commissioner.

There is a local contested race for 62nd District state representative, with incumbent Republican Randy Garber, of Sabetha, being challenged by Seneca Democrat Melvin Baker.

There are also contested races for several state offices—including governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer and commissioner of insurance.

On the federal level, three candidates are vying to replace Republican 2nd District U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They include Democrat Paul Davis, Republican Steve Watkins and Libertarian Kelly Standley.

The polls will be open Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nemaha County Public Transit will provide free rides Tuesday in Sabetha and Seneca to individuals that need a ride to the polls in either of the cities polling locations. If interested, you can call Nemaha Co Public Transit to schedule a ride at 785-336-8011.

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