

Mayor, council, school board primaries set

Neenah News

Neenah's mayoral race to choose a successor to retiring Mayor Dean Kaufert will be narrowed to two candidates after Tuesday's nonpartisan primary election with Kelly Behrmann, Brian Borchardt and Jane Lang seeking the post.

Behrmann's work career has included optometry centers and ownership of other businesses, including a coffee shop.

Borchardt, a 2nd District alderman who has taught in the school district for 15 years and is on the boards for Verve Credit Union and the Brigade, a youth development program.

Lang, a 3rd District alderman and lifelong Neenah resident, is executive director of the Neenah Historical Society. She has served on the council since 2014 and is chair of the Landmarks Commission, vice chair of the Plan Commission and Public Services and Safety Committee, and member of the Business Improvement District Board and Neenah Arts Council.

Kaufert is retiring from the mayoral position after serving since 2014. He also was a former Neenah City Council member and served on the state Assembly from 1991 to 2015.

Three City Council candidates for District 1 (wards 1-8) – Kathie Boyette, Deb Franckowiak and Kristen Sandvick – will be narrowed to two in the primary voting.

There are eight Neenah School Board candidates seeking three open positions, of which six will advance to the general election.

Candidates include incumbent Lauri Asbury and challengers Tara Brzezinski, Sara Johnson, Len Kachinsky, Sarah Moore-Nokes, Corinne Meyer, Lydia Rhoads and Rocky Schafer.

Judges in branches 3, 4 and 5 of Winnebago County will be decided April 5. Uncontested will be Judge John Jorgensen in Branch 5, first elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2016.

In Branch 3, Neenah residents Bryan Keberlein and Lisa Krueger are vying for Judge Barbara Key's position after she announced her retirement late last year.

Keberlein, a Menasha native, practiced law in the Fox Valley for more than 16 years and has been Winnebago County's judicial court commissioner since 2014.

Krueger has been the county's family court commissioner since 2012 and was an attorney in Little Chute from 2003 to 2012.

Branch 4 Judge LaKeisha Haase is seeking to maintain her seat after being appointed the first female Black judge in Winnebago County by Gov. Tony Evers in December 2020.

Her challenger, Neenah native Mike Gibbs, has been a practicing attorney in the Fox Valley area for more than 16 years.