

Two more file for seats in and around Helena, Butte

JAMES DEHAVEN *Independent Record* Jan 28, 2016 3



The second full week of the 2016 election season saw the addition of two new contenders for Helena-area statehouse seats.

Incumbent Democrat Janet Ellis will seek a second term in House District 81.

Ellis, the Helena-based senior director of policy at Montana Audubon, narrowly topped area business owner Anna Doran to take that seat in 2014. She is currently running unopposed.

Newcomer Valerie Clague of Helena, a tax examiner for the Montana Department of Revenue, filed as an Independent candidate for Mike Miller's seat in House District 80. Miller is term-limited after serving four terms in the House.

Clague will face Republicans Becky Beard of Elliston and Patrick Johnson of Helena. Johnson, a water engineer, failed to top Miller in the 2014 primary.

Eight hopefuls have now registered for five seats soon-to-be vacated by term-limited Helena- and Butte-area incumbents.

Five area legislators have filed, but not yet attracted a challenger in

their district. Four other seats -- three state Senate spots and one House post -- are yet to see a filer of any stripe.

The first official filing day for statehouse candidates was Jan. 14. Hopefuls must put in their paperwork by March 14 to appear on the ballot.

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