

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20121105173956/http://www.theledger.com:80/article/20080621/NEWS/806210405>

- [The Ledger](#)
- [News Chief](#)
- [TiMEOUT](#)
- [Polk Moms](#)
- [PolkPreps](#)
- [VIPrewards](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Mugs](#)

[Register](#) | [Log in](#)

- News
- Web Search by **YAHOO!**

**Search**

Web Search

by **YAHOO!**

 [70° SUNNY, Lakeland, FL](#) | [Service](#) | [E-Replica](#) | [Print Ads](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Place Ad](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
  - [Local](#)
  - [State](#)
  - [Crime](#)
  - [Mugshots](#)
  - [Data Central](#)
  - [Education](#)
  - [Politics](#)
  - [East Polk](#)
  - [Blogs](#)
  - [Weather](#)
  - [Nation](#)
  - [World](#)
  - [Photos - News](#)
  - [Videos - News](#)
  - [Blogs](#)
  - [Polk Politics](#)
  - [Environment](#)
  - [Crime: The Scammer](#)
  - [More Blogs](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [Guide to Polk](#)
  - [Crime Map](#)
  - [Newspaper With a Heart](#)
  - [Traffic](#)
  - [Gas Prices](#)
  - [Lottery](#)
  - [Hurricane Guide](#)
  - [Photo Reprints](#)
  - [Live TV: PGTV](#)
  - [Newspaper in Education](#)
- [Business](#)
  - [Stocks](#)
  - [AP Business News](#)
  - [Real Estate](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [Search Property Transfers](#)
  - [Bank Ratings](#)
  - [Credit Union Rankings](#)

- Columns
- [Database: Lonnie Brown](#)
- [Sports](#)
  - [PolkPreps](#)
  - [Colleges](#)
  - [Bucs / NFL](#)
  - [MLB](#)
  - [Outdoors](#)
  - [Golf](#)
  - [Motorsports](#)
  - [Recreation](#)
  - [Tennis](#)
  - [Photos - Sports](#)
  - [Tickets](#)
  - Blogs
  - [Leisure Time](#)
  - [Polk Preps](#)
  - [Bucs Scene](#)
  - [Freshwater Fishing](#)
  - [Saltwater Fishing](#)
  - [More Blogs](#)
  - Features
  - [Hockey 101](#)
  - [Prep Scoreboard](#)
  - Columns
  - [Rick Brown](#)
  - [Lisa Coffey](#)
  - [Lesley Corban](#)
  - [Del Milligan](#)
  - [Dick Scanlon](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [Dining](#)
  - [Nightlife](#)
  - [Movies](#)
  - [TV](#)
  - [Arts](#)
  - [Tickets](#)
  - Blogs
  - [Food & Dining](#)
  - [Videogames](#)
  - Features
  - [Events Calendar](#)
  - [Dining Guide](#)
  - [Restaurant Inspections](#)
- [Life](#)
  - [PolkMD.com](#)
  - [Gardening](#)
  - [Celebrations](#)
  - [Coupons](#)
  - [Pets](#)
  - [Photos - Features](#)
  - [Photos - Schools](#)
  - [Videos - Schools](#)
  - Blogs
  - [Health](#)
  - Features
  - [Crossword](#)
  - [Jumbles](#)
  - [Sudoku](#)
  - [Horoscopes](#)
  - [Comics](#)
  - [Recipes](#)
- [Opinion](#)

- [Editorials](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Capitol Comments](#)
- [Glenn Marston](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
  - [Today](#)
  - [Yesterday](#)
  - [2 Days Ago](#)
  - [Submitting Obituaries](#)
  - [Funeral Homes](#)
- [Blogs](#)
  - [Crime: The Scanner](#)
  - [Polk Politics](#)
  - [Environment](#)
  - [Polk Government](#)
  - [Health](#)
  - [Lakeland](#)
  - [Sports](#)
  - [Leisure Time](#)
  - [Polk Preps](#)
  - [Freshwater Fishing](#)
  - [Saltwater Fishing](#)
  - [Bucs Scene](#)
  - [Rick Brown on Sports](#)
  - [Golf](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [TIMEOUT With Matt](#)
  - [The Dish](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
  - [Local Businesses](#)
  - [For Sale/Wanted](#)
  - [Pets](#)
  - [Print Ads](#)
  - [Special Sections](#)
  - [Place an Ad](#)
  - [Legal Ads](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)

#### [HomeNews](#)

- [Comments](#)
- [Share](#)
  - [Digg](#)
  - [Reddit](#)
  - [LinkedIn](#)
  - [Mixx](#)
  - [Technorati](#)
  - [Myspace](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
  - [WITH PHOTO](#)
  - [NO PHOTO](#)
- [Reprints](#)
- [View one page](#)
- [Enlarge Text](#)

# Election Qualifiers See Some Surprises

By [Bill Ruffly](#)

Ledger POLITICAL EDITOR

Published: Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 1:51 a.m.

Last Modified: Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 8:09 a.m.

BARTOW | Qualifying for the 2008 election ballot ended at noon Friday with a few surprises.

Perhaps the biggest was for incumbent Republican Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, who did not find out until just before qualifying ended at noon that he had a Democratic opponent for the Nov. 4 general election.

Scott K. Thompson of Winter Haven did not appear on the state elections office Web site until just after noon. No phone number was listed on his biographical information, and county Democratic party officials said they were not familiar with him. All state candidates must file in Tallahassee.

Another surprise, at least for Republican John Wood of Winter Haven, who has been running for more than a year for House District 65 and has raised more than \$90,000 in campaign money for the \$31,932-a-year job, was the entry into the race of Democrat Bob Hagenmaier of Winter Haven, who ran unsuccessfully four years ago against U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Bartow.

Then, if that wasn't enough excitement, Lakeland residents Alton C. Smith and Gordon Wayne Watts qualified as write-in candidates for Florida House District 64. Previously there had been only the three Republican candidates for that seat: Jack English, Kelli Stargel and Phillip Walker, all of Lakeland. The winner of an Aug. 26 GOP primary must then run in the Nov. 4 general election. Because the others are write-in candidates, the Republican nominee will be the only one whose name is on the ballot.

[Election Qualifiers See Some Surprises](#) By Bill Ruffly



[TheLedger.com](#) June 21, 2008 8:09 AM

BARTOW | Qualifying for the 2008 election ballot ended at noon Friday with a few surprises. Perhaps the biggest was for incumbent Republican Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, who did not find out until just before qualifying ended at noon that he had a Democratic opponent for the Nov. 4 general election. Scott K. Thompson of Winter Haven did not appear on the state elections office Web site until just after noon. No phone number was listed on his biographical information, and county Democratic party officials said they were not familiar with him. All state candidates must file in Tallahassee. Another surprise, at least for Republican John Wood of Winter Haven, who has been running for more than a year for House District 65 and has raised more than \$90,000 in campaign money for the \$31,932-a-year job, was the entry into the race of Democrat Bob Hagenmaier of Winter Haven, who ran unsuccessfully four years ago against U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Bartow. Then, if that wasn't enough excitement, Lakeland residents Alton C. Smith and Gordon Wayne Watts qualified as write-in candidates for Florida House District 64. Previously there had been only the three Republican candidates for that seat: Jack English, Kelli Stargel and Phillip Walker, all of Lakeland. The winner of an Aug. 26 GOP primary must then run in the Nov. 4 general election. Because the others are write-in candidates, the Republican nominee will be the only one whose name is on the ballot. A write-in candidate does not have to pay the filing fee or produce enough signed petitions to avoid paying the fee, but they don't get their name on the ballot. There is only a black space and line on which to write the candidate's name. One other write-in candidate in this election is Michael Lashman of Lakeland in the nonpartisan sheriff's race. Longtime political observer Gene Roberts said he could remember only one candidate in Polk County ever winning as a write-in. "That was back in the mid-60s when Dr. James West, a Lakeland physician, won a seat on the City Commission as a write-in. Everybody knew him and he had his medical office in a caboose downtown," Roberts said. Back in Bartow at the Polk County Supervisor Elections office, two candidates qualified on Friday. Ricky Shirah of Lakeland became the sixth and last candidate to enter the race for Polk County Commission for District 5. He will face fellow Democrat Jacki Smith of Lakeland in the Aug. 26 primary while four Republicans, including incumbent Sam Johnson of Lakeland will also fight it out in a primary. Winners of both parties will join a candidate from the Reform Party in the Nov. 4 general election. **LAST TO QUALIFY** The very last candidate qualifying this week arrived at the elections office at 11:15 a.m. to create a three-way race for the Canal Commission. In what is often an unchallenged post, Seat 2 of the Lake Region Lakes Management District, Leviticus Reed of Winter Haven became a candidate. Qualifying for federal and judicial offices ended in April. State candidates qualified in Tallahassee this week, while local candidates qualified in Bartow. Qualifying was steady this week but not the busiest ever, said Assistant Supervisor of Elections Barbara Osthoff, who has been qualifying officer for candidates wanting to get on the ballot for the last 30 years. "We had 37 this year. But one year I had 75 local candidates and that was a busy week," she said. And Reed's belated entrance with 45 minutes to go doesn't compare with some others, she said. "I had a woman school board candidate show up three or four minutes after deadline because she said she got held up in traffic," Osthoff said. Then she could not qualify because it was past the deadline. Candidates now prepare for the Aug. 26 party primary and nonpartisan elections or the Nov. 4 general

elections, or in many cases, both. In races where two or more candidates from the same party are seeking the same office, they will meet in the Aug. 26 primary and nonpartisan election. Independents and third-party candidates will run in the Nov. 4 general election along with the nominees from each major party.

**SOME ELECTED FRIDAY**

Some candidates can send back their campaign money through the specified channels, sit back and relax and plan for their swearing-in ceremonies in either November or January, depending on the office. Those are the candidates who had no opposition when the deadline for qualifying came at noon Friday. But the "elected without opposition" candidates were fewer than in recent years. Last-minute challenges to two incumbent legislators and new candidates for the "smaller offices" of community development districts or the Lake Region Lakes Management are the main reasons that some who thought they were going to avoid opposition wound up in competitive races. Three of the incumbent constitutional officers survived without challengers, as did three legislators. For one, however it was close. Rep. Seth McKeel, R-Lakeland, had been facing a challenge from the Democrat who he defeated in his first run for the office in 2006, James Davis of Bartow. But Davis, who said Thursday he found he missed the deadline to qualify for the office by presenting enough signatures of voters in the House District 63 seat, had said he was looking for the money to pay the filing fee. Filing fees for partisan office are 6 percent of the annual salary. In the case of the Florida House salary of \$31,932, that's \$1,916. The following candidates were "elected" Friday without opposition because they had no opponents by the time qualifying for the ballot ended at noon Friday. Sen. Paula Dockery of Lakeland, Florida Senate District 15. Rep. Seth McKeel of Lakeland, Florida House District 63. Rep. Baxter Troutman of Winter Haven, Florida House District 66. Clerk of Circuit Court Richard M. Weiss of Bartow. Polk County Supervisor of Elections Lori Edwards of Bartow. Polk County Tax Collector Joe G. Tedder of Lakeland. Frank O'Reilly of Lakeland, Polk County School Board, District 1. Lori Cunningham of Lake Wales, Polk County School Board, District 2. Michael Turner of Lakeland, Golden Lakes Community Development District, Seat 4. David Lane of Poinciana, Poinciana Community Development District, Seat 4. Fernando Valverde of Poinciana, Poinciana Community Development District, Seat 5. Rand Baldwin of Lakeland, Soil & Water Conservation District, Group 1. [ Ledger Political Editor Bill Ruffy can be reached at 802-7523 or [bill.ruffy@theledger.com](mailto:bill.ruffy@theledger.com). ]

[Copyright 2012 TheLedger.com - All rights reserved. Restricted use only.](#)

- 
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [Next Page](#)

This story appeared in print on page B1

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be re-published without permission. Links are encouraged.

Comments are currently unavailable on this article

[▲ Return to Top](#)

DONATE

- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)
- [Most Recent](#)
- [Polk Sheriff's Lieutenant Wounded in Shooting Near Mulberry](#)
- [17-Year-Old Killed in Lakeland Motorcycle Crash](#)
- [Motorcyclist Killed In Crash On SR 33](#)
- [Coach Doesn't Let Adversity Steal His Goals](#)
- [General Election: Ballot-Issue Review, Part 2 of 2](#)

[Photos](#) | [Your Photos](#)



[28th River Raid](#)



- 

[Polk County Youth Football Cheer Championships](#)



- 

[Deputy Shot](#)



- 

[Superstorm Sandy Benefit Concert](#)



- 

[Republican Rally in Lakeland](#)



- 

[Ybor Cigar & Spirits](#)

Events Calendar [More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

- [5 Mon](#)
- [6 Tue](#)
- [7 Wed](#)
- [8 Thu](#)
- [9 Fri](#)
- Sponsored by:



[Find Local Businesses](#)

Keyword(s):

Location:

[Popular Searches](#)

Powered by [Local.com](#)

[News](#)

- [Local](#)
- [State](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Data Central](#)

- [East Polk](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Crime](#)
- [Mugshots](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [News Archive](#)

#### [Multimedia](#)

- [Photos](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Mobile/Email](#)

#### [Sports](#)

- [Preps](#)
- [PolkPreps](#)
- [Colleges](#)
- [Bucs / NFL](#)
- [MLB](#)
- [NBA](#)
- [NHL](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Motorsports](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Tennis](#)
- [Tickets](#)

#### [Entertainment](#)

- [Music](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [TV](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Misc](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Tickets](#)

#### [Living](#)

- [PolkMD.com](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Jumbles](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Coupons](#)

#### [Real Estate](#)

- [For sale](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Find an Agent](#)
- [Commercial](#)

#### [Classifieds](#)

- [For Sale/Wanted](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Print Ads](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
- [Legal Ads](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Local Businesses](#)
  
- [Contact Us](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Work for Us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [About Our Ads](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Photo Reprints](#)
- [Site Map](#)

Copyright © 2012 TheLedger.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.