

Gish announces candidacy

By John Foster

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And the race is on.

Oldham County Deputy Judge-Executive Paula Gish is first to formally announce candidacy in the 2010 Oldham County judge-executive's race.

Gish made the announcement July 8 during a backyard barbecue at her Goshen home to a group of supporters, including many from county

government.

Attendees included several magistrates, much of the Oldham County Planning and Development staff, jailer Mike Simpson, Oldham County Clerk Julie Barr, Oldham County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deana Epperly Karem and Judge-Executive Duane Murner.

Murner joked that he was stunned to arrive to the event to find out she is running to take his job. A day earlier, Murner announced his plan to retire from the post after one term.

Murner spoke on behalf of his second-in-command, pointing to her four terms as a magistrate, three years as deputy judge and terms as president of three PTAs.

"She is simply the most qualified person in the county for the job," he said.

He added, "She has a good heart and she has good sense."

Joe McWilliams also spoke on Gish's behalf, saying she has the listening and communication skills, as well as the abilities to delegate and build consensus needed in a successful judge-executive.

Gish told the crowd that she will support well-planned development and fiscal conservatism.

"I will stand for balancing our budget and living within our means," she said. "I think that's what we need to do in our home budgets and that's what we need to do in the county."

Stan Clark, the county's treasurer, has confirmed intentions to run, but does not have any formal campaign events planned.

He said he's proud to have addressed difficult issues like a budget deficit, what to do with Oldham Reserve and how to make the sewer district solvent.

"And there's future hard decisions to be made," he said.

He said compromises and being nice are good sometimes but not always.

"I'm somewhat of a team player but I know when to step up and make decisions," he said.

Partisan candidates must file for office by Jan. 26.

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