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## 4 running for JCPS school board so far

Three people have filed to run this fall for the Jefferson County Board of Education, with a fourth person announcing Monday that he is also joining the race.

Three open seats up for election Nov. 6 on the seven-member board, as board members Joe Hardesty, Steve Imhoff and Larry Hujo have announced they will not seek re-election.

Jeffersontown resident Chris Brady, 41, filed his paperwork Monday to run for the District 7 seat being vacated by Hujo and also announced that he had picked up Hujo's endorsement.

"As a parent of two young boys who attend school in Jefferson County Public Schools, I have a vested interest in this school system," Brady said in an interview. "I think the school system has some challenges, but we also have some really good schools and dedicated teachers trying to educate our children."

Brady, a Louisville native who works as a medical technology trainer for Norton Healthcare, said he is running for the seat without any preconceived notions.

"I am open to lots of new ideas and viewpoints, I am open to change," said Brady, whose two sons attend Farmer Elementary School.

Two other people have also filed for the District 7 seat, which represents a large portion of southeastern Jefferson County. They include Chris Fell, who has sued JCPS to overturn the district's student-assignment plan, and James Sexton, the former principal of Eastern High School who retired from the district in 2009.

Only one person — Melissa Rueff — has filed paperwork to run for Hardesty's seat in District 2, which represents southwestern Jefferson County. No one has filed to run for Imhoff's seat in District 4, which represents central Jefferson County.

Hardesty has been on the board since 1990; Hujo and Imhoff since 2000.

The filing deadline is Aug. 14; the race is non-partisan.

This fall, thousands of Jefferson County voters will also be voting in new school board districts as a result of redistricting after the 2010 Census.

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The school board approved the boundary changes in November. The overall population in Jefferson County is up nearly 7 percent from the past decade — an increase of nearly 48,000 people. As a result, the boundary lines had to be redrawn to ensure that each district has roughly the same population.

All but two school board districts have gained population since 2003, according to the district.

District 7 saw the biggest population gain in the past decade, adding about 32,000 people. As a result, it is losing 16 precincts to other districts.

The four other members of the school board, Porter, Debbie Wesslund, Carol Haddad and Linda Duncan, will be up for re-election in 2014.

Reporter Antoinette Konz can be reached at 502-582-4232.

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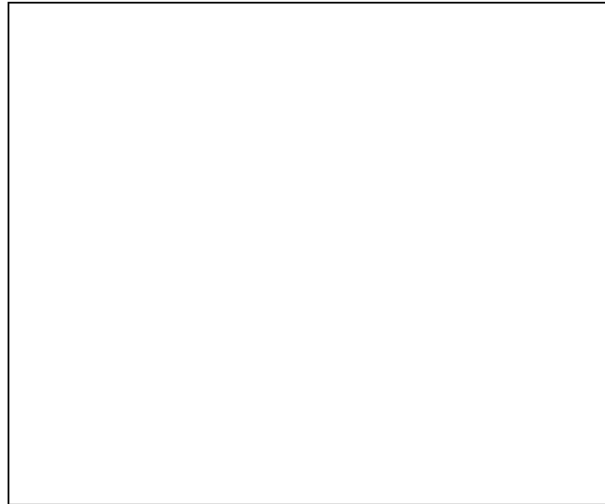
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