

**Thursday, July 26, 2007
Vote is set for 2 towns
Kernersville and Walkertown mayors unopposed**

**By Wesley Young
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Voters in Kernersville and Walkertown will have plenty of candidates to pick among as they fill seats on their governing boards in the Nov. 6 elections.

Mayors Curtis Swisher of Kernersville and Doc Davis of Walkertown are running for re-election. They had no opposition when the filing period closed July 20.

Swisher has been mayor since 2005, when he moved from the board of aldermen to take the post. Larry Brown, the town's former mayor, was elected to the N.C. General Assembly in 2004, opening the door for Swisher.

Swisher, the nephew of longtime mayor Roger Swisher, ran unopposed in the fall of 2005.

In Walkertown, Davis defeated Mayor Tom Southern in 2003, in a race between opposing factions for control of the Walkertown Town Council. Davis ran unopposed in 2005.

If Davis wins re-election this fall, he won't have to face the voters again until 2011 because the council has decided to switch to four-year terms for the mayor and council members.

Eleven candidates are running for five seats on the Kernersville Board of Aldermen, where members serve two-year terms.

All of the incumbents are running for re-election.

Kevin Bugg, who is running for his first public office, is an insurance and financial-services agent.

Alderman Brooke Cashion is trying for her second term. Cashion came in fifth in the 2005 municipal elections.

Kenny Crews, who is making a second try for office, came in in seventh place in 2005 and finished 81 votes short of a seat on the board.

Alderman Inez Davis has served 18 years altogether as an alderman, although not continuously.

She was off the board from 2001 to 2003 after losing a challenge to Brown for the post of mayor in 2001.

Davis returned to the board in 2003, coming in in fourth place. In 2005, she was the top vote-getter among the candidates.

Alderman Dana Caudill Jones is trying for her third term. Jones came in third in 2003 to win her first term, and came in second in 2005.

Alex McLanahan, a member of the Kernersville Planning Board, is making his second run for alderman.

McLanahan placed 11th among 11 candidates in 2005.

McLanahan also made an unsuccessful bid for the appointment to Swisher's old board seat earlier that year.

Alderman Jim Memory is running for his third term. Memory took second place in 2003 to win his first term and fourth place in 2005 to win re-election.

Alderman Dawn Morgan is running for her fourth term.

Morgan captured fifth place in 2001 and 2003 and third place in 2005.

Calvin O'Briant is a former alderman trying to regain a seat.

O'Briant served on the board from 1981 to 1985 and again from 1987 to 1991.

He tried unsuccessfully to take Swisher's vacant seat in early 2005, then ran for office that fall and placed 10th.

Bob Prescott is another former alderman trying to get back on the board.

Prescot was an alderman from 1991 to 1994 and served on the planning board from 1995 to 1997.

Prescott also made an unsuccessful bid for appointment to the board when Swisher became mayor in 2005.

Harvey Pulliam, a semi-retired auctioneer, has run for public office several times, including campaigns for alderman in 1981 and 1995, and for mayor in 1979.

Walkertown

Voters in Walkertown will choose among six candidates for four seats on the council, which is switching to four-term terms.

The top two vote-getters will win the four-year terms, and the next two will win two-year terms.

In future years, voters will elect two council members every two years, with the winners serving four-year terms.

Council Member Wayne Hester is running for a second term. Hester finished in first place among the candidates in 2005. Challenger Jeff Larrimore is making his first try for public office.

A controller for Summer Industries, Larrimore is the son of former Council Member Wallace Larrimore, who left the council in 2005 after not running for re-election.

Council Member Brenda Mabe is running for a second consecutive term, although she formerly served on the council from 1993 to 1997.

Mabe placed fourth in the 2005 municipal election.

Marilyn Martin, a member of the town's planning board, is making her first run for public office.

Martin, who is retired, sat on the committee that in 2006 developed a land-use plan for the town.

Randy Mendenhall, another challenger, runs Mendenhall Pest Control.

He is running for his first public office.

Council Member Sarah Welch is running for her third term. Welch came in second place in 2003 and third place in 2005.

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