

## Voters will pick 12 of 22 at-large candidates

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### Voters will pick 12 of 22 at-large candidates

Two candidates in each district will be selected in the primary and advance to the regular election March 26.

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The mayor's race is important, but Kansas City voters also will select six at-large members for the next City Council. So who are these people anyway? Based on interviews with 18 of the 22 candidates, here are sketches of the contenders, along with opinions on how the primaries might be decided on Feb. 26. Two people in each district will advance to the regular election on March 26.

Be warned: Naturally, all candidates support more jobs, less waste at City Hall, strong ethics, and improved streets, bridges and sidewalks. I've tried to touch on other points, such as why they are running, what experience they bring to the race or their priorities and accomplishments. They are in reverse alphabetical order, by district.

An article on in-district races will appear Saturday.

1st District Chuck Weber is the incumbent whose rough talk and attempts at dealmaking have ruffled feathers. But supporters say Weber, a big supporter of organized labor, gets things done. He helped pass a tax to finance a hazardous materials firefighting team. He has pushed improved ambulance service, special financing for the Briarcliff West upper-income housing development, a revised nuisance code and waste minimization. He wants the city and area counties to work together to improve roads and bridges. He thinks Emanuel Cleaver's sales tax bond plan was bad for people north of the river. He favors expansion of enterprise zones to spur development.

Ed Ford says Weber has not been effective and has been an "embarrassment." He thinks incumbents are vulnerable this year, following passage of the two-term limit in 1990. Ford has worked in the campaigns of Harriett Woods, Sally Johnson and Ed Quick. He was endorsed by Freedom Inc.; he said he told the group he would not work to scuttle the Cleaver plan and would vote for a qualified black to be the next Municipal Court judge. Ford, a lawyer, says his background helps him to be empathetic. "You need the perception of fairness," he says.

Outlook: Both will advance to the regular election. This could be a dogfight to the end.

2nd District Joe Serviss was on the council for eight years but was defeated in the 1983 mayoral primary. Serviss has been a lobbyist, mayor pro tem and Plan Commission chairman: "I've done my time." He sponsored ordinances that stopped the spread of adult entertainment in certain neighborhoods, created Share-a-Fare and required tow trucks to be licensed. He wants to rejuvenate the reserve police officers program.

Critics think he's a dealmaker, but Serviss points out he doesn't have the old-line support of labor or Freedom.

Mary Ellen Lobb is frustrated. She doesn't like the Cleaver plan and wants a public vote on all its components. She thinks City Hall misspends money, such as the Neighborhood Tourism Fund. "Do the projects you told people you would do," she says. She wants Truman Medical Center under state control to relieve a burden on the city. Lobb says voters have passed enough taxes in the last 10 years.

Jim Glover worked hard to improve the Hyde Park area and became convinced it's possible to attract people to live in the city. More money is needed for housing rehabilitation, he says. Glover worked on the Missouri Housing Development Commission for five years and helped develop programs to assist home purchases in the central city. He favors expanded enterprise zones. He wants to cut some expenses in the city budget and add others: "We need to convince the public that we are lean and efficient." Don Franke has helped different neighborhood groups work together and learn from each other. "I think we haven't challenged people enough. We need a committed society," he says. He supports light rail and using Union Station as a transport hub.

Mary Therese Carroll is proud of being a Northeast area neighborhood activist. She served on the Public Improvements Advisory Committee for seven years. She wants a strategic plan that identifies the needs of the city. Carroll and her family put together a neighborhood patrol program that has reduced crime. She says the city can attract people with its solid houses and economical prices. She's for less glitz and more basics: "The city needs to maintain what we have." **Jon Barnett** is gay but not a single-issue candidate. He supports the Human Rights Ordinance, better health care, racial acceptance and the platform put forth by the Greens: create a more sustainable community.

Outlook: Serviss has high name recognition, Citizens Association backing but political baggage. Glover has some neighborhood support and Freedom, but his low-key style may hurt him in the campaign. Carroll is supported by labor groups and other neighborhoods, but is she tied too strongly to only neighborhood concerns? Lobb has the most direct ideas, but they may not sell citywide.

3rd District Eugene Standifer, a retired federal employee, says education is the key to turning out children who can get jobs and

stay out of trouble. He is running a low-budget campaign: "You have to carry the message on foot. " Ron Finley hopes for a new transportation plan that discourages car use and encourages rapid transit. He wants an improved airport.

He says the city should coordinate with Jackson County on many matters; that includes using county sales tax money to fight drug use. He thinks a bottle bill is a good idea. His stand against Bartle Hall expansion last year flouted others in the black community. But it adhered to his philosophy: "I've done what I've felt was important all my life. " Majeeda Baheyadeen worked for the city for 13 years, lately as executive secretary in the Human Relations Department. "I have a savvy about how City Hall operates," she says. Apathy in the city must be banished, she adds. Her campaign slogan is to work for "One City. " She is a strong supporter of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, as is Finley.

Outlook: Finley is a dour but thoughtful person who has endorsements from Citizens and labor. Baheyadeen has Freedom's support, but got in the race late and has had trouble raising money.

4th District Katheryn Shields is an incumbent who has done a lot of good - as well as some questionable things - in her first four years.

Positively, she is working to help save parts of General Hospital from the wrecking ball. She helped lead the charge for a new hazmat team. She wants to attract jobs and says the Economic Development Council needs money to do it. She is concerned about minimizing waste first, then deciding where the next landfill will go. "I've done a good job mending fences," she says of her past.

Kathy DeBlase Scaglia, endorsed by Freedom, did not vote in any of the eight city elections in 1989 or 1990.

Outlook: Both will make the regular election, but Shields looks strong in a bid for a second term.

5th District John Thiel, a retiring educator, is most worried about youth who drop out of school; they become the city's problem, creating crime and homeless families. He wants the next dump to be outside the city.

Sylvia Mooney says Kansas Citians, when informed about issues, do the right thing. She hopes to get civic foundations more involved in city-related activities. She said economic development is linked with better education which, in turn, is linked to stronger families and parents who provide a stable home life. "I have empathy with people and not just sympathy," Mooney says.

Gerald Lee is extremely interested in environmental affairs. He worked hard against the Quindaro Landfill in Kansas City, Kan., and for waste minimization in Kansas City. He supports the idea of building a bullet train from Kansas City to St. Louis by the year 2004. Also, "We need light rail," he says. He hopes more money can be spent on health-related issues, such as improving Truman Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital.

Mary Birmingham says the city needs to pass gun control legislation, resist the Human Rights Ordinance and reduce crime and drug use.

Ken Bacchus says a top city priority is to make sure businesses have a chance, through help from local banks, to prosper along the new Bruce Watkins Drive. "We need to maintain Kansas City's urban core," he says. He wants the council to examine future capital improvements to make sure they are financially sensible. He says the revamped Brush Creek corridor can culturally tie together the Plaza and east Kansas City.

A. Lee Alexander could not be reached for comment.

Outlook: Bacchus, Lee and Mooney split the major endorsements.

Bacchus is backed by the widest range of people, from Freedom to white-collar professionals. But Lee and Mooney have good organizational support.

6th District Mary Roland voted only once in 1990.

George Blackwood is a lawyer whose list of civic involvement is a page long. He wants to continue improvements at the riverfront, Downtown and in Kansas City, North. He'd like to make council meetings more dignified and move committee hearings out of small rooms. He thinks a council of mayors could develop good ideas to help the metropolitan area. As for Kansas City, he says, "We need to bust our butts to get big companies to come here. " Ron Dean Birmingham did not vote in any of the eight city elections in 1989 or 1990.

Outlook: Print Blackwood's nameplate: He is the only candidate in any race to be endorsed by Freedom, the Citizens Association and labor groups.