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Political forum planners invite local candidates

By Dick Crockford
Leader Editor

Candidates for the top elective posts in the county will have an opportunity to take their campaigns directly to the people at a political forum later this month.

Promoted by an independent "forum steering committee," the event is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Metcalf Center.

In addition to the political candidates, the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Local Government Review Commission has been invited to present a brief overview of its recommendations.

Featured will be the city-county commission candidates, as well as those running for chief executive and chief of law enforcement. The commission candidates are Paul Beausoleil and Terry Wilkinson, District 1; Bert Freer and Russ Bilodeau, District 2; and Jane

Anderson and Dave Beatty, District 3. The incumbents are Beausoleil, Freer and Anderson.

Running for chief executive are the incumbent, Cheryl Beatty, and Carl Stetzner, while Chief Jim Connors is being challenged for the law enforcement post by Capt. Joe Guiberson.

In a letter sent earlier this month to the candidates, MSU County Extension Agent Barb Andreozzi said her office has been asked by the steering committee to "facilitate the coming candidates' forum as an aspect of continuing to develop community participation in important decisions concerning the future of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County."

Each of the political candidates and the study commission representatives will be allowed two minutes to respond to two questions from the steering committee

and to a limited number of questions from the audience.

Each of the participating political candidates will be asked to describe his or her background and qualifications for office. The chief executive candidates will be asked to describe the top three management responsibilities of that job and how he or she plans to execute those responsibilities.

The commission candidates will be asked how they would assist in the implementation of the community goals included in the Community Visioning Document adopted earlier this year.

The candidates for law chief will be asked to identify the top three law enforcement concerns and how each would resolve them.

Andreozzi said yesterday that all the candidates but two, Anderson and Beausoleil, had confirmed they would participate in the forum.