

Recall race attracts ex-planning commissioner

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The election to recall District 5 Supervisor Steve Kearney has attracted a fourth possible candidate, former District 5 Planning Commissioner David Tunno.

He joins Clyde Clapp, Bruce Giudici and Bob Bowerman who have pulled petition-in-lieu/nomination papers for the seat. The filing period closes at 5 p.m. Aug. 25.

Tunno was the District 5 planning commissioner until he resigned May 12 citing the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors' decision to begin regulating the commercial cultivation of cannabis.

Tunno's nearly 17-month term on the planning panel was marked by his attention to detail on the General Plan update, support for fellow Planning Commissioner Kelly Wooster following his "invasive species" comments and votes in favor of placing a hot asphalt plant at the Hogan Quarry.

Circulating the petition is not a guarantee a candidate will decide to run for election. Prospective candidates have to eventually file declaration of candidacy papers to run for the seat, which will only become vacant if a majority of District 5 voters on Nov. 8 cast votes to remove Kearney from office. District 5 covers the communities of Jenny Lind, Milton, Rancho Calaveras and a portion of La Contenta.

The petition-in-lieu is a way for candidates to reduce their filing fees. Candidates can eliminate the fee of \$563.06 by gathering 529 signatures of registered voters in District 5, according to County Clerk-Recorder Rebecca Turner's notice for the recall election. The fee represents 1 percent of the annual supervisor salary of \$56,305.

District 5 voters will have two questions on the ballot concerning the recall. First, whether or not Kearney should be removed from office. Second, who should replace him. If voters decide Kearney should be recalled, the candidate receiving the most votes, not necessarily a majority of votes, will assume the office. Kearney cannot run as a candidate to succeed himself.

Election papers can be obtained from the County Elections Office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. except weekends and holidays. The office is located at the Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas. Office hours are extended to 5 p.m. on filing deadline days.