

The vanishing candidate: Morgan wanted two spots, gets nothing

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Don Morgan has been generous with his time for public service.

The Macksburg area resident has served 12 years on the board of directors for the Canby Area Parks & Recreation District and filed early as a candidate for re-election to Position 5 in the May 21 special district elections. Then the day before the filing deadline, someone told him the Canby Fire District needed a candidate to run for the Zone 4 seat on its board of directors.

He thought it over. He saw no conflict in meeting times, the districts were not connected in any way and both seats were unpaid.

"Yeah, I'd do that," he said, and filed for the fire district seat, too.

A week later, someone called from ClackamasCounty elections.

"They said I couldn't do that. I would have to pick one or the other."

Morgan said he had to talk to people and would get right back to the county elections worker.

But when he called back a couple of hours later, things had turned worse.

The county had consulted state election officials who said Morgan could not be on the ballot for either seat.

State law says no one can run for more than one district office in the same election. If that does happen, all that person's filings are invalidated.

Morgan could still run and even be elected as a write-in candidate, but he couldn't go on the ballots.

The ballots will show no candidate for either Canby Area Parks & Recreation District Position 5 or Canby Fire District Zone 4.

"I've told some of my friends to write me in for both positions and we'll see what happens, since no one is running for either one,"Morgan said.

If he was elected to both positions, he assumes he would have to choose one or the other.

Which one?

"I don't know. There's not much happening at the park board. On the other one, you are making some decisions.

"I don't know. I'd have to give it some thought."