

## Election Filing

Some incumbent legislators will face primary opposition in May and not because they have been double-bunked with fellow incumbents. The first day of the state's election filing period began with familiar names seeking legislative comebacks and some longtime incumbents facing primary challenges. Six-term Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, will face a primary challenge from Eddie Gallimore, the vice chairman of the Davidson County Republican Party, in Senate District 33. At least two Republicans also will be challenging incumbent Jerry Dockham, R-Davidson, should he run for re-election in House District 80. Christy Jones, a kindergarten teacher from Thomasville, and Dick Johnson, a Denton real estate agent, filed for the House seat on Monday. Twelve-term incumbent Rep. Julia Howard, D-Davie, will face a challenge from Forsyth County Commissioner Bill Whiteheart in newly-drawn House District 79. Five-term incumbent Sen. Jerry Tilliman, R-Randolph, is being challenged by Tommy Davis, a construction company owner from Aberdeen, in Senate District 29. Former Ahoskie Mayor Linda Blackburn will challenge three-term Rep. Annie Mobley, D-Hertford, in House District 5.

Former legislators seeking to return to the General Assembly include Republican Russell Capps, who has filed for the House District 49 seat in Wake County; Democrat Cullie Tarleton, who filed in House District 93, which includes Ashe and Watauga counties; Republican Wil Neumann, who filed for the House District 109 seat in Gaston County being vacated by Republican Rep. Bill Current; and Democrat John Snow, who filed in Senate District 50 in western North Carolina. Former Democratic state Sen. Joe Sam Queen has also filed for the House District 119 seat in Swain and Jackson counties being vacated by seven-term Democratic Rep. Phil Haire. Former Republican Rep. Don Davis has filed for newly-configured, open Senate District 12 seat in Lee, Harnett and Johnston counties.

Outside of legislative races, Democrat John Brooks has again filed for his former post as labor commissioner. Brooks held the job from 1977 until 1993, but was beaten in the aftermath of the Hamlet chicken plant fire that killed 25 workers. Incumbent Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry, a Republican, filed for re-election on Monday, and Democrat and lobbyist Marlowe Foster also filed for the post. In congressional races, Republican Richard Hudson, a one-time congressional aide to former Congressman Robin Hayes, filed for his boss' old 8th District seat. Incumbent Democrat Larry Kissell also filed for re-election.(THE INSIDER, 2/14/12).