

# Slate for statewide candidates finalized

Bill Cotterell, TLH 11:38 p.m. EDT June 20, 2014



(Photo: Glenn Beil/Tallahassee Democrat)

The starting line was set for Florida's 2014 elections Friday, with 36 House members and eight state Senators getting a free ride to new terms in the Legislature.

"It's been a great year and we're looking forward to exciting campaigns going forward — a lot of good candidates and a lot of democracy occurring," said Secretary of State Ken Detzner, after the noon closing of the state qualifying period passed. "I think it's the best qualifying period we've had."

There were no big surprises — U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson didn't run for governor, although that speculation subsided months ago — but one safe incumbent missed the deadline. Rep. Reggie Fullwood, D-Jacksonville, failed to get his papers in before noon, so no one qualified in House District 13.

That means the state will have to reopen the qualifying period in downtown Jacksonville, and Fullwood will have to get the paperwork glitch fixed.

State Rep. Perry Thurston, D-Plantation, was the last major statewide candidate to file his qualifying papers, challenging Attorney General Pam Bondi. But first, Thurston will have to get past fellow Democrat George Sheldon, who registered earlier in the week.

"I became an attorney because I saw injustice first-hand," said Thurston. "I left my job in the financial industry because I wanted to help people who couldn't help themselves. That's what I will do as attorney general."

Libertarian Bill Wohlsifer of Tallahassee also qualified to run for attorney general. Democrat Thad Hamilton, a former U.S. Department of Agriculture administrator, filed to run against Putnam and Will Rankin is the lone Democrat challenging Atwater for his Cabinet seat.

Bondi, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater also filed their papers early this week — along with Gov. Rick Scott and his two main challengers, former Gov. Charlie Crist and ex-state Sen. Nan Rich, D-Weston.

Leon County is in for a rare open primary, with Republicans and non-party members allowed to vote in the Democratic primary between Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda and Arnitta J. Grice-Walker of Tallahassee. When two or more members of the same party are the only ones running, all registered voters can cast ballots in a primary.

"That ought to be interesting," Rehwinkel Vasilinda said of her open primary. "I don't know my opponent at all, what her issues are or where she's coming from."

Efforts to reach Grice-Walker were unsuccessful.

First-term Rep. Halsey Beshears, R-Monticello, was among House members with no opposition when qualifying closed. Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee, drew a Democratic challenger, Diane Williams-Cox, but their primary is closed because a write-in contender, James Sinclair, signed up in House District 8.

Elsewhere, the Aug. 26 primaries and Nov. 4 general elections will feature some interesting races. In Broward and Palm Beach Counties, there will be a rematch of the bitter 2012 race between state Sen. Maria Sachs, D-Delray Beach, and former state Rep. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale.

Former Rep. Scott Plakon, an Orlando Republican, is trying for a comeback against Democrat Mike Clelland in House District 29. Sen. Geraldine Thompson faces former Sen. Gary Siplin in an Orlando-area Democratic primary.

Statewide, 20 Republicans and 16 Democrats were unopposed for re-election to the House, while all eight unopposed state senators are Republicans.

Contact correspondent Bill Cotterell at [bcotterell@tallahassee.com](mailto:bcotterell@tallahassee.com)

Read or Share this story: <http://on.tdo.com/SYEhbV>

## XFINITY® TRIPLE PLAY

GET A  
**GREAT  
OFFER**

30-DAY  
MONEY-BACK  
GUARANTEE

LEARN MORE ►

### MORE STORIES



**Falsified transcripts lead to  
arrest of former FAMU  
student**

[\(/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/\)](/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/)

[\(/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/\)](/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/)

[\(/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/\)](/story/news/local/2014/06/24/tallahassee-man-arrested-for-falsifying-college-transcripts/11317269/)

June 24, 2014, 3:05 p.m.



**The politics of politics is  
hurting democracy in our  
county**

[\(/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/\)](/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/)

[\(/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/\)](/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/)

[\(/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/\)](/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/)

[\(/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/\)](/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/)

[\(/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/\)](/story/gabordi/2014/06/23/the-politics-of-politics-is-hurting-democracy-in-our-county/11255907/)

[\(/story/news/local/2014/06/19/big-bend-news-briefs-june-19-2014/10831619/\)](http://story/news/local/2014/06/19/big-bend-news-briefs-june-19-2014/10831619/)

June 19, 2014, 9:10 a.m.

**XFINITY TRIPLE PLAY**

**GET A  
GREAT  
OFFER**

**30-DAY  
MONEY-BACK  
GUARANTEE**

**xfinity.**

**LEARN MORE ▶**