

Candidates Being Sought For County Extension Councils

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Counties in southwest Missouri are now accepting nominations for the 2009 public election of County Extension Council members, according to David Burton, civic communication specialist, University of Missouri Extension.

Most counties in southwest Missouri conduct council elections during the third week of January. No matter the time period, each council election is held in accordance with state law (Chapter 262.550-262.620 R.S. Mo. 1969).

"People from all walks of life – who are interested in education and the progress of their community – are encouraged to serve on local extension councils," said Burton. "The first step in the process is to get nominated to the list of candidates."

Generally, getting nominated as a candidate can be done by contacting the local Extension Center and expressing a willingness to serve.

"Most Extension Councils have an elections chairperson who will follow up with candidates and secure their permission before placing them on the official ballot," said Burton.

Persons who are interested can start by calling the Extension Center in their home county.

Those telephone numbers include Barry County, (417) 847-3161; Barton County, (417) 682-3579; Cedar County, (417) 276-3313;

Christian County, (417) 581-3558; Dade County, (417) 637-2112; Dallas County, (417) 345-7551; Greene County, (417) 862-9284; Hickory County, (417) 745-6767; Jasper County, (417) 358-2158; Lawrence County, (417) 466-3102; McDonald County, (417) 223-4775; Newton County, (417) 455-9500; Polk County, (417) 326-4916; Stone County, (417) 357-6812; Taney County: (417) 339-4431; and Webster County: (417) 859-2044.

"Generally, nominations are accepted through November. But if you are interested in serving, or just want to learn more about what the county Extension Council does, now is the time to be calling the Extension Center in your home county," said Burton.

Every county in Missouri has an Extension Council made up of elected (and appointed) members who represent the broad educational needs and backgrounds of people in that county. Council candidates must be at least 18 years old and reside in the district they represent.

Missouri state statutes create County Extension Councils to work with University of Missouri Extension. Council members assist in planning and carrying out MU Extension programs in their county, providing local Extension governance and representing the diversity of the county's changing population. Δ