

POLITICS

8 seek 4 Pine Lake seats; government roles shifting

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Four **seats** are up for grabs for the first time in eight years in **Pine Lake** elections Tuesday. "Every time we have a contested election, there's a good deal of politicking going on," said Mayor Neil Copeland, who is seeking re-election.

Four incumbents are up against four newcomers in a race that will have a lasting effect on **government**. The DeKalb city, in the process of revising its 1938 charter, is changing the **roles** of the City Council and the mayor.

Mayor Copeland said the City Council's job will be generally more policy oriented while the mayor's post will be more administrative.

Terms of office in **Pine Lake** also will be longer in order to conform to a state law that requires city officials to hold office for two or four years. The terms of two commissioners and the mayor will go from three to four years.

The third commissioner's seat, a two-year position, is open in a special election to compensate for a council member who has stepped down.

Three other DeKalb cities will open their polls on Nov. 5.

In Stone Mountain, Mayor Jane Rhodes has stepped down and Pat Wheeler runs unopposed for the post. There are also six candidates seeking three City Commission **seats**. The top three vote-getters will be appointed at the January meeting of the council.

Decatur voters will decide who will represent them on three of the City Commission **seats**. The **seats** for District 1, District 2 and an at-large post are sought by six people. A new mayor pro-tem will be appointed by the new commission after the election.

Avondale Estates has six people vying for three at-large **seats** on their City Council. Like the Stone Mountain elections, the top three candidates will be sworn in at the January commission meeting.

Polls in each city open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Here is a list of candidates running for election:

Avondale Estates: Three at-large council **seats**, six candidates. They are: Ran Bransford, Parke Kallenberg, Lucy Durham, John W. Lawson (I), Gayle Samford and Patrick M. Smith.

Decatur: Three City Commission **seats**, six candidates. They are: for District 1, Bill Floyd; for District 2, Elizabeth Wilson (I), Ollie Mahone and Bill Rhodes; for at-large, Bill Mealor (I) and W.H. Simmons.

Stone Mountain: Patricia Wheeler is unopposed for mayor. Three at-large City Council **seats**, six candidates. They are: Greg Brand, Howard Bigsby, Chuck Burris, Nikki Lynn, Terry Owens and Bill Taylor (I).

Pine Lake: Neil Copeland (I) runs for mayor against Tommie Storms. Two at-large council **seats** are up for four-year terms. The candidates are: for Post 1, Michael Stuckey (I) and Linda Unger; for Post 2, Matt Colburn (I) and Judy Weisberg. In a special election, Warren Parsons (I)

runs against Alden Thompson for Post 5 to fill two years of a post left vacant when a council member stepped down.

Photo: Neil Copeland Pat Wheeler