

Stage set for local elections

Kraus seeks comeback

Former state rep running in the 89th District

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A former state representative forced out of office in 2015 after being convicted in a theft case wants to win back the office. Steve Kraus, Republican, 65, defeated former state representative Chris Redfern in an upset in the 2014 general election.

But his term in office was upended after then-Ortawa County prosecutor Mark Mulligan filed a theft charge against him in October that year.



Kraus

Kraus maintained he did nothing wrong, alleging that Mulligan and Redfern were political cronies, calling the criminal case against him an "October surprise." The alleged theft occurred months before Mulligan brought the charge against Kraus. "The rumor is true," Kraus told the Register when contacted Wednesday

■ See **KRAUS**, Page A3

List: Who's running for office

Several contested races on tap for next year

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In Erie County, the potential fall 2024 ballot appears stacked with plenty of races on tap.

Wednesday marked the filing deadline for county-based candidates to submit documentation so they can properly campaign next year.

Independents and

write-in candidates can still file, however, they face a disadvantage without a major party backing them.

Among the immediate takeaways: Both longtime incumbent county commissioners up for election next year face opponents in November's general election.

And — for the first time in years — three offices can

■ See **RUNNING**, Page A3



Sheno



Murray



Harris



Old

RUNNING

■ FROM PAGE A1

expect to see two people vying for one seat: clerk of courts, engineer and recorder. In past election cycles, the officeholders ran unopposed.

Voters, however, shouldn't expect to cast a ballot in a county-based primary race. For those aforementioned offices, no two people representing the same party seek a particular single office.

This means the following candidates are scheduled to go up against one another in November's election. Here's the tentative list

of Democrats squaring off against Republicans:

Clerk of courts

■ Incumbent Luvada Wilson, a Democrat, versus challenger Craig Hecht, a Republican

Commissioner

■ Incumbent Pat Sheno, a Republican, versus challenger Leslie Murray, a Democrat

■ Incumbent Matt Old, a Republican, versus challenger Marcus Harris, a Democrat

Common pleas court

Judge, juvenile

■ Incumbent Robert DeLamatre, a Republican (no challenger filed)

Coroner

■ Incumbent Brian Baxter, a Republican (no challenger filed)

Engineer

■ Incumbent Jack Farschman, a Democrat, versus Thomas Beck, a Republican

Prosecutor

■ Incumbent Kevin Baxter, a Democrat (no challenger filed)

Recorder

■ Incumbent Ellie Olsen, a Democrat, versus challenger Nic Smith, a Republican

Sheriff

■ Incumbent Paul Sigsworth, a Democrat (no challenger filed)

Treasurer

■ Incumbent Caleb

Stidham, a Republican, versus challenger Randy Drewyor, a Democrat

On a related note, Erie County voters will see one state race on their primary and general election ballots. Incumbent D. J. Swearingen — a Republican whose political territory, the 89th Ohio House District, encompasses Erie, Ottawa and Huron counties — takes on Steve Kraus, a Republican, in a primary. Kraus previously served in this capacity.

Whoever wins this race takes on Alisha Roshong, a Democrat, in the general election.