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Mrs. Cook qualifies for circuit clerk

Pasco Times Bureau

DADE CITY — Doris Cook, a longtime courthouse employe, Tuesday became the second candidate to qualify for the race for the Democratic nomination for circuit clerk.

Mrs. Cook, a former employe of incumbent clerk Miller Newton, was the only candidate to qualify Tuesday, although another candidate attempted Monday, The Times has learned, to change races.

Mike Snyder, currently qualified to run for the District 1 seat on the Pasco County Commission, asked Monday for his filing fee to be returned, saying he wanted to qualify in the clerk's race.

EMPLOYEES in the office handling qualifications for Newton told Snyder Monday they were not sure whether they could return his fee.

"We called the secretary of state's office and they said

we could, but he hasn't been back in today," deputy clerk Mike Stubbs told The Times Tuesday.

Mrs. Cook, for several years, was in charge of the probate division in Newton's office. She was fired earlier this year after a dispute with Newton, but was rehired recently after threatening legal action. When she was rehired, Newton put her to work in his office's materials duplication room.

MRS. COOK resigned Friday to enter the race, saying she was not legally required to, but that she thought "it would be better for all concerned."

Newton is not seeking re-election. He is running for the Fifth Congressional District seat occupied by Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Port Richey. Democrat J. E. "Jed" Pittman is the only Democratic competition faced by Mrs. Cook. Snyder, if he qualifies, is a Republican and Frank Parker, a West

Pasco Republican, has announced his candidacy for the job, but is not yet qualified.

Nine candidates, in all, have qualified for the sheriff's race. Two have qualified in the race for County Commission District 1, one in District 3 and four in District 5.

FOUR CANDIDATES have qualified in the school superintendent's race and only one for the School Board, seeking the District 3 seat.

Property appraiser Ted Williams and supervisor of elections Mary Morgan remained unchallenged as qualifications closed Tuesday and Tax Collector Maxine Coulter faced a Democratic primary challenge from Vivian Lee, a West Pasco woman whose home was sold for non-payment of taxes.

Qualifications close July 20.

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<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=KthYAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Vl0DAAAAIBAJ&pg=3634,3723797&dq=miller-newton+election&hl=en>