

Democratic candidates for mayor lead fundraising race

By Jen Bondeson News-Post Staff | Posted: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 2:00 am

The well-known Democrats in Frederick's race for mayor have raised and spent far more than the Republicans, with the primary election less than a month away.

State Delegate Galen Clagett and city Alderwoman Karen Young each brought in more than \$50,000, according to the first round of campaign finance reports, which were due at noon Monday.

Clagett raised \$60,425, the most of any candidate. Young raised \$49,351 and brought in \$3,619 from her campaign for alderwoman four years ago.

"I'm in a race," Clagett said. "I think everyone thinks the primary is very important. We are pulling out all the stops to go to the primary."

Young said she is pleased with the results of her fundraising.

"I believe that they reflect very diversified and extensive support from both individuals and businesses," she wrote in an email.

Clagett contributed \$2,500 to his own campaign, while Young and her husband, state Sen. Ron Young, put in \$600 total.

The two candidates are on the Sept. 10 Democratic primary ballot, along with Carol Hirsch, who failed to submit a finance report by the deadline. Hirsch did not respond to an email request for comment.

In the Republican primary, Mayor Randy McClement is facing Alderwoman Shelley Aloï and former Mayor Jeff Holtzinger.

McClement raised \$10,960 so far, the most in that race; Aloï raised \$3,532 and brought in \$4,609 from her previous campaign; Holtzinger has raised \$740.

Former Mayor Jennifer Dougherty is running as an independent candidate and will not be in the primary. She has raised \$6,027.

Dougherty contributed \$4,550 to her own campaign, the most of any candidate. She has spent \$4,840 so far.

"I haven't done a big fundraising push yet," she said. "I know what it costs to run an election, and I am very frugal with my approach toward spending in an election."

Holtzinger, who has raised the least of the mayoral candidates, said he decided not to try to raise money before the primary.

“I don’t know how much that is going to make a difference,” he said.

Holtzinger said he is using signs from his last campaign. He has spent \$42 so far.

“I’m not going to spend money just to spend money,” he said.

Aloi said she is excited and pleased with the donations she has received and been promised.

When asked if she believes McClement has an advantage as the incumbent, Aloi said she does not.

“And we will see that, coming up,” she said.

McClement said he has taken a conservative approach to raising and spending money, although he sees the importance of making it past the primary.

“My stance has been to raise enough money to do what I need to do to get the message out, and keep going from there,” he said.

Clagett spent the most out of any candidate so far, using about \$56,000 to pay for a professional pollster, campaign materials, event costs and other expenses.

Young has spent about half of what she has raised.

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