Two deputy court clerks seek top job in Douglas County

By JEFFERSON ROBBINS

Two experienced deputy clerks seek to manage Superior Court records as Douglas County’s elected chief clerk.

Laurie Miller and Tristan Worthen each bring years of background in court clerk offices to their campaigns to replace the retiring Jeanne Koch, who held the office since 2006.

Worthen, of Waterville, has been one of Koch’s deputy clerks for 13 years. Miller, of East Wenatchee, has tallied up 13 years in court offices around the state, and now in Chelan County District Court, which is run as Republicans.

Worthen led the August top-two primary, earning about 49 percent of votes to Miller’s 30 percent. Asked about her primary lead, Worthen said, “I’m certainly not going to be comfortable until the election is over.”

Miller, a third candidate, said, “Cindy Johnson, remained on the primary ballot despite dropping out of the race — leaving the remaining 28 percent of votes up for grabs. Douglas County’s Republican Central Committee endorsed Miller over Worthen, citing her work as a GOP precinct committeewoman among other qualifications.

“They know that I’m a strong Republican and that I will support the party, and I think that’s what they saw as a value,” Miller said. “It’s the second time the committee has endorsed Miller for the job. The first time was in 2013, when Koch originally scheduled her resignation. The county party forwarded close to 100 Douglas County commissioners as possible replacement candidates for Worthen but excluding Worthen, whom Koch had already recommended for the job. That led Koch to withdraw her resignation and remain in office until the end of her term this December.”

The Douglas County Clerk’s Office is comprised of five deputy clerks plus the elected official. It’s responsible for managing the record of all Superior Court hearings and documents, as well as handling fees and fines collected during court proceedings.

Miller endorses endorsements from the regional construction trade group Building North Central Washington and the NCW Association of Realtors.

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