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Rochester voters narrow council candidates to 8

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By RANDAL YAKEY
Of The Oakland Press

City of Rochester voters whittled down the field of City Council candidates for the Nov. 6 general election from 12 to eight Tuesday night.

The eight candidates who will appear on the general election ballot are Jeffrey Matis, who received 849 votes; Ben Giovanelli, 700 votes; Kim Russell, 660 votes; David Becker, 643 votes; David Zemens, 593 votes; Penny M. Crissman, 509 votes; Karen Lewis, 497 votes; and Tom Mines with 451 votes.

The top three candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the general election will serve four-year terms, and the candidate receiving the fourth-highest number of votes serves a two-year term.

Matis, who has lived in the Rochester since 2003, is a 1990 graduate of Oakland University and has worked as an attorney with a major Detroit law firm since 1994. He is a commercially licensed pilot and spent 10 years as vice president and general manager of a familyowned aviation business. He has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Giovanelli, who has lived in the city since 2001, is the chief financial officer and shareholder of ES3 Inc. He has bachelor's degree in business from University of Michigan Dearborn and a master's degree in finance from Walsh College.

Russell, an 18-year city resident, has been small-business owner in Rochester for 11 years, supplying engineered products to first-tier auto suppliers. She is the quality manager and negotiated the company UAW contract.

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Becker, a 32-year Rochester resident, as a Ph.D. from the University of Washington and is a professor of chemistry at Oakland Community College and an adjunct research professor of chemistry at OU. Becker has served on the Rochester City Council for 11 years.

Zemens has lived in Rochester since 1982. He recently retired from the Rochester Police Department after nearly 20 years.

ÒWorking as a Rochester police officer - there was always an opportunity to help someone or to make a difference," Zemens said.

Crissman, a lifelong Rochester resident, is the director of government relations for Crittenton Hospital Medical Center and served on the Rochester City Council from 1985 to 1992 and again in 1999 to present. Crissman was a member of the Rochester Downtown Development Authority, Planning Commission and the Paint Creek Trailway Commission and was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1992, where she served for six years.

Lewis has lived in Rochester for 46 years and is self-employed. She has served on the City Council from 1987 to present and has served on the Rochester Planning Commission, Paint Creek Trailways Commission, DDA and the Older Persons Commission.

Mines has lived in southeast Michigan his whole life and moved to Rochester in 1991. He is a Realtor with Century 21 Sakmar in downtown Rochester and has more than 25 years experience in bank management - first at Comerica Bank as a senior vice president in auditing and then operations and technology, later as executive director of retail banking and chief administrative officer at Sterling Bank. He has bachelor's degree and an MBA from Wayne State University.

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