

Daily Herald

Big Picture . Local Focus

GOP nominee tapped to fill Noel's seat on county board

McBride to fill Noel's seat until election, when he is running for his own board spot

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A Republican nominee for the DuPage County board has been selected to finish the term of deceased board member John Noel.

But who the GOP taps to run for Noel's seat during the general election in November is yet to be determined.

County board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom said Tuesday he will ask board members to approve his decision to have Jerry "J.R." McBride replace John Noel, who died April 28 after a battle with cancer.

Noel, the board's vice chairman, was seeking re-election to his third term. He ran unopposed during the March GOP primary.

Schillerstrom said he selected McBride because of the 38-year-old Glen Ellyn insurance broker's primary victory against incumbent Grant Eckhoff.

If approved, the appointment will give McBride the opportunity to represent District 4 before he runs as a candidate in the fall election. Noel's term expires in December.

"The chance to get on early and start serving our citizens is definitely an honor," McBride said.

Because McBride already is on the ballot, another Republican must be picked to run in Noel's place. That person will face Richard L. Dunn, a Glen Ellyn Democrat.

Some are speculating Eckhoff will be chosen. But others from the district have expressed interest.

The final decision will be made by a three-member panel consisting of Milton Township Republican Chairman Leonard Sanchez, DuPage GOP Chairwoman Barbara Murphy and Mike Gresk, a former Wheaton City Council member.

Schillerstrom said he plans to make a recommendation to Sanchez, Murphy and Gresk about whom they should pick.

"I presume they are going to listen to what a lot of people have to say," he said. "I would hope that mine would be one of the voices that they would take into consideration."

Schillerstrom declined to say whom he plans to suggest. But during the GOP primary, he endorsed Eckhoff.

"Everybody knows that I think highly of Grant," he said. "I think he has been a very good county board member, and I have relied on him."

The district includes all or parts of Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Lisle, Lombard, Wheaton and Winfield.

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