

Hot Races for Central Mayor, Police Chief

# Candidates in Nov. 8 Election

Chief Roger Corcoran, Chief James Salsbury In Rematch of Election From Four Years Ago

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**CENTRAL** - In the race for Central Police Chief, voters will face a rematch from 2018 between the controversial current police chief, Roger Corcoran, and the previous police chief, James Salsbury.

Corcoran received nationwide publicity and considerable criticism after arresting Pastor Tony Spell for holding worship services at Life Tabernacle during the pandemic. Corcoran is one of only two police officers in American history to have arrested a pastor for holding church.

Both Corcoran and Salsbury qualified Wednesday. Qualifying continues until 4:30 p.m. Friday.

In a statement, Corcoran said, "After taking office in January 2019, we have upgraded all antiquated equipment within the police department, including computers, software, a secured technology system, weapons for our officers, a secure reporting system for complaints, installation of an evidence tracking system and purchased the most up to date safety equipment for all of our officers. From day one, I have put my over three decades of law enforcement experience to work for you. We eliminated waste, improved our processes and made our officers, and city, safer.

See CORCORAN on Page 5



Central Mayor David Barrow (left) and Mayor Pro-Tem Wade Evans face off Nov. 8.



Mayor David Barrow, Pro-Tem Wade Evans Face Off for Top Job In Central Government

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**CENTRAL** - On the first day of qualifying Wednesday, July 20, politics in Central got a lot more interesting, especially in the Mayor's race, when incumbent Mayor David Barrow got the opponent he expected, Mayor Pro-Tem Wade Evans. Additional candidates can still qualify through Friday, July 22. The election is scheduled for Nov. 8.

City Hall was bustling with activity Wednesday morning as Clerk of Court Doug Welborn received qualifying papers from candidates for Central mayor, police chief, city council, and school board. Candidates and their supporters mingled freely in a positive atmosphere — before the battles begin.

Welborn welcomed candidates of all persuasions with a hearty smile and handshake.

In an interview Wednesday night, Mayor David Barrow said he is running to complete the work he has begun. He said, "Over the last three and a half years, we have made progress on many fronts. Roads, drainage, and other projects are now ready to become reality."

"This term has been devoted to planning. The next four years will be about putting those plans into reality. Roads and drainage are basic to our plans but there are many

See BARROW on Page 2



Chief Police Roger Corcoran (left) and former Chief James Salsbury on Nov. 8.



# Council, School Board Races Unfolding

Clerk of Court Holds Qualifying in Central; Continues Until Friday

**CENTRAL** - Qualifying for the Central City Council and Central Community School Board opened Wednesday, and most of the candidates who were expected to qualify did so. However, citizens have until 4:30 p.m. Friday to declare their candidacies, and some of the races could change dramatically.

One of the question marks is City Councilman Dave Freneau, who has not qualified to run for

See QUALIFYING on Page 4



**QUALIFYING IN CENTRAL** — Clerk of Court Doug Welborn came to Central Wednesday morning to conduct qualifying for Central city and school board elections scheduled for Nov. 8. In this photo, candidates are qualifying with Brandon Abadie (bottom), chief elections officer, and Fred Sliman (not shown). Shown are Central City Councilman Tim Lazaro (left), who qualified for reelection from District 1, and Mayor Pro-Tem Wade Evans (right), who qualified to run for Mayor. Behind Evans is Clerk of Court Doug Welborn and behind Doug is Central City Councilman Briton Myer, who qualified for reelection from District 5. Behind Myer is Central School Board member Kim Powers, who was elected in a special election last October and is running for a full term this fall. At right is Central City News editor Woody Jenkins, who was photographing the event. Qualifying will continue through 4:30 p.m. this Friday, July 22 at the Clerk's office downtown and on Airline. For updates, go to [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov).