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7 in Congressional race

By The Associated Press

The secretary of state's office closed its books Thursday for the filing of petitions of nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in Montana's two congressional districts.

As the deadline passed, seven candidates had paid the \$425 filing fees.

Two Republicans are locked in a primary battle in the eastern Montana district.

They are state Sen. Jack McDonald, Belt, a Democrat until last month, and Billings advertising salesman Sam Kitzenberg.

The winner will face incumbent John Melcher, Forsyth, this fall in the general election. Melcher is unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Three democrats are vying for the nomination to Congress in western Montana.

They are former Congressman Arnold Olsen of Helena, state Rep. Max Baucus of Missoula, and former representative Pat Williams of Helena.

The winner will run against incumbent Dick Shoup, Missoula, who is unopposed for the GOP nomination.