

S. C. M.?

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174 will fight NT elections

One candidate has withdrawn from the New Territories District Board election — leaving 174 contestants for polling day next month.

The late withdrawal was Mr Wong Woon-wah who originally planned to contest the Cheung Chau North constituency. It now leaves four candidates running for the seat.

Two other candidates will be given an automatic seat on the board as there is only one nomination in their constituencies.

They are Mr Fu Yuen-hung, from the Tsun Wan Rural constituency, and Mr Yiu Kai-hung standing in Cheung Chau West for a seat on the Islands District Board.

Under the election rules, a candidate is automatically given a seat if no other candidate is nominated.

They will be officially named as elected district board members in the Government Gazette next week and take up their seats in April.

Both members have a long record of public service. They have served in the rural committees of their respective constituency.

At the final count, there will be 172 candidates actually contesting the 56 seats in the eight NT district boards.

Their names will be published in an Extraordinary Gazette to be issued before Thursday.

The most keenly-contested seats will be the Beas River constituency, in the North District Board, where ~~seven~~ candidates are competing for one seat. The Yuen Long Rural West constituency also reported seven candidates.

Close contests are also expected in constituencies at Kwai Shing and Tsing Yi where six candidates are running for one seat.

Competition will also be tight in Yuen Long Town North, Yuen Long Rural South, Taipo East and Cheung Chau South. All these areas have five candidates.

There are 36 single-member constituencies and 10 double-member constituencies.

In most areas, each seat will be contested by two to three candidates.

As polling day approaches, officials from the City and New Territories Administration together with Government lawyers will call on candidates next week to remind them of the election rules.

for one seat