

# John Colon enters race for Manatee County Commission District 5 seat

By SARA KENNEDY — skennedy@bradenton.com

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John Colon, a Republican from University Park, has filed to run for the District 5 Manatee County Commission seat now held by retiring incumbent Donna Hayes.

Colon joins Republican candidate Vanessa Baugh, a Lakewood Ranch businesswoman; and Democrat James T. Golden, a former Bradenton City council member and a pastor, in seeking election to the commission, according to the Manatee Supervisor of Elections' website.

Colon could not be reached for comment late Monday.

Hayes, who also is a Republican, remained listed as an active candidate on the website, despite her statement in January to The Herald that she intended to drop out of the race.

Her decision followed a minor traffic accident in which she was charged with careless driving and failure to immediately report a vehicle crash.

Hayes Monday listed \$2,700 in monetary contributions, no in-kind contributions, and expenditures of \$1,077.76 in connection with her aborted campaign, according to election records.

So far, Baugh has collected monetary contributions of \$24,622.92, in-kind contributions of \$1,716.46, and has spent \$1,368.66, according to election records posted Monday.

Golden has not yet listed any contributions to his campaign, according to election records.

Sara Kennedy, Herald reporter, can be reached at 941-745-7031.