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## Lawyer enters City Council race

By Gerald Carroll  
Staff writer

Visalia attorney Roland Soltesz has become the seventh candidate for the two Visalia City Council seats on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Soltesz, 44, is a deputy public defender for Tulare County and a 2003 graduate of San Joaquin College of Law in Clovis. He beat Wednesday's 5 p.m. deadline by filing qualifying papers with the Tulare County Election Division.

"Recent developments locally have motivated me to run," Soltesz said.

The 20-year Visalia resident has a record of volunteer service in youth sports organizations.

Married with an 8-year-old daughter, Soltesz has coached softball and soccer over the past five years — and just earned his soccer referees' certification, he said.

Soltesz said he participated in the 1984 re-election campaign of Ronald Reagan while working with the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College.

Visalia City Councilman Bob Link, a downtown merchant, filed for re-election on Aug. 10.

The other council member whose seat will be available, vice mayor Greg Kirkpatrick, has chosen not to run for re-election.

Other council candidates include:

- Tim Fosberg, a local certified public accountant employed by the city of Visalia. He completed his filing Aug. 8.
- Mike Lane, a management analyst and Visalia Unified

School District board member. He qualified July 26.

- Mary Wheeler, member of the Visalia citizens' committee representing people with disabilities. She filed July 18. No photo was available.

- Rusty Barker, Visalia resident and Tulare merchant. He completed his filing Aug. 10.
- Amy Shuklian, recreation therapist, Valley Oak SPCA board president and Visalia Parks and Recreation Department Commission chairwoman. She qualified July 17.

## School board

Three incumbent members of the Visalia Unified School District board — Donna Martin, Robert Stephenson and Larry Jones — have filed for re-election, county records show.

Other candidates who have met their ballot obligations include:

- Bill Fullmer, a teacher who qualified July 16.
  - Adam Valencia, an educator who qualified Aug. 10.
  - The reporter can be reached at [gcarroll@visalia.gannett.com](mailto:gcarroll@visalia.gannett.com).
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