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SECTION: TLNEWS**LENGTH:** 442 words**HEADLINE:** W-B woman announces Libertarian run**BYLINE:** By BRETT MARCY; bmarcy@leader.net**BODY:**

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WILKES-BARRE - Three may be a crowd, but four is just right, says Wilkes-Barre resident Elizabeth "Betsy" Summers, who announced Monday that she will be the fourth candidate for a contested Pennsylvania U.S. Senate seat this year.

Summers, 47, will be the Libertarian Party nominee, she said.

In an emergency meeting last weekend, the state Libertarian Party nominated her to replace Bucks County resident Jay Russell on the ballot, after Russell withdrew from the race, Summers said.

A spokesman for the Department of State said the notification of a replacement candidate had not been filed as of Monday. The deadline to file the replacement candidacy papers is Thursday.

Summers' entry would make it a four-way race for U.S. Senate. The other candidates are: Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter of Philadelphia, Democratic U.S. Rep. Joe Hoeffel of Bucks County and Constitution Party candidate Jim Clymer of Lancaster County.

"When you look at who's running, there doesn't seem to be much choice in this race," Summers said. "I'm the only anti-war, anti-draft candidate, and I'm the only woman on the ballot."

Taking advantage of a Hoeffel campaign rally in downtown Wilkes-Barre on Monday, Summers introduced herself to Hoeffel at the event and promptly grilled him regarding his vote to authorize President Bush to use force against Iraq.

"You're smart, because you're using my event to get some publicity," Hoeffel lightheartedly told Summers, before responding that he was misled into voting to allow Bush to use force in Iraq.

Hoeffel said he welcomes Summers and Clymer to the race and would support their participation in any debates leading up to the Nov. 2 election.

Specter campaign spokesman Chris Nicholas refused to comment on Summers' candidacy until it becomes official.

Summers said she is running on the Libertarian Party's platform of limited government and lower taxes. She also opposes the war in Iraq, fears the possibility that the military draft might be reinstated and is an abortion-rights advocate.

"What's going on in Washington terrifies me and disgusts me," Summers said.

Summers is self-employed, working in real estate and property management. She has lived in Wilkes-Barre since 1984 and has been active in local politics. She was elected in 2001 to the Luzerne County Government Study Commission and ran unsuccessfully for Wilkes-Barre City Council in 1999.

Staff writer Lane Filler contributed to this story.

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