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Political novice new Oldham magistrate  
Insurance agent named by Fletcher

**By Andrea Uhde**

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An insurance agent with no political experience, Steve Church wasn't expecting to hear Gov. Ernie Fletcher's voice when he answered the phone last week.

The call came around 11 p.m. Friday, and Fletcher pitched a grand proposal. He asked whether Church would be interested in being a member of Oldham County's Fiscal Court.

"I was thrilled," said Church, 39, of the Goshen area.

Church was sworn in Monday; his first Fiscal Court meeting is at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Church, a Republican, replaces Paula Gish as District 1 magistrate. Gish, also a Republican and a magistrate for 11 years, resigned Jan. 1 to become deputy judge-executive under Duane Murner.

It was then up to Fletcher to appoint someone to the seat. Church said he submitted a resume and the governor's staff interviewed him.

If Church wants to keep the seat, he must file as a candidate before the May primary, which he said he plans to do.

Gish said she doesn't know Church very well, but she is pleased he'll be a magistrate.

"I think he's very energetic," she said. "He listens very well; he communicates very well."

Church works at Logan Lavelle Hunt Insurance/Winston & Co. in Louisville.

He's a graduate of Ballard High School in Louisville and attended Western Kentucky University. He's also on an advisory board of the Salvation Army Boys' and Girls' Club.

"I have wanted to be in public service for a while," he said. "This was a unique opportunity that presented itself."

He said he wants to continue some of the things that Gish started.

"This is so new, I really haven't had time to digest it yet, but I want to be accessible to the

people of District 1 and their priorities. Hopefully I can represent their priorities well," he said hours after talking with Fletcher last week.

He said he wants to get information on the issues and start setting goals.

"I'm just really looking forward to the positive vibe I get from this Fiscal Court," he said. "Judge Murner and Deputy Judge Gish, and all the magistrates -- I can't wait to start working with them."

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