

# Jorgensen vows, if elected, to cut deficit or not run for office again

By Jill Gerber

News staff writer

Libertarian congressional candidate Jo Jorgensen pledged Tuesday she won't seek re-election if she wins a seat in Congress and fails to reduce the deficit.

Ms. Jorgensen, who is running for the 4th District seat, said she signed a "lead or leave" pledge circulated among congressional candidates who are tired of their representatives' inaction.

The pledge says a candidate won't seek re-election at the end of his or her term unless the 1996 federal budget deficit is 50 percent lower than the 1992 budget deficit.

"Our federal deficit continues to grow each year with no end in sight," she said. "Our politicians keep talking about reducing it, but no one has done anything about it. I plan to do something about it."

Ms. Jorgensen said Congress should slash spending and fund no new programs unless money is

taken away from existing programs. She also called for privatizing as much government service as possible to save money.

One example is the postal service, which could be taken over by several smaller companies, she said.

The government also should sell off unused and non-essential government land and buildings, she said.

Another Libertarian candidate, Rick Watson of Greenville, also supported privatization. In a press release, he said the state could reduce spending, lower taxes and improve services by privatizing.

Watson is running for the state Senate District 7 seat against incumbent Theo Mitchell, a Greenville Democrat.

Ms. Jorgensen is running against U.S. Rep. Liz Patterson, a Spartanburg Democrat, and Republican Bob Inglis of Greenville.

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## Libertarian candidates vow to halve U.S. deficit

By STEVE PRADARELLI

Staff Writer

Two South Carolina Libertarian candidates vying for seats in Congress vowed to cut the federal deficit in half during their first term and challenged their opponents to do the same.

Greenville businesswoman Jo Jorgensen, a candidate for the 4th U.S. Congressional District, and Little Mountain nuclear plant operator Mark Johnson, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, held a joint press conference in Spartanburg Tuesday to say that neither would seek re-election if they failed to reduce the deficit 50 percent by fiscal year 1996.

"Our federal deficit continues to grow each year with no end in sight," Jorgensen said.

Jorgensen and Johnson said they

signed a pledge to slash the deficit and plan to send copies for their challengers to sign. Jorgensen faces Democratic U.S. Rep. Liz Patterson and Greenville Republican Bob Inglis, while Johnson is up against Democratic U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings and GOP nominee Tommy Hartnett.

"Liz Patterson has been in office for three terms, and the deficit keeps getting larger," Jorgensen said. "Bob Inglis has said if elected, he will serve no more than three terms in office, but he shouldn't be in office even that long if he can't get the job done."

But Inglis said Tuesday that while he supports the deficit reduction plan in principle, he said it was "overly optimistic" to believe it could be carried out within two years.