

Jesse Jackson running for president

Associated Press

Washington — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader, announced today that he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination, saying if minorities join together they "can build a new majority."

"This candidacy is much more than just a man running for an office," Jackson told more than 1,000 supporters who crowded into a downtown convention center.

"This is a serious candidacy for the presidency. But a by-

product of this candidacy is to inspire 10,000 people to run for office at every level," said Jackson.

Jackson, who has said that he does not expect to win the nomination, faces seven other Democrats who already are competing for a chance to unseat President Reagan, the probable Republican nominee.

Jackson, 42, has said his goal is to awaken blacks, Hispanics, other minorities, the poor and women, to their latent power. His campaign will be aimed at persuading them

to register and vote and also to run for state, local and national office. He estimates that 2 million more blacks can be registered in time for the 1984 election.

"We want to cross the finish line first, but not with an empty wagon. We want our wagon to be full of other candidates

as well," he said.

"If we come together around our common economic plight and a humane political agenda, we won't be poor and powerless any more. Together, the old minorities constitute a new majority. Together we can build a new majority," he said.

The South Carolina-born

civil rights leader who founded the black self-help organization Operation PUSH in Chicago is not the first black to seek the Democratic nomination.

Former Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., was a candidate in 1972 but dropped out of the race. Chisholm introduced Jackson at today's ceremony.