

## **LETTER: Chamber Seeks 'Business-Friendly' Climate**

Written by Boone Area Chamber  
Monday, 30 September 2013 13:04

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The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Meet the Candidates Forum on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 in the Town of Boone Council Chambers on Blowing Rock Road, beginning at 5:30 p.m. All the candidates for Mayor of Boone and Boone Town Council have been invited to participate.

Questions will be asked of all the candidates in a 'round robin' format; each having an opportunity to answer first, but all answering the same question. The audience will be allowed to submit written questions during the forum. All questions will be asked by the moderator. Each response will have a 1-minute time limit and each candidate will have a 2-minute closing statement. This forum is not intended to be a debate between candidates or between the audience and the candidates, but rather an opportunity for the citizenry to hear each candidate's position on topics important to all. In order to maintain decorum, political literature and signage will not be allowed in the room.

Those wishing to submit questions can call 264-2225 or email [danmeyer@boonechamber.com](mailto:danmeyer@boonechamber.com) .

**In advance of the Meet the Candidates Forum, the Boone Area Chamber submitted the following editorial. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of GoBlueRidge.net and High Country Radio.**

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The Chamber encourages support of "business friendly" principles:

What does it mean to be business friendly? It means to:

- Value and recognize businesses large and small as our economic engine, providing jobs and generating revenue. All benefit from a growing and robust business sector and business-friendly candidates look for ways to help businesses thrive.
  
- Accept that it is the responsibility of elected officials to do to whatever they can to stimulate and expand the economy, foster local business growth and increase employment.
  
- Seek only fair and reasonable legislation and oppose measures that unfairly target and negatively impact businesses.
  
- Understand that continuing to strap businesses with higher costs and overly burdensome regulation is not a sustainable model and hampers, rather than helps, job creation and revenue growth, as well as negatively impacts our community.

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- Believe in and will work toward government living within its means.
- View tax increases as a last resort versus an early step, with consideration of an increase only after government is living within its means as residents and businesses must. We should be employing measures to stimulate the economy and aid businesses as the way to close revenue gaps.
- Understand the importance of reducing the cost of doing business and will work toward that end.
- Understand that the community's long-term economic health is impacted by the quality of education available, emphasizing excellence, responsibility and achievement.
- Accept and support appropriate change and growth in the High Country that promotes the quality of life, fosters stewardship of our natural resources and respects our cultural heritage. We do not support unilateral governmental moratoria (bans) that prevent future project discussions and the opportunity to mitigate challenges and create winning solutions.

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- Comprehend economic principles. A business-friendly candidate understands how our high cost of doing business in the High Country hampers investment, business expansion and job creation. We seek candidates who will focus on the economy and have a strong recovery plan.

In summary, it means to take the necessary action to build a strong and successful economy to support businesses, their employees and the community at large. That is what we will be looking for and championing. We encourage the community and its elected officials to do so as well.