

## Campaigns Intensify; Voting Starts in 10 Days

Written by Steve Frank  
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Ten days from today, early voting gets underway, and with national polls tightening in the presidential race, the intensity on all levels is rising. Major fundraising events for both Governor Romney and President Obama are raising cash for the push to get their message out for each side. One such event will be this Friday in the High Country, as NC native James Taylor performs at Westglow Spa in Blowing Rock. Co-owner Jamie Schaefer said Saturday that all the top level tickets were gone, but there were some \$1000 concert tickets and \$500 student tickets were available. That concert is 7pm this Friday.

On local races, the Boone Chamber of Commerce has its candidates forum tomorrow night at the Superior Courtroom, beginning at 5:30, with Candidates for NC Senate and House; at 6:30, candidates for Watauga County Commissioner; then at 7:30, Candidates for Watauga County Board of Education. 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 can participate, submitting written questions during the forum. All questions will come from the moderator. Each response will have a 1-minute time limit and each candidate will have a 2-minute closing statement. The chamber stressed that the forum is not intended to be a debate between candidates, but an opportunity for each candidate's position on topics to be aired. The forum will be broadcast live on WATA.

Voting in Watauga starts Thursday, October 18th at the Board of elections office in the courthouse, then at the ASU student union, beginning October 22nd., and then at the Foscoe Fire Department, beginning October 31st.

Avery and Ashe voters can cast ballots beginning October 18th at their board of elections offices.