

## Dobson Holds Town Hall in Banner Elk

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A cold, snowy night couldn't keep Avery County residents away from a Banner Elk Town Hall question and answer evening with NC House of Representative Josh Dobson, Thursday evening. Mr. Dobson, formerly a County Commissioner from McDowell County, was selected to fill the vacant District 85 seat in the NC House of Representatives after Mitchell Gillespie was appointed as an assistant secretary at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. 31 year old Josh Dobson received unanimous votes from the Republican Executive Committees in Mitchell, Avery and McDowell Counties. A native of McDowell County, he graduated from Avery County High School and attended Gardner-Webb University where he received a bachelor's degree, then went on to receive a master's degree from Appalachian State University. Dobson discussed issues and budget before inviting questions. He spoke about tax reform, voting for a flat rate tax and roundly stated we have a lower income tax rate than those around us. He was for repealing the Death tax and reducing corporate income tax in order to be competitive around the region. He is for the expanded sales tax and non-profits being reimbursed for sales tax, he is against taxing farm equipment and social security. He is for voter ID. He supports government initiative when it comes to education. He is for gun rights and is prolife. Dobson was 1 of 10 House Republicans to vote against the \$20.6 billion budget proposal. Once the floor was open for questions Dobson made his positions clear on preschool, smart start program, he is for it, preserving the quality of education and programs available at Community Colleges specifically praising Mayland Community College and he agreed to review Rural Transportation issues specifically Transportation Improvement Projects.