

Primaries to Determine Fall Ballot Slate

Written by Steve Frank
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It will definitely be an active political year, with multiple candidates for almost every open position, and a primary required for a number of races. Six candidates—four Democrats and two Republicans, including incumbent Virginia Foxx, are seeking her 5th district seat. Foxx faces fellow Republican Philip Gerard Doyle of Clemmons on the Republican side, William Clinton Stinson of Booneville, Gardenia Mae Henley of Winston-Salem, Michael Wayne Holleman of Wilkesboro, and Joshua Ethan Brannon of Vilas seeking the Democratic nomination. The 24th District Attorney race has three Republicans and no Democrats seeking to replace retiring Jerry Wilson, including Britt Springer of Boone, Seth Banks of Burnsville, and current Watauga Commission chair Nathan Miller seeking the seat. Eight candidates are seeking the three open seats on the Watauga Commission, including two seeking Miller's in district 5, Democrat Barbara Kinsey of Deep Gap, currently a Board of Education member, Republicans Jimmy Hodges and Allen Trivette of Boone, the latter two to face off in the primary. In district 4, Blowing Rock resident Larry Turnbow on the Democratic side facing incumbent Republican David Blust, while two Republicans filed for the District 3 nomination, Karen Lerch and Matt Klutz, both of Sugar Grove, seeking to unseat Democrat Billy Kennedy in the fall election, with a Democratic primary there. Then there are the 8 candidates for non-partisan Watauga Board of Education, Adam Trivette of Vilas, Kurt Michael, Joshua Kanoy, Ronald Holste, all of Boone, Jay Fenwick of Todd, Tiffany Christian of Boone, and Jason Cornett of Vilas, with only one incumbent, Ron Henries, of Deep Gap, seeking reelection. There are single candidates from each party for Watauga Sheriff, Randy Townsend on the Republican side, incumbent Len Hagaman on the Democratic side, and a single candidate period for Clerk of Superior Court, Democrat Diane Cornett Deal.

In state races, Lenoir banker Jim Sponenberg, a Democrat, will face incumbent Dan Soucek in the 45th Senate Race, while Democrat Sue Counts will take on Republican incumbent Jonathan Jordan for the 93rd House seat.