

On October 23, GoBlueRidge.net received the following editorial from Tommy Klutz, a candidate for the Blowing Rock Town Council. The letter concerns why Klutz did not attend the Blowing Rock Candidates Forum on October 22.

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.

Dear Editor and Citizens of Blowing Rock,

I am Tommy Klutz, a lifelong citizen of Blowing Rock and I am running for re- election to the Town Council.

I chose not to attend the Candidates Forum on October 22, because I honestly felt that this “social event,” had become much too politicized and frankly, too much “drama,” for what I felt a forum should be for a local election in a small, mountain town like Blowing Rock. One would think too see this forum event advertised over the past several weeks, that our small town was Charlotte, Raleigh, or another major city. In my opinion, the forums held in past years, were much more keeping with what Blowing Rock is, a very special mountain town. Yes, all candidates, including myself must and have answered questions about our town, and I, for one, will continue to do so on a daily basis. I feel this should be done in a more informal, friendly

manner. We, the candidates, have answered several different sets of questions on many issues, and these answers have been in all the newspapers, online, and are still there for everyone to read.

I have served on the Town Council for two terms, from 2005 until present. I have always encouraged and had the citizens and voters of Blowing Rock, to come by my business, have a cup of coffee with me and ask any questions or talk about any concerns they may have about our town, and what issues are most important to them.

Again, I feel that this is the way a small mountain town should handle a local election. I was born in Blowing Rock and have lived here my entire life- never leaving. Needless to say, I truly love my home town and care deeply about every issue that Blowing Rock faces now and in the future. I don't just care about an issue or problem when they come up in our monthly council meetings. I think about them on a daily basis and try to come up with what would be best for Blowing Rock and all who live here.

Once again, I am humbly and sincerely asking for your vote on November 5th, so I may continue to work for you on the plans and projects that we have started the past eight years in our town, such as the 321- widening, the new hospital, or the renovation of the American Legion Building. Last, but certainly not least, on my list, is the infrastructure and storm water issues that affect everyone who lives in Blowing Rock. Please call me anytime if you have any questions or concerns at 828- 295-3502, 828- 773- 7518, or 828- 414- 9171.

Sincerely,

Tommy Klutz

Current Town Councilman and Candidate for Re- Election

Letters to the editor of GoBlueRidge.net are welcome and may be submitted by emailing ashley@highcountryradio.net.