

## Election 2014; Great Interest in Mid-Term Filings

Written by Steve Frank  
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Filing began at noon today for 2014 elections, a midterm cycle that is already shaping up for some hotly contested races at the federal, state and local levels. So far, at least six Republicans have announced for the GOP nomination in an effort to unseat Democrat U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, including Thom Tillis, the speaker of the N.C. House; Dr. Greg Brannon, a physician from Cary; the Rev. Mark Harris, a Winston-Salem native; Heather Grant, a nurse practitioner from Wilkesboro; Ted Alexander, a former mayor of Shelby; and Dr. Edward Kryn of Clayton. A Democrat from Pender County, Will Stewart, has also announced his intentions to challenge Hagan.

U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, 5th District Republican congresswoman, has already announced that she is running for her sixth term in Congress, and the 12th Congressional District seat will also be up for grabs this year, vacated by Mel Watt when he was nominated by President Barack Obama to head the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

In the High Country, a number of candidates are lining up to replace retiring District Attorney Jerry Wilson, including ADA Britt Springer, former ADA Seth Banks, with current Watauga Commission chair Nathan Miller also forming an exploratory committee. Miller's seat and those of fellow Republican David Blust and Democrat Billy Kennedy are on the ballot. The Watauga Board of Education has three seats up for grabs, those currently held by chairman Lee Warren as well as those occupied by Ron Henries and Delora Hodges. Also on Watauga ballot will be Watauga Sheriff, held by Len Hagaman, Clerk of Superior Court, held by Diane Cornett Deal. State offices from the area are also up for grabs, both State Senator Dan Soucek's 93rd senate seat and the 45th house seat of John Jordan.

Those filing early at the Board of Elections just after noon:

Diane Deal, Democrat, for Clerk of Superior Court  
Sue Counts, Democrat, for N.C. House District 93  
Joshua Brannon, Democrat, for N.C. Senate District 45  
L.D. Hagaman, Democrat, for Watauga County Sheriff  
Randy Townsend, Republican, for Watauga County Sheriff  
Billy Kennedy, Democrat, for Watauga Commissioners District 3  
David Blust, Watauga Commission District 4  
Barbara Kinsey, Democrat, for Watauga Commissioners District 5  
Allen Trivette, Republican, for Watauga Commissioners District 5  
Tiffany Christian, for Watauga County Board of Education  
Ronald Eugene Holste, Watauga County Board of Education