

Ashe County Republican Party Candidate Forum

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

The Ashe County Republican Party will be hosting a Candidate Forum for all Republican candidates running for local offices. This moderated forum will take place on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the large courtroom at the Ashe County Courthouse.

The Ashe County Republican Party cordially invites and urges you to participate in this Forum and to address your constituents prior to the Primary Election.

Participating candidates are requested to submit responses to the attached Candidate Questionnaire. These submissions will be compiled into a booklet and distributed to all attendees, allowing you to maximize the time allotted for your oral comments during the forum. If no response is received by the due date below, the booklet will indicate that the candidate did not submit responses. To put all candidates in the best light possible, the Ashe County GOP reserves the right to edit responses ONLY for grammatical and typographical corrections, and to preserve the requested length of responses.

- Names are as printed on the official Ashe County Sample Ballot available at <https://nmcdn.io/e186d21f8c7946a19faed23c3da2f0da/9daed2ecce2a4df2845caa12db947e3d/files/Republican-Primary-sample-Ballot-2026.pdf>
- Candidates are in order as printed on the official Ashe County Sample Ballot.
- Only candidates who responded by the specified deadline have printed question responses presented below.

Ashe County Board of Commissioners	
Mike Eldreth	
1. My name is Mike Eldreth, I am a life-long resident of Ashe County and blessed to live in a county with such wonderful people. I am married to Dianne Blevins, we have three children and three grandchildren. You cannot get too many grand kids and would be happy to have many more. I went to Northwest Ashe for those who remember when we had three good high schools and graduated from Appalachian State University with a BS degree in Education, majoring in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. The BS degree	3. We have many issues and problems we need to address as commissioners. We are in great need of a homeless shelter. All people should have a warm place to lay their head at night. Affordable housing is a big issue for our county, as rich people are driving up the price of houses making it impossible for two young people to live here. Our young people are leaving Ashe County, looking for a place they can afford to live. We need more day care as we have several hundred children on a waiting list needing day care. I am in

<p>could be seen in different ways I suppose. I am a simple person, common as dirt and very conservative. I enjoy the time I have with my family and watching Dodger Baseball.</p> <p>2. It has been an honor and privilege being a commissioner the past four years, one that I take very seriously. I would like to continue to serve and help develop the long range plans the commissioners have in place. I have acquired lots of experience about how government works, learning about policies and procedures which will serve me well if elected to another term. I have developed patience realizing how long it takes to accomplish things at the county level. We simply cannot just build something without many procedures taking place which requires lots of patience. I have acquired experience which is invaluable to have as a commissioner.</p>	<p>favor of a YMCA, but oppose tearing down a day care and adding it on to a 70-year-old building. I am in favor of a separate new facility like Watauga County has and located closer to the center of the county where more people can use it. I always say that we will not find a solution unless we look for one.</p> <p>4. I said earlier that I am conservative and do not believe in wasting money. Even if they are worthless, I will stop and pick up a penny when I see one. I look at spending money as if it is coming out of my pocket because some of it is. There are many projects that we must fund such as the landfill which we have no other choice. The projects that we look at should be evaluated and looked at closely, trying to make good decisions about how they are funded. In closing, I think we need to ask only one question when making a decision and that is "What is the best thing we can do for all the people of Ashe County", if we do that we will never make a bad decision. Thank you for your time and may God Bless!!!</p>
<p>Derek Calhoun</p>	
<p>No response received by deadline.</p>	
<p>Jerry D. Powers</p>	
<p>1. Tell us a little about yourself. (200 words)</p> <p>Born in Ashe County and lived here all but 22 months of my life.</p> <p>Currently serving in my 10th year as a County Commissioner, from Dec. 1990 til today.</p> <p>2. Why do you want to be an Ashe County Commissioner? What qualifications make you a good choice?</p> <p>If you don't like the way things are done, do it yourself. Being a product of our county education system, seeing how important our understanding of life in Ashe County is to a candidate.</p> <p>Having made a living as a janitor, factory worker, farm worker, and providing products to other farmers in several other states.</p>	<p>3. What are some issues facing Ashe County that the Board of Commissioners can address?</p> <p>Taxes are the one thing that affects every citizen in Ashe County, some by paying and some by benefitting from what others pay.</p> <p>Industry is key to being able for most people to get ahead in life.</p> <p>As a commissioner we are the go-between on behalf of the citizens and state and federal governments.</p> <p>4. What is your philosophy regarding making decisions for the county using taxpayer money?</p> <p>As a commissioner, we must provide county-wide services that could never be provided individually. These include Emergency Medical Services, Law</p>

	<p>Enforcement Services and Welfare Services, to protect out most vulnerable, especially children.</p> <p>Sometimes these services mee with disapproval, until it is your turn to be in need of these services.</p>
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Todd A. McNeill

<p>1. Tell us a little about yourself.</p> <p>- My name is Todd McNeill, and I am a proud Ashe County native and lifelong resident, except for time away at school and two unfortunate years of youthful ignorance when I thought the bright lights and big city might be a good idea. I learned quickly that nothing compares to home.</p> <p>My wife, Maggie, is a nurse, and together we are raising our five children Henry, Libby Jean, Sarah Lane, Beau, and Will in the Grassy Creek community along Helton Creek. We are blessed to raise our family here, with our kids running the woods and fields, fishing and swimming in the creek, and growing up in a close knit, rural community.</p> <p>I come from an agricultural family, and those roots taught me the value of hard work, stewardship of the land, and taking care of your neighbors. I am a graduate of Ashe County High School and Appalachian State University, and these hills and the people who call them home are what shaped who I am.</p> <p>In my professional life, I serve as Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments, working with local governments across North Carolina to help deliver state and federal programs in ways that meet local needs. That experience reinforces my belief that effective government is practical, accountable, and rooted in the communities it serves.</p> <p>2. Why do you want to be an Ashe County Commissioner? What qualifications make you a good choice?</p>	<p>3. What are some issues facing Ashe County that the Board of Commissioners can address?</p> <p>-One of the strengths of local government is that it allows us to focus on issues close to home rather than the divisive debates often seen in Washington and Raleigh. County commissioners are responsible for ensuring essential services like law enforcement, fire protection, EMS, trash and recycling, public schools, parks and recreation, and outdoor amenities are delivered reliably and responsibly.</p> <p>Housing affordability is one of the most significant challenges facing Ashe County. While county government does not control the housing market or home prices, that does not mean we should be complacent. This is a complex issue with no single solution and is not unique to Ashe County. It is important that we remain engaged in regional and statewide conversations so we can stay informed about new and innovative approaches that may help local families and our workforce.</p> <p>Public safety is another critical issue, particularly as Ashe County begins the process of establishing its first county operated ambulance EMS service after our longtime provider, Ashe Medics, notified the county that it will not be renewing its contract. When someone dials 911 during the worst moments of life, we must be prepared, well equipped, and ready to deliver the best possible care.</p> <p>It is also imperative that commissioners stay engaged with our schools and community college partners, support workforce development, and approach growth with care and common sense. By working closely with state parks and</p>
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<p>- I want to continue serving as an Ashe County Commissioner because this is home, and I care deeply about the future we are building for our families, our children, and the generations that will follow. Growing up here, raising my own family here, and working alongside people across this county has given me a deep appreciation for what makes Ashe County special and what it takes to protect it.</p> <p>I have served as a County Commissioner since January 2018 and am proud to have been selected by my colleagues to serve as Chair eight consecutive times. I believe that reflects a track record of trust, teamwork, and collaboration with a board made up of many different personalities and perspectives over the years.</p> <p>Beyond the county level, I am in my sixth year serving on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. In 2024, I was elected by my peers statewide to serve as an officer and currently serve as First Vice President. Pending reelection, I will be sworn in as President in 2027, becoming the first ever state president from the seven-county High Country region.</p> <p>Having a seat at the table matters. Over my eight years of service, I have made advocacy for Ashe County a priority, building strong relationships with legislators and state leaders. Through consistent engagement and representation, I have helped bring millions of dollars in state investments back to Ashe County for critical projects. Experience in advocacy ensures our community continues to receive the attention and resources it deserves.</p>	<p>conservation partners, encouraging responsible land use, and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, we can protect the character of Ashe County and ensure it never becomes the next Gatlinburg.</p> <p>4. What is your philosophy regarding making decisions for the county using taxpayer money?</p> <p>- My philosophy on using taxpayer dollars starts with a simple responsibility: county government exists to provide essential services that maintain a high quality of life in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. As commissioners, our most basic fiduciary duty is to be careful stewards of public funds and to remember that every dollar we spend belongs to our neighbors.</p> <p>Ashe County is a small, rural community, and we do not have the resources or tax base of larger counties. That reality requires discipline, prioritization, and a clear focus on what matters most. County government is responsible for funding services people rely on during life's toughest moments, including law enforcement, fire protection, and EMS. We are also tasked with supporting less glamorous but absolutely critical services like trash and recycling centers, a county-owned landfill, and core infrastructure that keeps our community functioning.</p> <p>In addition, we must make strategic investments in our schools, community college, and parks and recreation to support our youth, workforce, and overall health of the community. Ashe County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax rates in North Carolina, and balancing essential services while minimizing the tax burden is a responsibility I take seriously every day.</p>
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<p>Ashe County Board of Education</p>	
<p>Dianne Eldreth</p>	
<p>1. A native of Ashe County, I returned to Ashe to teach in the Exceptional Children's Program after graduation from the University of North Carolina</p>	<p>3. One of the biggest issues facing Ashe County Schools is the dwindling of financial support from our state department. The school voucher</p>

at Chapel Hill and have been involved with education ever since. My husband, Mike, and I live in Lansing where we raised our three children. Giving back to the community has always been a priority. My husband and I created an early elementary basketball program, Mighty Mites, coached high school softball, and after thirty-four years, are still running Ashe Youth League Soccer among other things. Some of my most cherished days revolve around the kids that were in my youth group and other church activities over the years. For the last twenty-four years, I have been honored to chair Project Graduation, a drug free, alcohol-free all-night celebration for our high school graduates and their guests. I am very passionate about PG and keeping our kids safe. I have not done any of these things in isolation, but all have relied on working together with our community volunteers. I have always believed, and found to be true, that when our community works together, we can accomplish anything.

2. I have served on the Board of Education (BOE) since 2018. I ran for election because I wanted to use my experience and concern for Ashe County students and teachers to help make decisions that would be in their best interests. I obtained my Master's degree from App State and was one of the first teachers in Ashe to receive my National Board Certification. During my 35 years of working for Ashe County Schools, I taught in Exceptional Children in grades kindergarten through the high school. I also taught in the Gifted program and regular classes 4-9 grade. The experience of having taught in grades all the way from kindergarten through high school and from our most needy kids to our highest flyers has given me a unique perspective about what our needs are and what really works in our schools. I think I still have much to offer here.

program is diverting funds from our smaller rural systems to private schools who do not have to follow the same rules. We have several mandates from the state department but do not provide the financial means to implement them. Our commissioners have been very supportive of Ashe County Schools but don't have the funds of larger counties. Closely related is that in April of 2025, North Carolina was ranked 43 in the nation for average teacher salary. Keep in mind that this number is an average where many salaries are below that average and that our experienced teachers do not advance far on the pay scales. Teachers are making even less because of increases in health insurance while waiting on a budget. As a result, we do not have college students majoring in education. Another issue is preparing our students for the real world of work. Our current system is heavily focused on one size fits all standardized testing instead of focusing on critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills needed for the work force.

4. Making decisions as part of the school board has kept me up many nights over the last seven years. I try to make all decisions concerning our schools through the lens of "what's best for our kids." It's interesting that families are included in this question because yes, we need to do what's best for families in order to do what's best for kids. In order to determine what that looks like, I do my homework. I read articles about the topics. I talk to educators outside our system to see what they are doing. I contact the experts at our state office. I talk to teachers who work daily with our students and parents who are advocating for their students. I ask questions, lots of questions. One of the major things our board is doing right now is reviewing our board policies. These policies are guidelines to make sure that we are all on the same page when situations arise. Policies are our road map; how we are to navigate. Having strong policies help guide decisions, so we need to take these revisions very seriously and make sure they reflect how we need Ashe County Schools to operate.

Wes Calbreath

1. Tell us a little about yourself. (No more than 200 words)

I have worked 5+ years in the business world and 26 years in education. My business experience was in management and private security, while my educational experience spanned grades K-12 across a variety of positions in urban and rural schools. I've taught mostly middle school with a year or two of elementary experience. I've worked as a behavior specialist in an urban district and as a school counselor in elementary, middle, and high schools, both rural and urban. I currently work for GEAR UP, which supports Ashe County schools. I have extensive experience in protecting personal safety, backed by solid training in martial arts, apprehension training, and non-violent crisis intervention. I also have a non-profit, called Blizzard Bundles of the High Country, which provides winter clothing items to children locally. I enjoy playing drums in our Praise Band at church, and love outdoor activities like fishing, target shooting, and splitting wood. I am married and have four grown children with one grandbaby (so far).

2. Why do you want to be a member of the Ashe County Board of Education? What qualifications make you a good choice? (No more than 200 words)

I want to be on the Ashe County Board because I want to see Ashe County take its rightful place among the state's top five school districts. I have experience overcoming most challenges that school districts face, including academics, safety, mental health, school improvement processes, professional development, and effective budget use. I want to protect both the financial and talent assets we have and make sure we don't run into some of the financial shortfalls that other neighboring districts have had. I believe in strong fiscal management and making sure we get a "return on investment" when we spend taxpayer dollars, while also supporting teaching faculty so they can do the best job possible. They hold the future in their hands and need our support to

3. What are some issues facing Ashe County Schools that the Board of Education can address? (No more than 200 words)

The school board should work collaboratively with the community and the school to help students have the best possible lives after school. This means a strong focus on academic and workplace skills. Financially speaking, we have to make wise funding decisions to make sure we get a solid return on investment of the dollars we spend. Educationally speaking, we need to engage in problem-solving discussions in a way that does the most good for the most students and avoids collateral damage. That means careful consideration of all sides of an issue. We need to make decisions based on facts. We need practices that are tried and true, not just in one person's mind, but that have a track record of measurable success in multiple settings. We need to do a strong job of teaching students to read for information. Whatever career our students will enter, they will need that skill. Blueprints, safety manuals, tax and loan forms, news material, and medical information are all types of informational text that we need students to be able to read and comprehend: not just for good test scores, but for life.

4. What is your philosophy regarding making educational decisions for our county's students and families? (No more than 200 words)

When making any educational decision, we have to weigh multiple variables simultaneously. We have to follow set policies, curriculum standards, and laws. That's the easy part. The hard part is looking at both research and experience and thinking beyond what's always been done. We have to be brave and relentlessly pursue excellence, while remaining cautious and certain that what we do will yield the outcomes we want. We have to consider how any change will impact students, staff, parents, and educational outcomes, and we have to make sure we don't help one thing by hurting another. We also have to dig deeper than "policy" and ask, "How can we

<p>guide our communities' children into becoming amazing adults. Ultimately, I want students to enjoy school, love learning, and be proud of where they're from and their school.</p>	<p>follow policies and laws while still taking into consideration the values of our community? How do we improve outcomes for our students without stifling creativity and while being compliant with state mandates?"</p>
<p>Janet Ward Email: Ward4schoolboard@gmail.com Phone: 828-962-9056</p>	
<p>1. I am Janet Ward and was first elected to the Ashe County Board of Election in 2022. I have a bachelor's from ECU and a master's from App State.</p> <p>I am a retired high school teacher mainly teaching Family and Consumer Science (Home Economics). In the course of my career, I have also been a substitute teacher, K-1 teacher's aide, and received National Board Certification, for 6 years, I oversaw a stand-alone culinary arts program serving the public a lunch buffet 2 days a week. I was the only staff overseeing the program. I was awarded the Christa McAuliffe National fellowship which led to my developing a Food Science curriculum, workshops to train teachers in teaching the subject and eventually writing the textbook "Principles of Food Science", all the teacher support material, and the student lab manual. I received a Carl Perkins grant to train teachers in NC and WV on how to teach the subject in a FCS classroom and a second Perkins grant to teach Food Science on the NC Information Highway. I was involved in developing foods & nutrition, advanced foods, culinary arts, financial education curriculum, state tests, and conducted teacher training at the state and national levels.</p> <p>2. I am currently serving on our Board of Education and have found my wide array of experiences in the field of education have provided background and experiences that have been beneficial to the decisions faced by the Ashe County Board of Education. Training in interior design and drafting have been helpful in evaluating needs for the new middle school. My vast experience in education has been helpful as</p>	<p>3. An important ongoing issue is updating the entire Ashe County Board of Education policies. These policies cover guidelines and legal requirements for every level of staff and students, as well as procedures for every situation schools may face. In the spring we were fortunate to recognize the need for controlling phone and media access during instruction time. Our solution of "Yondr" pouches for all high school and early college students necessitated approving funding and developing policies that defined procedures for media use at school. This summer NC legislators passed a bill on July 1st which mandates that public schools implement policies restricting student use of cell phones and other wireless communication devices effective January, 2026. Fortunately, this put us ahead of most of NC in reaping the benefit of this new law. Another issue we are facing is the wide array of decisions that must be made during the course of a large building project like our new middle school. Board members need to research options, evaluate safety and financial concerns for each decision.</p> <p>4. It is our legal and financial responsibility to stay within the budget provided by the state and county commissioners' guidelines. All decisions must balance cost benefit for all employees and students. Our citizens work hard for their money and the Board of Education needs to ensure monies spent will provide the maximum benefit for all students. As in any home, we have facilities to maintain and repair. Our maintenance director is preparing a new 5-year plan for expected maintenance and equipment replacement. Hellene revealed the value of planning for the unexpected. A portion of the</p>

<p>the board has been evaluating and updating policies that determine every aspect of the functions and procedures of our school system. I have served on a state think tank, FCS state executive committee and bylaws committee, national FCS program planning committee, Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte Advisory board, Ashe county's Agriculture advisory committee, and oversaw the planning of my professional association's national meeting. I know first-hand the value of the support administrators and staff can provide to assist teachers be the best they can be so they can help every student become the best they can be.</p>	<p>budget is set aside for the unexpected. When services are not funded (i.e. teacher's aides, mental counselors, in house employee training, and vice principals at every school) our county directors and teachers search for and find relevant grant monies they can apply for. Board members must evaluate and approve budgets, large budget expenses such as transportation vehicles, and grants to name a few.</p>
<p>Shane E. Little</p>	
<p>No response received by deadline.</p>	

<p>Ashe County Sheriff</p>	
<p>Earl Cox</p>	
<p>No response received by deadline.</p>	
<p>Brandon Shepherd</p>	
<p>No response received by deadline.</p>	
<p>B. Phil Howell</p>	
<p>1. Tell us a little about yourself. (200 words)</p> <p>My family and faith come first, always have, always will. I was born and raised in Ashe County, where I attended Beaver Creek, Ashe County High School before earning my degree from NC State University in 2006. I have dedicated the past 20 years of my life to law enforcement and public service. I attended Wake Technical Community College, where I received my law enforcement certification alongside my wife, Amanda, who was serving as an SBI Agent at the time. I began my career in 2006 as a State Park Ranger, and in 2010 I returned home to Ashe County to serve as an undercover Narcotics Detective with the Sheriff's Office. In 2014, I transferred to Patrol, and in 2015 I was promoted to Director of 911 Dispatch, where I served for three years. In 2018, I was honored to be elected Sheriff and was sworn in on December 1st of that year.</p>	<p>3. What are some issues facing the Ashe County Sheriff's Office that you can address? (197 words)</p> <p>One of the most important issues facing the Sheriff's Office is ensuring our staff are paid competitively. Since taking office, we have made meaningful progress in improving salaries, but we still face challenges. Many surrounding agencies offer pay that is \$10,000 to \$30,000 higher than ours, making recruitment and retention difficult. Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires long hours, exposure to dangerous drug and domestic situations, and constant legal and emotional pressure. Our deputies and staff deserve compensation that reflects the value and difficulty of their service. Another critical need is staffing. Each year, we request additional positions to strengthen patrol, supervision, and specialized functions, but those requests are not always approved. Some shifts</p>

<p>For the past eight years, I have had the privilege of leading the Ashe County Sheriff's Office alongside an outstanding and dedicated staff. While I am proud of my career, my greatest pride is my family, my wife, Amanda, and our three daughters, Emma, Norah & Adi.</p> <p>2. Why do you want to be Ashe County Sheriff? What qualifications make you a good choice? (198 words)</p> <p>Serving as Ashe County Sheriff for the past two terms has been one of the greatest honors of my life. My passion comes from a genuine desire to help people, especially during their most difficult moments. Throughout my career, I have always made it a priority to check on victims and families after incidents, ensuring they knew someone cared and that they were not facing hardship alone.</p> <p>The Office of Sheriff is unique because it is chosen by the people, and I have always believed that accountability to the citizens is essential. My commitment to Ashe County began in 2010 as an undercover narcotics detective, where I worked countless felony drug cases and helped remove dangerous drugs from our streets. I later served three years as 911 Director, where I modernized our systems, created a backup center, and improved our emergency response capabilities.</p> <p>For the past seven years as Sheriff, I focused on strengthening community relationships, hosting over 50 community events, and maintaining aggressive drug enforcement efforts. These efforts led to the largest drug case in Ashe County's history. Above all, my service has always been driven by deep care and commitment to the people of Ashe County.</p>	<p>operate with minimal personnel, and unexpected events such as transports, illness, family leave, or training can quickly strain our coverage and impact response times.</p> <p>To address these challenges, we have consistently advocated for higher pay, additional staffing, and incentive programs. We have attempted to gain night shift differential pay, advanced certification pay, SERT pay, and bilingual incentives. My goal is to continue building a strong, supported workforce so we can provide the highest level of service and protection to Ashe County.</p> <p>4. What is your philosophy regarding making decisions for the safety and wellbeing of our county's citizens? (200 words)</p> <p>My philosophy for making decisions that affect the safety and wellbeing of our county's citizens is grounded in service, perspective, and teamwork. I do not rely solely on my own viewpoint, because one perspective alone does not always represent what is best for the majority. My duty is to consider the needs of the entire community. I begin by listening to my staff. They are not only deputies, detention officers, dispatchers, and employees, but also citizens who live, work, and raise families here. Their insight is invaluable because they serve on the front lines and understand the real impact of our decisions. I encourage open communication and welcome their thoughts, concerns, and solutions.</p> <p>By gathering input, I carefully evaluate options and consider how each decision affects our citizens, staff, and county. My goal is to make fair, thoughtful decisions that prioritize safety, strengthen trust, and serve Ashe County with integrity. I am proud to serve the people who entrusted me with this responsibility.</p> <p>As Sheriff, I understand our office reflects our community's values. Every decision must balance fairness, accountability, and safety. I will continue listening, learning, and leading with transparency and commitment to every citizen and family we serve.</p>
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Ashe County Register of Deeds (Unopposed)	
Elizabeth Miller Brooke	
<p>1. Tell us a little about yourself. (No more than 200 words)</p> <p>Hello. My name is Beth Brooke. I'm married to my husband Glenn. We have 3 kids, 4 grandkids, and a fur baby named Mopsy. BiBi is my favorite name, whom my grandkids call me. So just remember my initials "BB" and you will remember me. I reside in Glendale Springs and have been a resident of Ashe County for 35 years. I was born and raised in Wilkes County. I am a lifetime Republican. I am an active member of Calvary Free Will Baptist Church. In my free time, I enjoy crafting, baking, and being outdoors.</p> <p>2. Why do you want to be in this position? What qualifications make you a good choice? (No more than 200 words)</p> <p>I want to be the Register of Deeds because I am passionate of my work and the difference, I will make with holding this important title in serving the citizens of Ashe County. I am a strong candidate because I have the knowledge, experience, and skill to operate the office in a manner required by state law. I will continue to follow along with the NC State legislative office to keep informed of any upcoming changes. I am dependable, detail oriented, and genuinely care about my job. I take feedback seriously and put in effort to improve and support the team and community. I currently work in the office as a certified Deputy, obtaining my certification from the UNC School of Government.</p>	<p>3. What are some issues facing Ashe County that you will address? (No more than 200 words)</p> <p>Property Fraud is a big issue throughout the country. Not particularly in Ashe County, but I'm sure it's coming soon. The NCARD Legislative Committee is working together to find a better solution to the property fraud issue at hand. I plan on being an active part of the association once I become Register of Deeds. We do have property notifications that an individual can sign up for on our website. Under my leadership, I plan to implement e-recording of Plats. I believe this will be a great asset for the surveyors in the county.</p> <p>4. What is your philosophy regarding how you will manage the office you are seeking? (No more than 200 words)</p> <p>I am fully devoted to my job. I will strive to work hard to keep the Register of Deeds office one of the most efficient and well-ran offices in the state of NC. An office Ashe County can be proud of. Communication, organization, and work ethics are necessary. Teamwork is very important and I will make sure my employees enjoy coming to work and working together.</p> <p>I am honored to have the current Register of Deeds, Deaett Roten, to endorse me. She's been a great mentor to me. I am ready to take on this new role and would appreciate your vote for the Ashe County office of Register of Deeds.</p>

Ashe County Clerk of Superior Court (Unopposed)	
Sherman Myers Lee	
Candidate declined to provide statement, citing intention to focus on races on the primary ballot.	