

Haywood County Board of Education, Clyde District replacing Jimmy Rogers

Candidate	Terry Ramey	James Robertson	√ Myra Watson
General information	Haywood County native. Age 72. Current Haywood County Commissioner who lost re-election bid. Retired from Dayco and has been in the towing business since 1980. Has son and grandson in school. No website.	Haywood County native. Certified Tax Collector at Town of Waynesville for 30 years (Mountaineer). Pastor, teacher, and founder of James Robertson Ministries. Has a PhD from Tennessee Temple in Organizational Leadership and an MBA from Liberty University (LinkedIn). Had kids in public schools. Professional website: jamesrobertsonministries.com/f/a-heart-of-gratitude	Haywood County native. She obtained a bachelor's, a master's, and a doctorate degree from Western Carolina University, all relating to education. Over the last 15 years, she has worked at WCU as director of teacher and professional education and as an assistant professor in birth-to-kindergarten education. Has 2 daughters in the public school system. Faculty website: wcu.edu/faculty/mkwatson.aspx
An economy for all?	Opposed to raising taxes, urged taxes be reduced through greater accountability in county government. He did not pay his own taxes for 15 years. Opposed state building regulations, tried to circumvent them in 2024, rebuked by the Haywood County commissioners (<i>Smoky Mountain News</i>).	No information found.	Wants to raise teacher salaries to recruit and retain talent in Haywood County; "To work alongside government entities to ensure ... system receives the funding it needs and can pay its staff what they deserve. (<i>Mountaineer</i>)
Healthcare for all?	Ramey opposed COVID-19 vaccine grant for the county in 2023; agreed to it with wording that health department wouldn't promote the vaccine with federal funds. (<i>Smoky Mountain News</i>)	No information found.	No information found.
Childcare and Quality K-12 education?	Conservative, family-values perspective: "Ramey's commitment to Christian conservative principles guides his approach to governance. He respects the traditions and values that many residents hold dear and works to protect them through his decisions. This means supporting policies that strengthen families, promote community well-being, and preserve Haywood County's cultural heritage." (LTE in <i>Smoky Mountain News</i>).	Former part-time teacher at Southwestern Community College and Haywood Community College. As a former tax collector: "knows his way around a budget" (<i>Mountaineer</i>) Wants to preserve "high-ranking" of school system. Welcomes conversations with stakeholders. (Facebook)	Brings perspective of university educator, parent of two daughters in school system, and elementary classroom teacher. Retain veteran teachers. Solidify school funding. Pay staff competitively. As parent, recognizes importance of extracurriculars. Brings educator's perspective to the board: "We work toward incentivizing teachers to stay in Haywood County, fairly compensated and competitive with neighboring districts. (<i>Mountaineer</i>)
Fair and accessible elections?	No information found.	No information found.	No information found.
A healthy planet?	No information found.	No information found.	No information found.

