

Haywood County Sheriff Election currently held by Sheriff Bill Wilke

Candidate	✓ Tyler Howell	Mark Mease
General information	Democrat. 18-year veteran law enforcement professional with Waynesville Police Department. Served as Community Policing Officer and in a Tactical Anti-Crime Unit for 10 years focused on street-level drug interdiction, wanted persons, high-risk traffic stops, and warrant service. Previously recognized as "Detective of the Year." Website: https://howellforhaywood.com/	Republican. Haywood County native. Narcotics investigator with the Cherokee Indian Police Department. Mease worked 24 years in law enforcement, narcotics investigation and supervision. He retired as patrol captain in 2023 when Sheriff Bill Wilke took office. Website: https://www.markmeasesheriff2026.com/
An economy for all?	No information found for Howell.	No information found for Mease.
Healthcare for all?	Howell values addressing mental health: "You're not going to jail an addiction out of somebody. You're not going to jail a mental illness out of somebody. ... but there needs to be other avenues for recovery, ... we don't have much of in Haywood County." (<i>Mountaineer</i>) Also wants to support staff through wellness programs and training, ensuring excellence in service (<i>Mountain Xpress</i>).	Mease supports "aggressive drug enforcement." Increasing drug canine units, expanding visible presence in communities, partnering with community health resources for prevention and treatment (candidate website).
Childcare and Quality K-12 education?	Howell favors community outreach and youth education. He worked in community policing. As a Juvenile Officer, he engaged directly with local schools, churches, and civic groups to protect and educate our youth through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program which teaches the dangers and effects of drugs and alcohol on the body and how to resist peer pressure. (Facebook: Waynesville News, candidate website).	Mease prioritizes school safety and preventing child abuse. Supports investing in continued education and training for School Resource Officers. Plans to strengthen relationships with police departments in the county so Haywood County Schools are safe (Instagram): "We can continue to stand up for our children and ensure they grow up safe, supported, and surrounded by people who care." (Facebook). Mease also wants to re-establish the Sheriff's Summer Camp and the Sheriff's Office Explorer program for teens to explore law enforcement careers (candidate website).
Fair and accessible Elections?	No information found for Howell.	No information found for Mease.
A healthy planet?	No information found for Howell.	No information found for Mease.