

## **Craig S. Messer for Haywood County**

### **School Board Chairman**



Greetings,

My name is Craig Messer and I am running for the Haywood County School Board Chairman position. I am running against Chuck Francis, a democrat who has been on the school board for 16 years. The past two elections he has ran unopposed but it's clearly time for him to go.

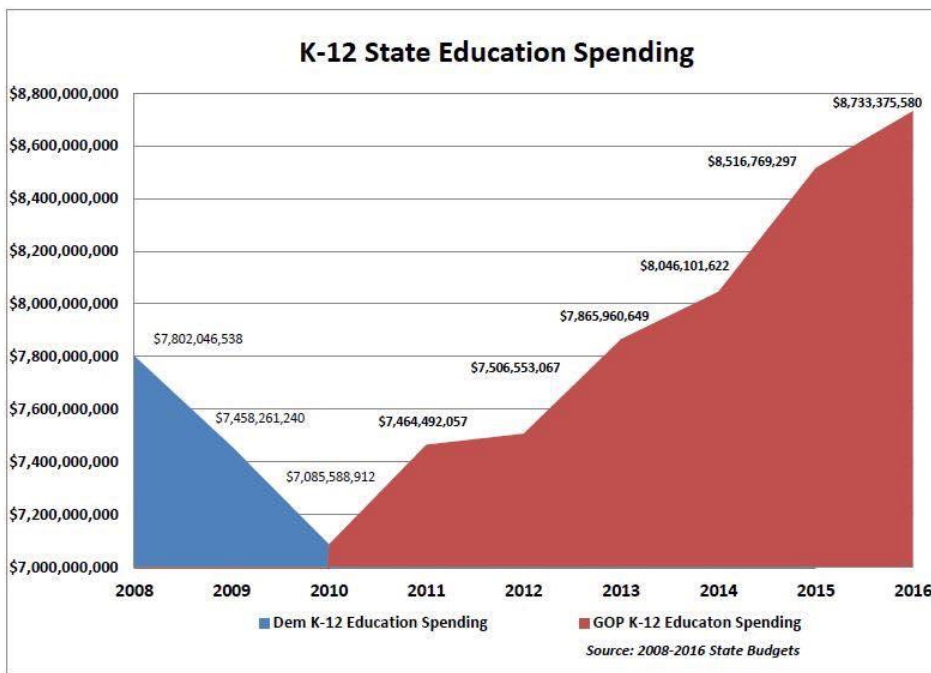
#### **A Little About Me**

I am 25 years old (but will be 26 on Election Day). I am a Christian Conservative who lets Biblical principles guide my views. I am a 2008 graduate of Pisgah High School, and hold an associates degree in Applied Science in Entrepreneurship from Haywood Community College. I also attended East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN where I took Business Administration. I will be getting married on October 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year, and I cannot wait. I attend Riverside Baptist Church where I stay as active as I can; I taught VBS and attended mission trips this year. I ran for School Board in the Bethel

district in 2014 and garnered over 3,000 votes in a three way race. As a business school graduate I decided to work alongside my father who owns a small business manufacturing poplar bark house siding.

### Why I'm Running

I am running for school board because I feel we have reached a point in our county and our schools that we must have a change in leadership for both of them to prosper. Our school board is closing schools while claiming "Raleigh isn't giving enough funding to help keep them open, yet during the democrats reign over our state the budget and pay was much less and we didn't hear any complaints. In fact, the Republicans have increased school spending, as this graph shows.



Clearly, something else is at work here, and if elected I plan to get to the bottom of these issues. In mid-July it was announced that 15 teachers were leaving Haywood County for positions in Buncombe because of higher pay. How exactly can Buncombe County,

which gets funding from the state the same as Haywood, pay more? We were told that we keep losing teachers to Tennessee and South Carolina but the majority of movement comes across county lines. How can we expect to teach our students when we can't keep quality teachers here? Also, the County Commissioners do supplement the school system with money, but they use a funding formula that is broken. While its been reported that our schools have students that are literally homeless, our commissioners, instead of helping out with things that matter, have decided to build a 3 MILLION dollar animal shelter. If elected I will push the commissioners to support things that actually matter and make a difference down the road.

### **How you can help**

This will not be an easy race! While it is clear to us that a change is needed, Chuck Francis is well known and popular with many crowds. I will need as much help as I can get. I will be getting signs printed up and will need help distributing. I am seeking poll workers for early voting and Election Day, and I plan to canvas as much area as I can. I have gotten palm cards printed up and if you would like to have some to hand out I would be more than happy to meet you and give you some. I also have a Facebook page that you can look me up on and I will answer any question you may have through that, or by email. The Facebook is [www.facebook.com/messersmith2016](http://www.facebook.com/messersmith2016) and my email is [craigmesser18@yahoo.com](mailto:craigmesser18@yahoo.com). You may call me if you would like but I have very bad cell service at home and it tends to take me some time to get back on calls, but my number is 828-400-2343. Lastly I need to raise money to beat Chuck. Im not the type of person that wants to ask for money but it is needed this election. You can donate up to \$50 cash a day or a check for any amount. No amount is too small! I will accept anything you would like

to give, even if it's only \$1. If you do choose to donate some money you can send it in the mail to Craig Messer, 400 Indian Springs Rd Canton NC 28716. If you would like to meet in person and give it to me or just to ask more questions, you can reach me at any of the outlets listed above. Also if you donate please include your name, address, phone number and occupation.

### **In Closing**

Lastly I know that many people in Haywood County are worried about the state of our schools and so am I. While I know I don't have all the answers I believe that with prayer and my conservative beliefs I can add something others can't. With your help we can turn things around. I humbly ask for your support and help headed toward November 8<sup>th</sup> and most importantly your vote!

Thank you and God Bless,

Craig S. Messer

School Board Chairman Candidate