

FORUM

# 'I am the best person to beat Virginia Foxx'

**CHARLIE WALLIN**

Guest Columnist

Many in Winston-Salem are still stinging over the loss of Alma Adams as your representative and having her

replaced with Virginia Foxx. I want you to know that I am the best person to beat Virginia Foxx in November and continue the work that Alma Adams started.

There are serious issues to be dealt with in Washington, and I believe that she is out of touch with the people of this District. We need someone who knows what it is like to work 40-plus hours a week and try and make ends meet and provide for a family. We need an everyday person who represents the hard working people of this District, and the only person in this race that fits that description is me.

Our district has the highest rate of poverty in the state, and because of that, we also have the highest rate of children going to bed hungry. I want to make sure that our children are fed. I want to stimulate the economy in a way that brings real living wage jobs back to this District. Poverty is a real issue not only in this state but especially in this District. Winston-Salem is now the most poverty stricken city in North Carolina. Wilkes County has almost 50 percent of its children who qualify for free or reduced meals at school. In a nut shell, we have serious problems in the real wages we are paying people in this country. We have to work with leaders in Winston-Salem and Wilkes and other cities in the District to recruit not just industry and jobs but real wage jobs from companies who are going to invest in the long-term future of the cities and districts.

I want to make education more affordable and keep student loan rates under control. We need to be investing in our children and setting them up to succeed and

not fail. Graduation rates in the county are slowly beginning to rise, but reading at grade level in the lower grades is faltering. There is still a big disparity in closing the achievement gap between African-American and white children. When elected to Congress, I will work to get schools the help they need without interfering with the local school boards and their ability to teach as they see best for their children.

When elected, I want to do everything possible to shore up Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We have to rein in the drug companies and the insurance industry. This vicious and endless cycle has to be stopped.

The legal system is in need of help as well. We need to be fair in our justice and do our due diligence in our investigations and we need to do better about reforming the true criminals and helping them get the services they need. I want to restore our focus on mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence to help end the real

problems that lead to violence in this country.

When elected, I will bring my business experience and my community service experience to the table. Over the last 16 years, I have built relationships and earned the trust of the district, and I look forward to representing the fine people of the Fifth.

*Charlie Wallin lives in Boone with his wife and daughter. He is the assistant director of Appalachian State University Food Services. He has been active in the community and in the Democratic Party for the last 16 years, and in 2015 he was elected Chair of the Fifth District. He currently serves on the State Democratic Executive Committee and Council. He served eight years on the Planning Board. He is an active volunteer at Parkway School and OASIS.*

# 'It is time for a political revolution'

**Josh Brannon**

Guest Columnist

For any American under 35 years old, they've spent their entire lives under a system where all the economic gains have gone to those who need them the least. It has not mattered who we've had as president or which party controlled Congress, runaway inequality hasn't

slowed down since Reagan.

And it's not just economic inequality; it's inequality of justice. Despite admitting to collectively hundreds of billions, or even trillions of dollars in fraud, and paying tens of billions of dollars in fines, no significant Wall Street

executive has gone to jail. Meanwhile, we have people in cities and towns across America who go to jail on a daily basis for something as small as having a joint of marijuana in their pockets.

We cannot call ourselves a moral society when we allow such atrocities of justice.

It is time for a political revolution. It is time for people and communities all over our country to rise up and elect members of Congress who will: once again commit to making our country a land of opportunity for everyone; who will: implement true universal healthcare so that whether or not you can go to the doctor when you're sick doesn't depend on if you have enough money; who will: get rid of our horrifically racist drug sentencing guidelines

and three-strikes rules and do away with the for-profit prison system that perversely benefits from locking away more people; who will: invest in public works programs that improve our country while providing well-paying jobs; and who will: reinvest in our education system, including our higher education, so that no one is forced to be an indentured servant to the banks just to be able to get the education they want.

If you agree, I would appreciate your vote.

*Josh Brannon is a candidate for the N.C. 5th Congressional District.*

# Short ballot, big races

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

A short ballot with important votes awaits voters during the June 7 primary.

The race for the fifth district, N.C. Supreme Court, and a re-do of the extremely close South Ward City Council race are on the ballot for the second primary.

Fifth District U.S. House of

Representatives Incumbent:  
Republican Virginia Foxx

Democrats

Josh Brannon is a software developer from Watauga County who lost to Foxx in 2014 by 22 percent. He says he'll champion education, economic equality and getting big money out of politics. One of his campaign themes is taking the country back from the richest one percent,

who according to Brannon, have too much control over its politics.

"And we can do it by convincing everyone we know just how much is at stake, and getting them to vote for those who believe in opportunity for everyone, not just the one percent," said Brannon on his website.

See Races on A9



Brannon

No, our city wasn't  
**FOUNDED**  
by  
**GIANTS**

Downtown you can easily find a perfect cappuccino or latte. But if you head south toward Old Salem, you'll find a coffee pot that humbles any espresso machine. Originally an advertisement for a local business, once moved, and once almost blown apart by a teenage prank, the old Coffee Pot is still with us. Just don't ask for dough.

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