

Meet the Woodfin candidates running for town council

The Woodfin town council will have at least two new leaders following this fall’s election: while three seats on the town council are up for election, only one sitting council member is running again. That leaves at least two seats wide open and up for grabs — which in turn attracted a slate of three new challengers throwing their hats in the ring.

Woodfin was incorporated in 1971 to prevent Asheville’s northward expansion, making growth and development a hot button issue for the town as always.

Meet the candidates



Dan Bowers

Dan Bowers

Bowers, 39, has lived in Woodfin for just over two years after moving from Baltimore, but his grandparents live in Weaverville along with extended family in the area.

“I want to be part of the generation that preserves and protects Woodfin for future generations. Town Council needs a voice that is thinking decades ahead about what Woodfin could be, not just years. If elected, I want to ensure that we excel at the simple things: well paved roads, timely trash pickup, responsive fire and police, easy to access government services.”

What are the top 3 issues facing Woodfin, and how would you address them?

Bowers

Bowers said a top priority will be ensuring that federal funds that have already been allocated in response to Helene are actually disbursed.

“As an attorney well versed in regulatory hurdles, I would be well suited to cut through the red tape and get these funds disbursed.”

Bowers also wants to see town expansion managed in a way that preserves our green spaces.

“We must be good stewards of not just the local businesses but also the natural beauty of the area. I would make sure that any new development would not only comply with existing regulations, but also be prepared to adapt these regulations if developers attempt to circumvent them.”

“An efficient and effective town government is one that you don’t have to think about. Just as you don’t think about the conditions of a road until you hit a pothole, I want to make sure there are no potholes in the town’s essential services like police, firefighters, waste management, etc. by making sure they have the resources they actually need to do their jobs properly.”

Cohen

Cohen said a primary issue is promoting responsible development that expands our tax base and increases affordable housing while preserving the natural beauty that brought so many of us to Western North Carolina.

“Over the last 18 months, I’ve voted to tighten the enforcement of our steep slope ordinance, to strengthen our regulations governing building and rebuilding in the flood plain and to create sliding scale green space re-



Phil Cohen

Philip Cohen

Cohen, 71, has lived in Woodfin for about six years and currently serves on the council. He was appointed in February 2024 to fill a vacancy on the board resulting from council member Jim McAllister being elected mayor and thus vacating his council seat. Cohen is now running to keep the seat.

“The mayor and other new council members have ushered in a new era of transparency and proactive initiatives, and I wanted to be part of this change.”

quirements for new developments. I also supported completing our Woodfin’s Greenway, Blueway and Wave projects.”

Cohen also wants to hold the line on raising property taxes and fees while generating other types of revenue.

“I voted with the rest of council not to increase property taxes in 2025. “

A third priority is bringing water and sewer to those parts of West Woodfin that lack these services.

“I advocated for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Task Force on Water Infrastructure that I currently chair, and invited the Woodfin Water Authority and Chip Parton to join our group. We can assemble a coalition of partners and develop a plan.”

Parton

“If elected, my primary focus will be to promote healthy development to accommodate a changing housing market with the intent of allowing residents, especially first-time home owners, to put down roots. I will also prioritize transparency, resilience for our next disaster, and modernization of services such as water and firefighting infrastructure.”

Parton believes clean water and mountainsides are Woodfin’s most important assets and must be protected.

“Woodfin development should be healthy, not hefty.”

He also supports working families and a vibrant economy to help families put down roots.

“As a member of Woodfin Town Council, I pledge transparency, honesty, and integrity.”

Pozner-Thompson

Coming next week

This fall’s ballot also includes the Woodfin Sanitary Water & Sewer District. See next week’s issue for coverage of the candidates.



Chip Parton

Chip Parton

Parton, 33, a small business owner who runs a plumbing company, is a lifelong resident of the town. Parton lives on land his family has owned for half a century, and his WNC roots go back 300 years.

“I am running for Woodfin Town Council because I believe future development should be healthy, not hefty. I want to see people and families put down roots in our town and grow as neighbors in our community.”

Communication with transparency within the Council and with residents.

What makes you the right person for this position?

Bowers

“I’ve dedicated my life to public service. I didn’t go to law school to make money. I went to make a difference. I’ve done that as both a criminal and civil prosecutor at the city, state and federal levels, and I want to continue that service here. Woodfin has so much in store, and having someone with a proven track record of solving problems at every level of government would be a tremendous asset.

Cohen

“For the past 18 months, I have worked with council, the Mayor, the Town Manager, town staff, our partners and residents to improve Woodfin’s community, livability and economy. Preserving Woodfin’s natural beauty is a cornerstone of my vision.”



Marcy Pozner-Thompson

Marcy Pozner-Thompson

Pozner-Thompson is retired and has lived in Woodfin for 10 years. She is running in part to improve transparency and communication in local government.

“I am running because I want to see Woodfin residents heard by those who can help.”

“Mayor McAllister and the Sierra Club of Western North Carolina have endorsed my candidacy, and two current council members, Betsy Ervin and Johanna Young, and one former council member, Judy Butler, have volunteered on my campaign committee. I am able to build coalitions making significant progress on the critical issues confronting Woodfin.”

Parton

A local born and raised — Parton went to Erwin High and AB Tech — he believes he is well equipped to understand and represent Woodfin’s people.

“Woodfin, is a town of 8,000 residents living in both rural and developed neighborhoods, from mobile homes to high-end houses. The French Broad River flows right through its middle. I am committed to serving all of our neighbors on both sides of the river.”

Pozner-Thompson

“Along with my MBA, I have had decades working with people. I would like to work specifically with Woodfin now.”

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