

## Gilmer Republican Party Sponsors Congressional Candidate Forum May 1, 2010



The Forum was held in the Gilmer County Courthouse Jury Assembly room, an excellent venue for such events. Pre planning preparation by the Gilmer County's GOP's Executive Board, anticipated and provided for all the little details that made the event work. However, as no good deed goes unpunished, the gods of air-conditioning work against us and for awhile, those present turned to candidate printed handout materials to have a cooling breeze. In the end, air was restored and the event ended after two hours as a singular success. Much was learned about each candidate and it will be a sorry shame that only one can win.

On the Republican side, there are now six serious conservative candidates remaining, five of who were present at the Forum: Ga. Assemblyman Tom Graves from Gordon County, Dr. Chris Cates, MD, from Blairsville, Mr. Steve Tarvin, manufacturer from Chickamauga, State Sen. Bill Stephens, from Gainesville, and Dr. Bert Loftman, MD, from Jasper. The Executive Committee also extended an invitation to Independent conservative candidate Eugene Moon from Hall county, who participated. Absent was State Sen. Lee Hawkins who



was previously committed to giving a commencement address at a Forsyth High School graduating class.

In-depth questions for the candidates were developed in advance, and supplemented by questions offered by forum attendees as they arrived. Three by five cards were available for questions and were assorted by similar subjects. Many focused upon the same problems seen in government and nearly all sought answers as to how they would, as individuals, approach the issue(s) if elected to Congress.

All candidates are professed conservatives, support the Fair Tax, believe in limited government, and the very serious need to create jobs by returning manufacturing to America. The current government is a shambles and threatens Americas with insurmountable debt if the philosophy that governs it continues.



May 11 has been designated by Governor Perdue as a special election day for the 9th Congressional District to temporarily fill the now vacant seat in Congress. If you did not attend the forum, one or two more are scheduled by other groups. Voters are encouraged to get involved, meet and greet the candidates and learn who wants to represent you.

I want to invite you all to our next regular meeting, this Tuesday, May 4th, at 7:00 Pm at Harrison Hall. Speakers will be Nathan Deal, candidate for Governor, Jeff Chapman, candidate for Governor and John Barge, candidate for Georgia State School Superintendent.