

SAVVA KOSTIS - WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION CANDIDATE DISTRICT 2 (R)

Key findings include:

- **Kostis Has A Limited Public Political Profile:** Kostis is a Boone-area businessman and Republican candidate for Watauga County Commissioner District 2. His public political record is primarily limited to his service on the Watauga County Planning Board.
- **Kostis Has Served On The Watauga County Planning Board Since 2023:** The Watauga County Board of Commissioners unanimously appointed Kostis to the Planning Board in January 2023 and reappointed him in January 2025.
- **Kostis Has A Background In Business And Construction Management:** Kostis is listed as the primary contact for Appalachian Water Sports and studied Construction Management and Business at Appalachian State University.
- **Limited Public Information Was Identified On Kostis' Policy Positions Or Political Views:** No detailed campaign platform or extensive public record of Kostis' positions on county policy or national political issues was identified.

Watauga County, North Carolina is a mountainous county in northwest NC, anchored by the town of Boone and home to Appalachian State University. The population is majority White (~92%) with modest racial and ethnic diversity and a mix of long-term residents and transient student populations. Economic activity centers on education, tourism, and agriculture. Politically, Watauga has a competitive local landscape with both Republican and Democratic representation on the county commission and state legislative seats; the county leans slightly Republican in local contests but with significant Democratic engagement driven by university influences and localized issues. The county has experienced recent electoral changes such as transitioning from at-large to single-member commissioner districts, enacted via state legislation, to improve representation across distinct communities within the county.

The Board Of Commissioners, a policy-making body deriving its authority pursuant to the N.C. General Statutes, levies taxes, develops a budget and directs the fiscal policy of the county under the provisions of the local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act [[Watauga County](#)]. Kostis is the only Republican in the race and is projected to face Democrat Ray Russell [[The Appalachian Online](#), 3/4/26]

BACKGROUND

Savva Kostis is a Boone-area businessman and the Republican candidate for Watauga County Board of Commissioners, District 2, in the 2026 election [WUNC, 2/26/26]. He is listed as the primary contact for Appalachian Water Sports, a Boone-based business [AllBiz, accessed, 7/13/2026]. Kostis is a longtime resident of the Boone area and attended Appalachian State University, where he majored in Construction Management and minored in Business. While at Appalachian State, Kostis competed on the university's wrestling team, finished among the program's career wins leaders, and earned all-conference honors [Appalachian State]. Kostis has

also served on the Watauga County Planning Board since 2023 and was reappointed to the board in 2025 [Watauga County Board of Commissioners, 1/2023; 1/2025]. He is married to Stephanie Kostis, and the couple has a daughter, Amara [Appalachian State, accessed 7/13/2026].

ON THE ISSUES

No FINDINGS OF NOTE

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

No FINDINGS OF NOTE

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