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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:10:53 PM Last Modified: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:41:19 PM

Time Spent: 00:30:26 **IP Address:** 71.63.50.116

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Q1

Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

Govrenment should do all it can to stimulate and support free enterprise

Q2

What do you bring to the office you seek? Specifically, what have you built, improved, or changed for the benefit of your community or business?

Business experience. My company built numerous schools and hospitals and employed 75-100 employees for over 30 years. In the legislature I support a strong pro-business agenda

Q3

Please list any groups, associations, or non-profits in which you are an active member or volunteer such as civic groups, labor organizations, advocacy groups.

ABC contractors association. CAWV contractors association. Bluefield Regional Medical Center. Chamber of Commerce in many communities and State. West Virginia Education Trust. Bluefield College Board of Advisors. Bluefield State College business exchange program.

Q4

West Virginia is facing many challenges. What do you consider to be the most important and critical challenge that threatens our state and what is your plan to alleviate this threat?

Improve our education system. Create mor local control at country level. Reduce earmarks on funding with more block grants under local control. Support school choice.

Q5

During the 2020 Legislative Session, SJR 9 and SB 837 moved in the West Virginia Senate, but fell short of the votes needed to move to the House of Delegates. The intent of the effort was to allow West Virginians to vote on a constitutional amendment to phase-out/repeal of manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment tax, business inventory, and tax on passenger vehicles while making local governments and schools whole. Please describe your ideas for addressing this issue which requires a change to the West Virginia Constitution.

This is one of most important issues we need to pass. We can do it if we can grow the economy enough. We need to educate legislators and citizens better about the benefits and how unfair the current tax is.

Q6

What ideas do you have to help build our state's economy and improve West Virginia's position in competing for investment and job growth?

Make the entire state an opportunity zone and offer corporate income tax credits for investment that creates new jobs

Q7

Use of and addiction to opioids in West Virginia and our region have reached crisis levels. This is a problem being recognized not only at the state level, but at the federal level. What ideas do you have to help stop this devastating trend in our state?

Expand programs like Recovery Point into every community.

Q8

Racial justice and equity, LGBTQ rights and gender equity are important factors for many current West Virginia employers, companies that consider moving to our State, and employees who may consider relocating to West Virginia. How would you address these issues to recruit and retain companies and employees for whom this is a priority?

Current discrimination laws should be enforced.

Q9

What are your specific ideas related to developing a diverse and skilled workforce in West Virginia?

Expand vocational training. Orientation about skilled job opportunities should start at least at the 8th grade level. Guidance counselors also need orientation and training.

Q10

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection proposed a rule for the 2021 Legislative Session to adopt a portion of US EPA recommended human health criteria which established limits for certain environmental permits. The WVMA is actively involved in ongoing discussions related to these criteria and supports the WV DEPs approach to establish an active work group to further evaluate these important measures. Please describe your position on the proposed rule.

A work group is the best way to vet and understand the proposed regulations. There is not enough understanding of the real science and the cost vs benefits of each rule.

Q11

Please describe policies that you believe may be helpful in balancing state regulations and environmental rules while maintaining a competitive atmosphere for industrial job growth and investment?

All proposed rule changes should be vetted by the appropriate legislative committees with both industry and regulatory agencies at the table.

Q12

What would you like to share with our members that we have not asked?

We need to study the tax structure for the natural gas industry. It will become a major part of our tax structure and we need to get it right to maximize the future benefits to the state- not too high and not too low

Q13

Would you be available for an interview remotely or in person?

Yes

Q14

Where may the WVMA follow you on Social Media? Please list social media handles including Facebook, Twitter, and others.

I don't use social media. Just call me.

Q15

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Q16

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