



2020 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey is available to complete online at www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2020. You may also scan and email your completed survey to Rebecca McPhail at rebecca@wvma.com, or mail by **August 3, 2020** to:

West Virginians for Manufacturing Jobs PAC
2001 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Candidate Name: JIM BARACH Office Seeking: HOUSE OF DELEGATES DIST. 36
Party Affiliation: DEMOCRAT Email: JIMBARACH@HOTMAIL.COM
Address Line 1: 840 LOWER CHESTER RD.
City: CHARLESTON State: WV Zip: 25302 Phone: 304 881-8404

Questions:

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

STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT
CONDUCTIVE TO FORMING & SUSTAINING BUSINESS. A SOLID
INFRASTRUCTURE & EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ARE NECESSARY
TO ATTRACT & MAINTAIN A BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

2. 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?

I BRING THE EXPERIENCE OF 38 YEARS OF BROADCAST
NEWS WHICH INCLUDES BEING A PART OF A SYSTEM REPORTING
ON BUSINESS & POLITICS. I WAS ABLE OVER THE YEARS TO HAVE
MANY DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS ABOUT WHAT
NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PROMOTE BUSINESS LOCALLY. I HAVE
ALSO RUN MY OWN BUSINESS & AM AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES.

3. 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.

AS A WIDOWER WHO BECAME A SINGLE PARENT, I
FOUND IT VERY HARD TO HAVE SPARE TIME FOR
SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. I HAVE DONE SOME VOLUNTEER
WORK FOR THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION.

4. 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?

THE ECONOMY. WEST VIRGINIA HAS RELIED ON EXTRACTION SINCE ITS FORMATION. WHILE NATURAL GAS IS STILL VIABLE FOR THE FUTURE, WE MUST DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY. I WILL WORK TO BRING IN NEW BUSINESSES INVOLVING MANUFACTURING, MEDICAL & HIGH TECH.

5. 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.

WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS TAXES ARE LOWER THAN MORE THAN HALF OF ALL OTHER STATES. THEY ARE NOT EXCESSIVE. KEEPING THE INVENTORY TAX IS FINE BUT ONLY IF ANOTHER REVENUE SOURCE IS FOUND THAT DOES NOT BURDEN THE PEOPLE.

6. 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?

I FEEL AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM TO CONVINCE BUSINESSES AROUND THE COUNTRY THAT WEST VIRGINIA HAS THE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES THAT WOULD MAKE THIS A GREAT PLACE IN WHICH TO DO BUSINESS.

7. 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?

HOLD PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE EPIDEMIC BY MAKING OPIOIDS FAR TOO EASY TO ACCESS. WE NEED TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WHO ARE ADDICTED FACILITIES WHERE THEY CAN GET TREATMENT.

8. 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?

WE NEED TO REMOVE ALL LAWS ON THE BOOKS THAT ALLOW ANY DISCRIMINATION BASED ON AGE, RACE, SEX,

RELIGION OR SEXUAL PREFERENCE. PERIOD. WE NEED TO REMOVE ALL CIVIL WAR MONUMENTS & RELOCATE THEM TO MUSEUMS. CHANGING THE NAME OF STONEWALL JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL IN CHARLESTON WAS A POSITIVE STEP ~~IN~~ IN BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

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

WE NEED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO COLLEGE OR GET VO/TECH TRAINING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. PROGRAMS LIKE THE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP ARE VITAL TO ACHIEVE THIS.

10. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES THAT PROTECT HUMAN LIFE & KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. WEST VIRGINIA MUST DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR NATURAL RESOURCES PRISTINE.

11. 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?

I SEE NO PROBLEM WITH HAVING REGULATIONS IN PLACE THAT PROVIDE JOB GROWTH WHILE PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE TWO ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND CAN BOTH EXIST IN HARMONY.

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

MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AS A DELEGATE WILL BE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION. OTHER STATES & CITIES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITH IT, PITTSBURGH BEING A GREAT EXAMPLE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT ALL KINDS OF MANUFACTURING ENTITIES HERE IF WE FOCUS ALL OUR ENERGY ON IT. IMPROVING OUR EDUCATIONAL & HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS ARE ALSO

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

VERY HIGH ON MY LIST.
ABSOLUTELY. CALL ME & WE CAN SET IT UP.

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

MY CAMPAIGN WEBSITE IS AT
JIMBARACHFORHOUSEOFDELEGATES.COM
FACEBOOK IS JIMBARACHFORHOUSE
TWITTER @JIMBARACHHOUSE

**SAVE THE DATE – 2020 WVMA All State-Legislative Dinner
Charleston, W.Va.**

Monday, November 16, 2020

**Sitting and newly elected Legislators are encouraged to attend as guests of the WVMA
Occupancy restrictions may lead to registration limits – details to follow.*