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Q1

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

State government serves to enforce individual health and environmental safe work habits.

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?

I have served as a member of a safety committee for a mining company for several years in the past. I regularly attend church services at Jenny's Creek Gospel Church. I have volunteered at the Lenore Golden Gloves as a trainer, and also worked as a professional boxing trainer/second. I have worked in the mining industry for over fourteen years.

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.

Jenny's Creek Gospel Church, Mingo County Republican Executive Committeeman/Vice Chairman

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?

West Virginia lacks sustainable and diverse economy. We need to incentivize new job growth and explore different industries for the state! West Virginia needs major reform to its current tax system. Overall job creation with large employment generates more revenue for the state than a single business.

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.

I feel that West Virginia deserves the opportunity to vote on the amendment.

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?

I feel that West Virginia could benefit from full deregulation of energy. This would allow more of a choice in electrical providers while lowering the cost of electricity. This could potentially bring more companies to the area because of lower operational cost. Also tax incentives for companies with large employment numbers.

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?

Economic growth, mandatory annual drug testing for all government employment as well as private sector employees, and mandatory annual drug testing for government assistance recipients.

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?

I would like to further examine this issue.

Q9

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

West Virginia could benefit from more vocational training facilities for adults as well as high school students. Introduce a college credit program in the public school system at the high school level.

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.

I would have to look more in depth about this issue, but it would seem that this could create more red tape at the state level.

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?

I would like to do more research on this question

Q12

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

I'm an electrician by trade, however I do work in the mining industry. I do feel that diversity in the energy sector would be beneficial to economy growth as well as looking energy cost for individuals.

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.

Facebook

Q15

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Matthew Deskins

Q16

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Q17

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Q19

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