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Q1

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

State government needs to get out of the way. We need lower taxes and work to cut regulations.

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 bring a business friendly mind-set who is a conservative. I oppose all new tax increases on the people and/or businesses of WV.

I am a small business owner/real estate investor.

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.

NRA, WVCDL, GOA, Silver Creek Church, Tri-State Landlord Association, Wayne County Right To Life

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?

Our biggest threat is the lack of good paying jobs. This is forcing our young people to move away. Our state's main focus should be attracting business and industry to our state.

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 am 100% in support of putting that on the ballot. The equipment and inventory tax is absolutely ridiculous. We also need to eliminate the Personal Property tax on things such as vehicles.

I think this needs to be a major priority in 2021.

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?

We have to make WV more business friendly, then we need to go out and actively recruit companies to move/re-locate here. At the same time we need to help our existing companies expand/grow in the new and friendly business environment.

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?

This is a major issue that has somehow effected every family. We definitely have a major problem, we definitely need it fixed, but it's not going to happen over night.

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 stand with and will fight for religious freedom.

Q9

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

More vo-tech training, apprenticeships, and partnerships through out the high schools in our state. We need to focus on attracting/recruiting businesses who need our skilled labor to work these blue-collar jobs.

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 need to know more details on this before I could give an honest and educated answer.

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?

Eliminating E&I tax for businesses, cut regulations, and stand up to the over the top EPA regulations that have crushed our energy markets. It's time to use common sense environmental rules that allow us to work while preserving our environment.

Q12

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

I'm a hardworking conservative and love the great state of West Virginia.

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: @DerrickEvansTheActivist

Twitter: @DerrickEvansWV

Q15

Name

Derrick Evans

Q16

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Q17

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