

## #31

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## Q1

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

Government should provide emergency services, roadway infrastructure, and a fair platform on which to compete and get out of the way.

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## 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 am an owner of Foster Supply. We manufacture precast concrete products, fabricated rebar and have a weld shop mostly focused on drainage structures.

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## 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.

My church and campus crusade for christ.

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## 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?

Government red tape placing road blocks hurdles to the growth and development of our state. We need to make it easier and cheaper (tax wise) to create a business and develop it in WV.

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**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 believe we should pass a constitutional amendment that includes not only the repeal of equipment inventory property tax, but also vehicle personal property tax so it would be guaranteed to pass.

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**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 need to reform our occupational licenses to make it less of a barrier to employment.

We need to remove the ability for municipalities to charge all these additional taxes that discourage business to locate here like B & O tax and other user fees.

Removal of equipment inventory tax.

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**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?

If we don't remove entitlement programs that make it more desirable to not work than to work we will never curb this problem, but other than that the number one answer is more jobs.

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**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 am sure many plaintiff attorneys would like for us to introduce new protected classes that could help funneling money out companies through frivolous law suits, but this is not the type of business we should be encouraging. I believe that employees should be hired or fired based on merit alone. It is not good state policy to "pick favorites". Companies who do not hire or fire based on merit will not last long in such a competitive environment. If companies within your organization discriminate based on grounds other than merit then that is their problem to resolve not the state.

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**Q9**

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

WV puts too much money into colleges and some of that needs to be diverted into facilitating trades.

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**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 am fine with not changing the criteria, but we need to know the impact it will have on industry before we make any changes to the criteria.

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**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 don't think WV waters should all be category A first of all and we should allow "netting" out of upstream contaminants for NPDES permits. I am ok with anything that limits the power of DEP and EPA since 90% of what they do is unnecessary.

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**Q12**

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

My number one goal is to get government out of the way of business growth.

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**Q13**

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

Yes, Rebecca has my cell number if needed

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**Q14**

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

none

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**Q15**

Name

Geoff Foster

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

15th district house of delegates

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Republican

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**Q18**

District

15

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**Q19**

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**Q20**

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**Q21**

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