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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

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

I think that government should get out of the way as much as possible and allow business to compete and grow. Low tax, reasonable regulation, predictable courts.

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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 bring experience, knowledge, and a solid conservative philosophy. I have experience as a teacher and coach, I worked as the Senior VP of a manufacturing enterprise for over 20 years, I have owned a small contracting business for the last 12 years and owned a retail business. I have served in the legislature for 8 years prior to running for Congress. My greatest accomplishments are three successful daughters. All working, while continuing to gather education one one with a PHD and helping others to learn. I have been part of growing a manufacturing business and have worked with many national end user accounts. My business is successful however I do work within the current system in WV where inventory / equipment tax is present and I have no employees or debt by design.

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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.

Chamber of Commerce. Mercer County Republican Party. West Virginia Republican Party

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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?

Difficult to name just one. The Business inventory and equipment tax is killing us, we spend to much in areas that don't produce and must control spending and tax, education needs a complete overhaul from the school aid formula to the restrictions on teachers to be unleashed to do what they do best ,teach. Additional broadband coverage is crucial. Proper oversight and correct highway spending is a must. Many others

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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 supported the Constitutional change. In 2018 I thought the Governor was on the start of a good idea with incremental elimination. This is a heavy lift but must get done.

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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?

Continued lowering of tax and spending. Clear examination of rules and regulation to assure they are needed, clear, and foster competition. Spending restraint. A welcoming bureaucracy.

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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?

Work!!!! Successful business puts people to work. Those working are less likely to fall into the hopelessness of drugs. Law must be enforced. Continuation of drug court is helpful.

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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 believe in equality of opportunity. I don't think special rights or protection is the correct recipe to create opportunity. Unity is not created by by establishing separate groups with special rights. I think employers want solid employees that work hard to earn a fair wage. Most of the time this is an issue it is, in my opinion offered as an excuse for business not locating where they don't want to go anyway.

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**Q9**

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

Solid K-12 education that stresses the basics, maintains discipline among students, that graduates solid citizens. Offering courses after high school that are applicable to industry. Offering a solid business environment and quality of living that will cause folks to want to live, work, and prosper here.

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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 not familiar with this specific rule. I certainly don't want dirty water or air. Many environmental rules established over time are offered by well intentioned people that fall short of this goal and simply are serve to punish industry. I believe in minimal regulation to provide protection needed.

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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?

Minimalism. Less and reasonable. The more complex typically the less effective and the more harmful.

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**Q12**

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

Most of the issues and philosophy offered I have advocated in my years in the Legislature and running for Congress. I have a record and am proud of it. I believe I have the ability to get along and find answers to problems but also have the ability to fight like he\*\* for the things I believe. Hopefully my reputation proceeds me.

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**Q13**

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

Either

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**Q14**

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

Facebook Marty Gearheart , Twitter @MartyGearheart

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**Q15**

Name

Marty Gearheart

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

House of Delegates 27th District

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Republican

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**Q18**

District

27th

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**Q19**

Email

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**Q20**

Phone

304-320-0879

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**Q21**

Address

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