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Q1

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

State government should be the catalyst that drives business and industry in this state. State government should be advocating for business, industry and tourism as well as have a better understanding of how all businesses (small and large) effects this state. Right now, I do not believe our current state leaders have a good grasp on what takes to help existing business and draw new business to this state. The state needs more manufacturing and technology-based jobs in order for us to survive.

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 over 42 years' experience in the manufacturing and construction industries. During this time I have held many positions such as a Trade Pipefitter, Maintenance Coordinator , Production Specialist Shift Supervisor, Corporate Coach, HR Leader, Mechanical Technology Leader, Maintenance Group Leader for field and shop maintenance for Dow West Virginia Operations and most recently a Project Manager working in mergers and acquisition for the Dow – Dupont merger. In addition, my roles within industry; I have owned my own machine shop and I have donated time and resources to help my community. I believe I have the skills and abilities that our Legislature needs to bring in new manufacturing facilities to our state.

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.

I am a member of Emanuel Baptist Church, WVSU Alumni, Beni Kedem Shriners, The Grand Lodge of West Virginia, A.F. & A.M. NRA, WV Citizens Defense League. I continue to support my community by helping secure grants and funding for programs such as; school robotics programs, infrastructure updates and repair for Sissonville High School sports complexes and in the community. I have chosen to Adopt A Teacher to help alleviate the costs teachers have in supplying their classrooms.

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?

Covid – 19 is by far biggest threat we have that is affecting our state now and will far into the future. We have experienced job losses on an unprecedented level and many of those jobs will not be coming back. A detailed plan initiated by the governor needs to be developed to mitigate this virus in our state and the plan needs to include job losses as well. I am in daily contact with several industry leaders and contractors and the layoffs are only going to worsen over the next few months. Capital projects have been put on hold and investment in existing facilities have all but disappeared. We need a government that will see past the politics and address this head on. If not, it will take us years to rebound.

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 in full support of phasing out the inventory tax and would vote to do eliminate it. As someone who was accountable for budgets and costs associated in running MRO warehousing, I can assure you I know what this tax does to a business.

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?

West Virginia is an excellent position to grow. We are within 650 miles of most of the population in the US and we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We have existing sites along the Kanawha and Ohio rivers that would be excellent sites for manufacturing facilities, many of these areas already have extensive infrastructure and steel in the ground. I believe that the state needs to look at what we already have in that infrastructure and assess each area of the state and develop a plan that fits that particular economic region. We can set up tax structures that would entice companies to come here. We need to think big, not small. We need manufacturing and technology-based industries such as US Methanol. We have been thinking small for too long. I would love to see an EO Cracker built in this state. It would be a game changer for the whole state. Think Big for a change!

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?

The opioid crisis continues to spin out of control. With the current Covid-19 pandemic and the unprecedented job loss, created by pandemic, we have seen overdose numbers go up. We must do a better job of attracting good businesses here that provide good paying jobs with benefits.

Also, the system that we have in place to handle the birth of opioid addicted babies needs to be overhauled. As of now the system is overwhelmed by these children and the cost for support to the state is around \$25,000.00 a day.

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 that the US Supreme Court's ruling that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gay, lesbian, and transgender employees from discrimination based on sex is now the law of the land. We as a state government need to step up and show that West Virginia is willing to work with companies and set aside any cultural bias that we may have.

Q9

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

I believe that in order to develop a more diverse and skilled workforce in this state , diversity training needs to take place in our trade schools, two-year technical schools' colleges and within state government itself. We cannot move forward in this area unless we train the people before they are out in the workforce. Companies want to see states take an active role in this area and WV has been lagging far behind.

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 fully support the WVMA position on this rule.

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?

In this state we treat every water source as if it is a potable water supply and in cases where major manufacturing sites exist such as the Kanawha valley this is a huge cost related issue. I would like to see industrial zones created that allows companies to adhere to a different water standard than exists now. This is done in Texas and Louisiana and we really need to look at that for this state. WV can do this without sacrificing water quality.

Q12

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

You have covered everything.

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: David Woody Holmes
new Web site is under construction and can up date latter

Q15

Name

David Holmes " Woody"

Q16

Office Seeking

House of delegates

Q17

Party Affiliation

Democrat

Q18

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39th

Q19

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