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Q1

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

The state governments main focus as it relates to business and industry is to create the environment needed for businesses and industry to flourish. Lowering and eliminating taxes on inventory and machinery as well as removing barriers and over burdensome regulation is key to making West Virginia a desirable place to do business.

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?

While I am not a business owner personally, I recognize the challenges faced to the small business owner at the small company I work at. I volunteer weekly with Clarksburg Community Action whose focus is keeping our community clean. This helps residents take pride in their community and in turns helps business owners whose property and storefronts are located inside the community as well.

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.

Clarksburg Community Action, North View Pride (Neighborhood Association), Healthy Harrison, West Virginia Citizens Defense League, Libertarian Party of West Virginia.

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?

I believe the main issue for West Virginia at this point is the "great escape" that thousands of young people do after graduating high school and college. Our most talented young people leave for better opportunity, putting strains on our already limited work force. This in turn puts a strain on businesses looking to hire West Virginians, and in turns forces businesses and industry to look elsewhere for talent or a more friendly business environment. West Virginia needs to focus on lowering income tax and creating the incentives to keep and retain young people as well attract new residents looking to work and create new businesses.

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.

The failure of these bills rests solely on the leadership of the House of Delegates. As a Libertarian, I believe that the constitutional amendment to accomplish these items is a must-have for West Virginia to move forward, especially in these times of uncertainty.

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?

The state also needs to focus on property development in the way of incentives for developing flat property suitable for commercial and industrial properties. Developers find it difficult with West Virginia's terrain, we need to help them by creating incentives and removing burdensome regulations and permitting and allow them to develop the property needed for new businesses.

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?

Alternative solutions in the form of natural medical treatments have the opportunity to save peoples lives as well create new jobs in our state. There is a free market solution to this problem, but unfortunately our legislature can't move forward with these solutions.

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?

West Virginia has always been an At-Will employment state. As a Libertarian, that's enough for me. The relationship between Employer and Employee is their relationship and not the role of government to decide. No one should be fired or denied employment for their race, equity, or their sexual orientation but I don't think specific laws or regulations will prevent that from happening. The best thing the state can do is allow businesses to do business how they see fit.

Q9

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

You have to start by retaining and attracting young people. To do that you must make the market as free as possible. It's a snowball that starts with eliminating taxes and burdensome regulations. That in turns attracts new business and industry and that in turns attracts new workers and young people. As the snowball grows, it attracts new service and entertainment industry jobs. Remove the barriers for business and the economy will grow creating the diverse and skilled workforce we need naturally.

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.

Business and Industry should have their opinions heard over any type of new permitting that may effect their businesses. I would have to look at the EPA human health criteria very closely, but I can't imagine it does much more to protect the environment as it does hurt future expansion of business and industry.

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?

Fresh Water is one of West Virginia's best resources. It must be protected from pollution and poisoning. That being said, we must be vigilant that we aren't hurting ourselves economically. The free market solution would be ease licensing and permitting fees for environmental companies so they can effectively report to state government and alert us to any issues that may arise.

Q12

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

n/a

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.

FB: Will Hyman, Libertarian for West Virginia

Q15

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Q16

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Q21

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