



2020 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey is available to complete online at www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2020. You may also scan and email your completed survey to Rebecca McPhail at rebecca@wvma.com, or mail by **August 3, 2020** to:

West Virginians for Manufacturing Jobs PAC
2001 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Candidate Name: RICHARD J IAQUINTA Office Seeking: WV HOUSE of DEL. 4B
Party Affiliation: DEMOCRAT Email: R. IAQUINTA 4B @ GMAIL.COM
Address Line 1: 139 VERMONT AVE
City: CLARKSBURG State: WV Zip: 26301 Phone: 304-629-1353

Questions:

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

TO HELP ALL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO EXPAND AND PROSPER IN WV.

2. 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'VE BEEN A DELEGATE AND EDUCATOR IN WV FOR THE PAST FIFTY YEARS. I AM ON THE HARRISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

3. 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.

COLUMBIAN CLUB, KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS, YMCA, SONS OF ITALY, CECIL JARVIS 10K RACE, VFW, AM. LEGION.

4. 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?

USING RAINY DAY FUNDS TO HELP BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY START BACK UP IN WV.

5. 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.

ITS A GREAT IDEA. BUT THEY CAN'T AGREE ON HOW TO MAKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL WHOLE.

6. 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?

WV NEEDS A BETTER EDUCATED WORKFORCE THAT PASSES THE DRUG TEST WHILE ADAPTING TO THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT.

7. 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?

WV NEEDS TO SUPPORT MORE LONG TERM FACILITIES FOR THE OPIOID PROBLEM TO IMPROVE.

8. 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?

THE MAJORITY OF COMPANIES FOLLOW THE LAWS AND RECRUIT THE BEST EMPLOYEE THAT FITS THEIR NEED.

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

THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN TEAMING UP WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO FULFILL THEIR NEEDS FOR THEIR WORKFORCE.

10. 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 THINK IT'S A REASONABLE IDEA. I WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE BILL TO MAKE ANY EVALUATION.

11. 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?

FINDING FLAT LAND PLUS THE LOW COST OF LIVING WITH AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE WILL MAKE US COMPETITIVE WITH MOST STATE, ESPECIALLY IF IT'S LOCATED CLOSE TO A TRANSPORTATION HUB.

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

WORKING TOGETHER WILL MAKE WEST VIRGINIA A BETTER PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE.

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

BOTH

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

P. LAQUINTA 48 @ GMAIL . COM OR CALL 304-629-1353.

**SAVE THE DATE – 2020 WVMA All State-Legislative Dinner
Charleston, W.Va.**

Monday, November 16, 2020

**Sitting and newly elected Legislators are encouraged to attend as guests of the WVMA
Occupancy restrictions may lead to registration limits – details to follow.*