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Q1

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

State government, moreover ALL GOVERNMENT, should have but one role regarding business...

Do what ever it takes to take off, and keep off, any and all handcuffs which serve only to stifle the free market. In other words support and defend the constitutional rights of both individuals AND corporations and then GET THE HELL OUT OF THEIR WAY so they can create, innovate, design, produce, expand, AND EMPLOY AMERICAN CITIZENS!

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 built multi-unit apartments in WV which continue to provide housing to low and medium income tenants. I am a qualified Lean-Six Sigma Analyst who helped streamline a project at Fort Jackson SC which cut costs, increased productivity, and resulted in nearly one million dollars in savings to American taxpayers. As the Park Ranger of Moncove Lake State Park, I updated the park gift shop, park swimming pool, and added electricity to the campground, all which resulted in making that state park one of the top 10 parks in the State which were among the only self-sufficient parks in the State. As a multiple-deployed combat veteran I served in the US Army for 29 years where I put a large chunk of my business goals and desires on hold so as to ensure that American businesses can operate in freedom and without fear. I retired from the military in 2015.

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 the VFW and an associate member of the Monroe County Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Association.

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?

We are hemorrhaging our young labor force to other states. We MUST incentivize businesses...particularly manufacturing businesses...to come to, and set up shop in WV.

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.

Requiring businesses to pay annual taxes on inventory and equipment...after they've already paid sales taxes on the same items upon acquisition...is regressive in nature and possibly the stupidest thing we could be doing, ever!

I will do whatever it takes to incentivize business development and growth, not put more obstacles in its path.

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?

All ideas MUST BE OUT IF THE BOX UNORTHODOX initiatives. Examples: LOWER business taxes by 15% more on all WV corporations. Eliminate personal income taxes altogether. To offset the loss in state revenue I would propose a raise the Individual sales tax by 2% (from 6% to 8%) while decreasing spending in all state agencies by 15% to 20%. Sounds crazy right? Perhaps but at least it's not continuing the status quo and hoping for a different result. Some states have a 10% sales tax and no income tax.

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?

Again, thinking out of the box...

We need to establish two regional rehab facilities that force cold-turkey withdrawal re-hab upon people arrested more than twice and found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. These two facilities should operate as minimum security detention centers and be staffed 24/7 with physicians trained in dealing with addictions and their associated withdrawal symptoms.

You definitely will NEVER hear me advocate for enabling addictions with taxpayer funded needle-exchange programs!

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 could care less what ones gender, color, sexual preference, or political affiliation is. Employers simply need to look at credentials, qualifications, work ethic, productivity, and the BILL OF RIGHTS and treat ALL employees with the level of respect they are deserving of.

Q9

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

As we incentivize industry to come to, and stay in, West Virginia, we must then encourage more industry based skills gained in our local tech schools instead of always encouraging traditional college. Build the jobs and our high school grads will stay. Train the grads and the employers will hire. This should not be hard. First we must elect pro-business legislators to set the right conditions for success.

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 have no issues with meeting for dialogue with DEP. However, I am a STRONG advocate of the 10th Amendment (States Rights). If a Federal EPA rule is cramping our style and stifling business in WV, I say we push back and take care of our own first and foremost. An EPA rule is simply that...a rule. The 10th Amendment is not a rule...it is the LAW OF THE LAND. I am tired of the one-size-fits-all cookie cutter approach to conducting business that D.C. is subjecting individual states to. Why do we continue to bend over for them? Not with my vote!

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?

Trust real science while having enough foresight to consider the 2nd and 3rd order effects on business and industry, not emotionally charged knee-jerk decisions designed to "save the planet"!

Q12

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

Yes I am Pro BILL OF RIGHTS FIRST.

Q13

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

Yes. Either or...

Q14

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

Todd Longanacre For the WV House of Delegates (Facebook)

www.Todd4WV@gmail.com

Q15

Name

Todd Longanacre

Q16

Office Seeking

WV House of Delegates 42nd District

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican (but a Constitutional Conservative first and foremost)

Q18

District

42nd

Q19

Email

Todd4WV@gmail.com

Q20

Phone

304-531-3683

Q21

Address

Address

PO BOX 615

Address 2

PO BOX 615

City/Town

White Sulfur Springs

State/Province

WV

ZIP/Postal Code

24986
