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Q1

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

Government should be minimally involved in business and industry, especially in the area of taxation and regulation.

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 worked to bring broadband to rural areas of WV to expand telehealth, as well as enhance the ability to do business in rural WV.

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.

American Legion, Post 32; Gateway Christian Church-Beckley campus; Raleigh County Farm Bureau; NRA; WVCDL.

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?

West Virginia's low and lagging workforce participation rate is alarming. We need to utilize SB1 to encourage more students and adults to learn a trade and fill the many vacancies in our workforce.

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 would support the phase out of the BI tax, provided the state could find a way to backfill the counties budgets.

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?

HB4001 which established the Mountaineer Impact Fund is a big step in encouraging capital development in WV.

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?

We must find ways to fund more long-term treatment facilities. Short-term facilities or outpatient treatment are not getting the job done.

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?

WV already has nondiscrimination laws in place.

Q9

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

We need to continue to expand vocational training in our high schools and look for more ways to encourage adults to utilize these programs.

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 unfamiliar with the proposed rule but will research it and respond.

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?

We must continue to encourage growth in our economy by passing legislation to enhance our economic climate.

Q12

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

I have always voted to enhance business and industry in WV.

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.

None

Q15

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Q16

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Q17

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