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**Q1**

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

The state legislature should pass laws that make WV competitive when retaining and recruiting businesses' to West Virginia. We must be fair and balanced in the areas of environmental protection, workers' compensation, tax policy, safety, legal reform and other areas of law that business and industry uses to retain and recruit.

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**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 bring 28 years of experience as a member of the House of Delegates. While I have not built or changed anything, I have supported the Manufacturers Association with my votes in the areas of environmental protection, workers compensation, medical malpractice reform, third party bad faith insurance reform, reduction of business taxes, the food tax, public pension reform, and other areas of concern.

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**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.

Clay-Battelle Health Services Association, Member, WVEA - Retired, WV Farm Bureau, Littleton Lodge 131 AF & AM, and Loyal Order of Moose 931.

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**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?

1. We need more broadband and better highway, water and sewage infrastructure. I supported the Roads to Prosperity amendment, along with the funding. I have supported every broadband bill that has come before me. 2. We also need more sites that are readily available for development which includes utilities, cell service and broadband. 3. We must find a way to get our pipelines built, getting our natural gas to market. Losing the ACP project is a major blow to our economy. 4. Hopefully, we can get a "cracker", that will help us develop downstream jobs.

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**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 not opposed to this concept, but we must find a way to do this without counties like Wetzel taking a big loss in revenue. My big fear is that the loss would be made up by property owners. Public County officials have been against these bills in the past. This will be more difficult to do because of COVID - 19.

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**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?

Our workforce must have the skills that employers want to perform the jobs that are available. 1. SB 1 - Increasing Access to Career Education and Workforce Training will help more students get post secondary education. 2. HB 4001 establishes the Mountaineer Impact Fund, which will provide a vehicle for the state to partner with potential major investors to boost economic development and job creation for West Virginia. 3. SB 583 - Renewable Energy Legislation - This bill allows electric utility companies in West Virginia to operate a limited amount of solar power in the state. Potential investors wanted this bill, and it was recommended by the Department of Commerce.

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**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?

There are no easy solutions to this problem. The legislature has increased jail sentences for the addiction of opioids. Some other suggestions include the need for more beds in rehabilitation facilities. Other proposals include the following: Create community coalitions to work together across sections ; Develop ordinances and places for safe drug disposal ; Establish drug diversion task forces ; Provide training for first responders in the use of Narcan ; and use drug courts to fight opioid addiction and trafficking.

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**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?

Several bills have been introduced and died over the years concerning this subject. The conservative nature of West Virginians on social issues have hurt the LGBTQ community in moving a bill forward. I am not being partisan on this issue, as Democrats were not able to advance a bill when being in the majority.

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**Q9**

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

SB 1 - This bill will enable more students to get post secondary education by providing "last dollar in" funding for career and technical education. After grants and scholarships are applied for, the state will pick up any leftover expenses for those students. 2. We must find a way to get more students involved in career and technical education courses in middle school and high school.

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**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 not familiar with this rule. However, I have voted with the Manufacturers Association on these type of issues. I voted for SB 163 in the 2019 session, DEP Water Quality Rules.

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**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?

I have always believed state environmental regulations should be fair and balanced when it comes to air, noise, water, and land when it comes to industrial job growth and investment. I voted for HB 4615 in the 2020 session. WV Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

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**Q12**

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

I see myself as a moderate in the House of Delegates. I work very hard at constituent service and try to vote the way my constituents prefer. I am not liberal enough to be a Democrat, and not conservative enough to be a Republican. The voters in the 5th District have been very good to me. I feel like I have made several good votes for the Manufactures Association over the years.

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**Q13**

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

yes - I hope I will be interviewed if that makes a difference as far as an endorsement is concerned.

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**Q14**

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

I have a Facebook page. Dave Pethtel I don't do a lot on Facebook, and only do positive posts.

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**Q15**

Name

Dave Pethtel

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

House of Delegates

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Democrat

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**Q18**

District

5th

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**Q19**

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**Q20**

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**Q21**

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