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Q1

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

The role of state government as it relates to business and industry is to establish a fair and level playing field while allowing the economy to grow.

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?

Four years experience as delegate. Sixteen years as Assessor (36 years in Assessor's Office)

While in the assessor's office I worked with the legislature in eliminating class 1 property from business.

I worked with the county chamber of commerce and EDA in retaining and recruiting new business.

I have worked with civic clubs and organizations for years, improving parks, after prom parties, santa tree kids, providing books for the barn bookshelves, the read aloud program, presenting educational programs on smoking and drugs, presenting educational programs to adults.

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.

Chamber of Commerce (past board member)
Preston Co. and WV Farm Bureaus
NRA and WVCDL
WVFL Rose Member
Order of Eastern Star
Kingwood Lion's Club
Gladesville CEOs
Eagles Aux #2391
Supporter of 4-H, FFA, Sr. Citizens, & Veterans
Supporter of foster care groups

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?

In my district (Preston County District 52) roads and broadband are two of most important and critical challenges and most important to my constituents. The veto of "Randy's Dream Bill" in 2019 and not even making it out of committee in 2020 was devastating to Preston County. Also, the lack of broadband was evident during the COVID-19. Many families had to drive miles into Kingwood and sit in their car in the parking lot at McDonalds for hours to be able to have enough internet for their kids to do school work.

At this point who can say what is going to happen during this upcoming session. However, we will be working on the roads issue and what changes it will take to get the roads bill out of committee and that the Governor will sign it once it is on his desk.

Working with the US representatives, I truly believe we will be able to move forward with the broadband issues. We have been making progress over the last couple of years and just have to continue pushing forward.

One more thing that I believe is very important is the redistricting. Single delegate districts should get more conservative, business minded candidates elected from rural areas of WV. As a former assessor I am very familiar with mapping and GIS mapping.

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 understand that this is a killer tax for the business and industry community. However, being in the assessor's office for 36 years I also understand how concerned and the fears the local county officials and board of education officials have.

The first thing that we must do is to bring all to the table and make sure we have the local officials backing any legislation that we need to get passed. This is a very complicated topic and needs a lot of dialogue. We need to be having these conversation and meetings now.

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?

There are a few keys required for success. First extensive vocational training opportunities in high school and post-secondary classrooms. Next, we need investment programs where the state can partner with private industry to provide capital for new industry. Also, and maybe most importantly, WV must provide a playing field similar to other states when it comes to infrastructure, taxes and workforce.

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?

Over the past 4 years we have moved forward in WV in tackling the drug problem, but we have a long way to go. Of course I believe we need more treatment facilities, more counselors in our schools, and stiffer penalties on drug dealers. But I also believe we need to offer more classes that would keep students interested in attending school. Giving them hope of a better live after graduation through ample job opportunities is a must. A lot of them don't get much encouragement from home and don't have a lot of self esteem. If we can provide classes that keeps them coming to school and provide them a skill to get a job and help them feel good about themselves, we just may keep them from turning to drugs.

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 believe everyone should be treated equal and that we have laws in WV to address discrimination already.

Q9

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

That the business and industry community should work in a partnership with our state so that we have a workforce ready to fill the job market. That would include working with the education system and the vocational programs along with programs to retrain those on welfare or unemployment needing to return to the job market.

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 feel using an active work group to continue ongoing discussions for such an important environmental regulation is the proper approach.

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?

On a regular basis we need to be reviewing, updating or eliminating any old and unnecessary regulations.

Q12

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

Each legislator has their our top priority, it maybe roads, broad band internet, water, education, senior issues, veteran issues, health care, foster care issues, broadband, etc. However, each of us want to make WV a better place to live, work and raise a family. Therefore, everything we do revolves around JOBS!

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.

Friends for Terri, Facebook

Q15

Name

Terri Funk Sypolt

Q16

Office Seeking

Delegate

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

52

Q19

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Q21

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