



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: Stevie Thaxton Office Seeking: House 36th
Party Affiliation: Republican Email: luv2fish78@yahoo.com
Address Line 1: 4066 Greenview Rd.
City: So. Chas. State: WV Zip: 25309 Phone: 304-549-0297

Questions:

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

I believe as legislators it is our responsibility to make a business friendly environment and search out new businesses to bring to the state.

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 have been a small business owner as an electrical contractor for 13 years.

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.

NRA

WVCDL

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?

Curb the drug epidemic. Find manufacturers that want to expand or relocate to WV. Give them a well trained drug free work force.

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/peel 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 an opponent to tax increases, especially inventory tax and personal property. It is a punishment tax for the working people.

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?

Shop and find businesses who want to relocate or expand and show them what we have to offer in WV.

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?

Incarceration of users, then a work and rehab program while they are in. Try to make them productive for when they return to civilization.

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?

I believe a company should be able to operate how they see best fit without government involvement

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

I would like to see better Vocational School training for the younger kids. Maybe work with Unions to open up their training

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 believe we can do what needs to be done and do it in an environmentally friendly way to appease the other side. We need our resources to keep moving WV forward.

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?

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

I grew up on a farm, father was a black layer, been in construction for 27 years. I am no stranger to hard work and look forward to working just as hard to make WV a greater state to live in.

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

yes

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

Stevie Thaxton

Stevie Thaxton for House 36th District

**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.*