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Q1

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

The West Virginia legislature should support conditions necessary for the retention, and growth, of manufacturing products in West Virginia.

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?

Prior to 1993, I was a carpenter and foreman for a construction company which specialized in building poultry/farm buildings. In 1993, I began a career as a local law enforcement officer (deputy sheriff, patrol officer) and built a personal brand of trust, integrity, and fairness, which is a foundation for being effective in public safety. From 1998 to 2011, I worked a second full time job in public safety, as a firefighter/paramedic. The experience from nearly three decades of being first at crisis situations, has shaped my character and sharpened my abilities of problem solving. Elected to serve as sheriff/treasurer of Hardy County in 2012, and again in 2016, my duties have been entirely focused on improving the conditions of public safety in my community.

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'm currently serving as sheriff/treasurer of my county and the duties entail daily work with any number of entities relating to local commerce, education, health and drug addiction recovery efforts.

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?

Many in our state, and country, have adopted a poor work ethic and many government policies have enabled, and even encouraged, a decline in labor participation. The promotion of practical education offerings at local colleges / trade schools for jobs that actually exist would be a smart goal. Creating incentives for companies to come to our state, and for folks to work, and be less reliant on government programs, should always be a goal.

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 saw no practical proposals on making local governments and schools whole. Any practical reduction of revenues must have an equal, or greater, component of spending reductions. The latter should, and will be, my focus.

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?

Properly educating a workforce is the first order of business. Labor participation incentives should be competing with the current policies which discourage working.

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?

Non criminal addicts should have a combination of health resources and work incentives to overcome their addiction. The larger group, of criminal addicts, should be jailed. Jails should be reformed to require work from the prisoners to offset costs.

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?

Any policy which gives preference to any one group because of their ethnicity, skin color, gender, or sexual preference, is a policy of discrimination. People should be treated equally.

Q9

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

Students should be encouraged to set realistic goals and have course offerings tailored to their abilities. High schools should be encouraged to partner with local colleges for advanced, specialized, courses in growing fields as engineering, robotics, etc.

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.

Work groups are essential in the adoption of practical policy. I would encourage the WV DEP to be more independent and promote policy that is tailored to the needs of WV. Overly generalized policy adoption will not benefit WV.

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?

Balance is the concern raised on the previous question. Over generalized regulation is not in our state's best interest as one size does not fit all.

Q12

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

Questions 10 and 11 were related to environmental issues. I can agree that we (humans) have been lousy stewards of our environment and that we should always look for ways to leave a smaller footprint. The unchecked growth of autonomous bureaucracies, however, are not always helpful, or interested, in finding balances of environmental impact and economic health.

Q13

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

Either would be fine.

Q14

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

Bryan Ward for House of Delegates on Facebook

Q15

Name

Bryan C. Ward

Q16

Office Seeking

WV House of Delegates

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

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Q21

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