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Q1

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

I believe state government should always lead with the prosperity and financial security of its citizens as first priority. Policy that incentivizes businesses to come to our state, but which also protects our natural resources from being exploited to the detriment of our people's health is the ideal balance to strive to strike.

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?

What I bring to the office I seek is strong leadership; not taking the path of least resistance or being content with perpetuating ineffective methods simply because it's the way it's always been done. As a local farmer, small business owner, husband, father, and USMC veteran, I am committed to sowing into our community for the benefit of future generations. I specifically farm hemp, which is useful in a plethora of ways to benefit the community and state economically, socially, and environmentally.

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.

N/A

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?

Hands down the most damaging issue affecting our state is the opiate epidemic. This is the root of every peripheral plague that comes with it, from increased violence and property crimes, prostitution, spread of disease, social repercussions such as homelessness and the overburdened foster care system, lack of able and available workforce, healthcare costs and burdens, and more. The solution is not going to come in one neat strategy, but in a multifaceted approach focusing on rehabilitation, accountability on the part of the pharmaceutical industry, stimulating economic growth and opportunity, and working to impart a sense of hope and purpose in our people.

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 do not support these taxes, as I feel there are far better ways to generate revenue than to impose punitive taxation and discourage business from coming into or staying in WV. If this requires an amendment to the state constitution, so be it.

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?

We have to look to our natural rugged beauty for recreational options for tourism and job opportunities, and we have to explore new business and industry. We have to ensure good paying jobs with benefits, protections for health and safety, and build communities people can raise their families in.

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 need better rehabilitation services. We have led the nation for over a decade in overdose deaths and neonatal abstinence syndrome. There are currently very few long term rehabilitation options in place. We need a more collaborative effort between our law enforcement and healthcare communities, and more thorough follow through with individuals seeking help and restoration of families.

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?

West Virginia has a long and rich history of being friendly, generous, and hospitable people. We don't need anymore focus on what divides us, but rather what unites us. Basic protections for human rights and dignities without encroaching on individual rights or enabling frivolous litigation is a balanced approach.

Q9

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

A focus on quality and affordable education will build a foundation of future leaders. I believe encouraging young people to pursue a trade or apprenticeship will also help diversify our workforce and strengthen the skills needed to sustain industrial growth. Encouraging STEM and tech development will prove worthwhile as well.

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 support this rule. I understand the need to cut through the red tape and create a business friendly model, while it cannot be denied that the environmental impact on our state and the health of our people has not been protected to the extent we should expect. Accountability for tainted water supplies, chemical spills, the environmental impacts of fracking and other controversial methods has been lacking, to the detriment of our citizens. We can do better for our people and still support and encourage business and economic growth and expansion.

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 plan to look at each proposed piece of legislation with exactly this balance in mind. There is no reason to allow corners to be cut in areas of basic safety and health preservation measures, but neither should we overreach and over regulate to the point that businesses cannot or will not operate in our state. It is a delicate balance to try and strike and I do not pretend to know the magic formula, but common sense legislation with both ideals in mind will lend the best compromise to benefit all.

Q12

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

I am a native West Virginian, and am raising five children here. I don't want to see my kids faced with no other options that to leave in search of opportunity. I love this state with my whole heart, and I want nothing more than to help it prosper and thrive. My service in the Marine Corps gave me a solid foundation of leadership skills and tenacity I will bring to my service of the community.

Q13

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

Yes, I am open to either option.

Q14

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Chris-Yeager-for-House-112133287000626/>

Q15

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Q16

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Q17

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Q18

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