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Q1

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

Government should not impede or regulate the affairs of business and industry in the manner of allowing it to grow by adding burdensome taxes/regulations.

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?

Being a member of many organizations that center around both community and business I have been able to see firsthand the chokehold that can occur when govt is allowed to over step its bounds and go beyond its obligations by interfering with personal liberties.

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.

board Member - Kanawha Valley Soap Box Derby

Rotary Club of Putnam a county

Putnam County Republican Women

Kanawha County Republican Women

Putnam County Republican Club

Kanawha County Farm bureau

Board member - Charleston High School
reunion Committee

Founding member of the Charleston High All Class Summer Bash

West Virginia Home Educators

West Virginia Citizens Defense League

National Rifle Association

Founder and Adminstrator for the largest Facebook support group for homeschoolers in WV

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?

The West Virginia work force is our biggest critical challenge. Our youth get an education and leave the state for better paying jobs. But with a burdensome level of regulations and taxes heaped on our business community it makes it difficult for industry in our state to compete with out of state entities at times. Another issue that affects our workforce is the ever growing drug use crisis. Appropriate treatment programs would help bring more skilled workers back into the workforce and get them off their addictions.

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.

This is an important step in moving forward. There was no excuse it failed in the House. Elected officials vowed to stand up for their constituents and failed to do so by not pushing this important issue through. We must start early in and create a public awareness campaign that would raise the consumer awareness of the importance of this so pressure will be there to make sure it is passed.

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?

The first and most important thing we can do is simple. Rather than looking at what new pieces of legislation we can pass that would create even more taxes or regulations; we should revisit existing regulations and taxes and start repealing those. Eliminating shackles from our business and industry would allow a true free market principle and growth. It would also be in itself; self enticing to draw new business to our state.

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?

Accountability is a vast and broad spectrum here on this issue. Whether it is put on the hands of the prescriber; or the user themselves. I also believe rather than just offering up alterternative drugs as a solution is a failure in itself. Proper rehab clinics with job training would not only help remove an addiction from an individual; but also give them job skills so they can move forward in the future and not fall back into the addiction after leaving rehab. I believe the state could benefit by working hand in hand with industry to create this cross pattern solution.

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?

By creating classes and creating special protections; I believe we add to the racial tensions in the workplace. But in the same breath, any form of racism against any individual due to their ethnic or sexual orientation is wrong. Companies should be allowed to have their own policy without interference from government. With it becoming an ever growing social issue; it is one issue that we must address with all sides involved to reach fair solutions.

Q9

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

One thing that makes major corporations successful is their training programs for employees. But companies that are smaller, can not afford to do this at this point because it creates a negative revenue. We should incentivize the opportunity for smaller companies therefore they can compete with larger corporations. This is a huge gamechanger thst for some reason never seems to be addressed.

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.

A work group on this matter I very much support. However if it were to simply be a promulgation of rule given to the DEP to set their own guidelines without this input I would have to oppose it as it could do more damage or be over reaching.

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?

Some regulations were passed years ago and continued to be added to or tightened. While I can't speak to all state regulations as they are countless in number; a committee should be formed or better yet utilized as a review committee to start rewriting or eliminating certain regs. The Interstate Cooperation Commission in the legislature is a committee that had perfect and lateral power to address this. However this committee is never utilized.

Q12

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

I would simply share the fact that my door will always be open to members. Your concerns and ideas are just as important to me as my own.

Q13

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

Absolutely

Q14

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

<https://www.facebook.com/KathieHessCrouse/>

Q15

Name

Kathie Hess Crouse

Q16

Office Seeking

WV State Senate District 8

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

8

Q19

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Q20

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Q21

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