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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

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

Our state government has a responsibility to make changes and commit to making sure West Virginia has a healthy, competitive economy.

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**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?

I am a teacher and what I can bring to this seat in the Senate is a perspective from the "inside" of public education. I am constantly in touch with former students as they grow up and look to their future. So what I have built, improved, or changed is easy - people. I shape the minds and work ethic of West Virginia's future workers.

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**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.

Leon Elementary Faculty Senate President, Leon Elementary LSIC, Mason County Youth Soccer League, Upward Sports, Mason County Right to Life

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**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 drug crisis in our state is a huge problem and there is not "quick fix" to this epidemic. I have a deep desire to help address and find solutions to this crisis because addiction has impacted me on a personal level in many ways. As a teacher, I have comforted students who have lost a parent to drug addiction and I have watched my only brother struggle with drug addiction for over twenty years. I have spoken with him (and friends who are recovering) on many occasions to determine what has worked for them. One of my favorite book quotes comes from "To Kill a Mockingbird" and it says, "You never truly understand a person until you consider things from this point-of-view..." This is very true when it comes to addiction. Here is a short list of things I believe will help combat the drug crisis:

Consult with recovering addicts to find what has worked for them

Continue the "Jobs and Hope West Virginia" program (This program is a statewide collaboration of agencies that give recovering adults the opportunity for job training and the chance to secure employment)

Provide more drug abuse education in our schools (students currently take part in DARE education in 5th grade)

Mandate a tax for large pharmaceutical companies to pay when a narcotic/opioid prescription is dispensed. One of the major problems is that narcotics/opioids are over-prescribed in West Virginia. In fact, this epidemic truly became a huge problem between the years 2007-2012. It isn't surprising that also during this time (according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration) 780 million pain pills (hydrocodone and oxycodone) were dispensed in West Virginia over those six years. That averages out to 130 million per year and 433 pain pills per person in our state. For example, mandating a tax of even \$0.02 per pill would generate \$15.6 million in this specific case. These large pharmaceutical companies are making billions off of patients in West Virginia. Let's make them put something back into our state and use the funds to create more opportunities for recovery.

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**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 hope this can be brought up again in this legislative session and can be passed. These taxes put our state at a disadvantage when it comes to business development and growth. In order to create more jobs in our state, we have to be able to "offer" something to companies to entice them to invest in West Virginia.

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**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?

A major issue we have in West Virginia is the lack of broadband internet throughout our state. There are too many rural areas (areas that are great for development) without access to broadband and this put us at a disadvantage in this day and age - especially with today's manufacturing environment, which relies a lot on technology and internet capabilities.

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**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?

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**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 am fully supportive of everyone receiving equal pay and equal opportunity for the same job responsibilities. An employee's pay should be based solely on their ability to perform the duties of their job and not based on their gender, race, or identity. Honestly, I have never considered that this issue would be a priority in a company determining whether or not they come to West Virginia. There is a fine line when it comes to protecting individuals from bias. We need to also make sure the rights of the business owner are acknowledged and protected as well. Business owners and companies should not be prohibited from hiring who they want to hire for the position.

**Q9**

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

To develop a diverse and skilled workforce we need to continue with vocational and trade school recruitment/training - for high school students and graduates. We can also partner with more universities and technical schools to attract and retain talent for the workforce with a specific focus on skills-based talent.

**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 the efforts of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate these safety measures and agree that having an active group involved in keeping up with the measures is important.

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**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 believe it would be helpful to enhance public involvement in finding solutions for environmental issues in their local communities. This strengthens the relationship between businesses and the community as well. Also, encourage companies to focus on what kind of impact their operations have on the environment (and hold them accountable) and assess how to improve and achieve positive results.

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**Q12**

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

I would like to discuss ideas/ways to lower energy costs for residential and industrial consumers. While this will be a new area for me to explore, I would like some feedback on ideas/experiences your members may have regarding this.

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**Q13**

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

I am available for an interview either way.

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**Q14**

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

I have a candidate Facebook page - Amy Nichole Grady for WV Senate District IV

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**Q15**

Name

Amy Nichole Grady

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

State Senate

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Republican

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**Q18**

District

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**Q19**

Email

amynicholegradyforwvsenate@yahoo.com

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**Q20**

Phone

(304)593-0979

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**Q21**

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