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Q1

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

I believe that it is government's job to create opportunities for business and industry to grow and thrive. This can be accomplished by lowering taxes and throwing out unnecessary regulations.

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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 have worked for over 10 years to better the infrastructure of southern West Virginia. Infrastructure improvements, including our roads, broadband, and bridges are important to spurring economic growth. I have pushed hard to diversify our economy to make West Virginia open for business to ALL industries. I have also signed a pledge to decrease taxes whenever possible on our people and businesses.

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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.

WVCDL  
NRA  
AFL-CIO  
One Voice  
Pride Community Services  
WV for Life  
Logan County Prevention Coalition  
Various Homeless Shelters

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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?

Many would say that West Virginia greatest challenge is the opioid epidemic. I would say that our biggest challenge is our lack of economic diversity. I believe that by diversifying our economy and bringing in stable, good paying jobs to our area, we can help solve the opioid epidemic. Many of West Virginia's problems could be solved by pushing for more business, and more industry.

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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.

Taxes are always a hinderance to a thriving economy. I believe that repealing/phasing-out unnecessary taxes would help spur economic growth. If I would have been in Senator Hardesty's seat, the seat of which I am running for, I would have been a YES vote on SJR 9 pushing us closer to a two-thirds majority.

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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?

I believe that the 2 keys of West Virginia's future are tourism and manufacturing. I believe giving tax credits to new businesses in these sectors would help drive growth. I also believe that continuing to improve our state's infrastructure will help in growing our economy.

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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?

As I addresses before, I believe that providing stable, good paying jobs will help turn this crisis around. The people of West Virginia need something to be hopeful for. I also believe investments into mental health are important to alleviating this epidemic.

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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?

Anything that will bring business to our state is a good thing. I would defer to the experts and the WVMJ on how to deal with these types of issues.

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**Q9**

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

I believe that the "free community college" that was passed a few years ago is a great start to developing an educated workforce. I also believe that college isn't for everyone, so I will continue my push in providing better, and more diverse vocational programs across West Virginia.

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**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 believe it is worth taking a look at. I would never outright say no without looking at something from all angles and prospectives.

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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?

Clean air and water are important to everybody. On the other hand, a war in industry using regulations is not good for our economy. I believe that there is a fine line that we can walk in order to keep workers and citizens safe, AND working.

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**Q12**

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

I have been in House of Delegates for over 10 years. Throughout those years, I have learned and grown as a person. I try to do what is right by my constituents above all. I humbly ask for your endorsement so that I can have you help continuing to be a voice for the people.

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**Q13**

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

Of course!

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**Q14**

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

Facebook - Ralph Rodighiero for WV Senate

Twitter - @DelRodighiero

Instagram - @del.rodighiero

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**Q15**

Name

Ralph Rodighiero

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

State Senate

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Democrat

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**Q18**

District

District 7

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**Q21**

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