



## 2020 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey is available to complete online at [www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2020](http://www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2020). You may also scan and email your completed survey to Rebecca McPhail at [rebecca@wvma.com](mailto:rebecca@wvma.com), or mail by **August 3, 2020** to:

West Virginians for Manufacturing Jobs PAC  
2001 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25311

Candidate Name: Patricia Rucker Office Seeking: State Senate  
Party Affiliation: Republican Email: ruckerforwv@gmail.com  
Address Line 1: PO Box 507  
City: Harpers Ferry State: WV Zip: 25425 Phone: 304-279-1619

### Questions:

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

The role of state government creates a level playing field so that all businesses are treated fairly. We need to keep taxes as low as possible so that WV businesses can remain competitive with those of other states.

2. 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 bring a track record of having sponsored and supported legislation that helps create an economic climate where business can thrive. This legislation includes comprehensive education reform, workforce development and improvements in infrastructure.

3. 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.

Since becoming a member of the WV State Senate, I have had to relinquish my role in some organizations like 4-H, Farm Bureau, Homeless Shelter. I am still a member of the Eastern Panhandle Business Association, Board member of Black Box Theater Co., and associate leader of a scout program.

4. 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?

Our biggest challenge is staying competitive with other states. To that end, we need to amend our constitution so that we can remove the tax on property, machinery and inventory that hampers manufacturers and other businesses

5. 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.

As aforementioned, we need to continue to educate legislators and the public on how important this change would be for economic development and how it improves living standards for all West Virginians.

6. 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?

Consistent with my previous responses, we need to eliminate job-killing taxes and unnecessary regulations.

7. 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?

I have already supported legislation that has been made into law that strengthens oversight of opioid prescriptions, increases access to alternative treatments and establishes additional substance abuse treatment programs.

8. 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?

Every company should have a policy regarding diversity in their workforce.

---

---

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

I have sponsored several bills that provide for alternative educational pathways, including vocational training, community and technical colleges and programs that permit middle schoolers to start training.

10. 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 was involved in the process of crafting and enacting that rule.

11. 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?

A good policy would be to require an economic impact study for any and all legislation.

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

The Trump administration is working to bring back manufacturing jobs to the U.S. I support these efforts and WV will benefit from this especially if we eliminate the business inventory and machinery tax.

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

Yes. Either.

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

"Patricia Rucker State Senator" on Facebook.

"Rucker for WV" on Instagram.

"@Rucker for WV" on Twitter

**SAVE THE DATE – 2020 WVMA All State-Legislative Dinner  
Charleston, W.Va.**

**Monday, November 16, 2020**

*\*Sitting and newly elected Legislators are encouraged to attend as guests of the WVMA  
Occupancy restrictions may lead to registration limits – details to follow.*