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Q1

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

I am a constitutional conservative. I believe that the state government is best served to aid business and industry by not over-regulating and over-burdening them. By implementing competitive workforce and tax system initiatives and actually listening to the concerns of manufacturing businesses, state government can be a help, rather than a hindrance.

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 seek to bring to the state years of multi-varied experience in business and in government with the Summers County Commission. As Summers County Commissioner, I serve on the Board of Directors for:

County Commissioners Association of West Virginia – Association President – Legislative Committee, Chairman 4 years

West Virginia Association of Counties – Legislative committee – Tax Reform Committee

New River Gorge Regional Development Authority 6 years

Workforce West Virginia – Region One – Chief, Local Elected Official, 5 years– executive committee member, 8 years 11 Mo. overall

West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute – Executive Council Member 6 years

The National Association of Counties (NACo) – Board of Directors – Environment, Energy & Land Use Steering Committee – Veterans and Military Service Committee – Open Space and Trails Subcommittee

WV Records Management and Preservation Board – Appointed by Governor Tomblin

Summers County Parks & Recreation Commission – President

Summers County has grown substantially as a business hub during my time as county commissioner and was ranked 1st last year in new business openings statewide.

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.

As a member of the community I serve on the Board of Directors for:

New River Gateway Convention and Visitors Bureau – President 5 years

Summers County Board of Health (16 years)

Veterans Memorial Museum of Southern West Virginia – Trustee

Main Street Care 5 years

The Hinton Lions Club – Past President and Zone Chairman

Summers County ARH Hospital – Advisory committee 5 years

Summers County Republican Executive Committee – 21 years

Elected to the West Virginia State Republican Executive Committee

Elected to the 10th Senatorial District Republican Executive Committee

Elected to the 3rd Congressional District Republican Executive Committee

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?

Our economic downturn due to COVID-19 is our most critical challenge at this juncture. We must continue to work hard to stay safe, but we also cannot continue to choke our manufacturing industry and threaten their survival. After COVID, we must diligently work to listen to manufacturing's concerns and do all we can to lessen governmental burdens on their success.

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 believe business and inventory tax would be important to remove. It must be done, however, in a common sense manner that doesn't ruin individual county budgets, forcing them to levy higher property taxes in turn. The B&I tax can be done away with eventually in a phased approach.

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 strongly believe in building a better workforce through educational development (trade school opportunities), tax structure reform, and infrastructure building. Broadband services and improved roads are critical to this vision.

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 must stop slapping the drug traffickers on the wrist. We also must ensure all who need rehabilitation, receive it. Early childhood training in schools to break the cycle of addiction is also extremely important. Solving this crisis is a direct link toward saving businesses across this state and changing the narrative and stigma that surrounds us.

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?

All must be treated equal under the law in the state of WV, and the legislature must ensure this continues to be the case.

Q9

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

Trade school development is essential. We have to match our young people's skill sets to what our manufacturing firms, already here and incoming, truly need. With displaced workers due to shifting market trends and technology needs have shifted how value is perceived among companies. Reinforcement and incentive for post-secondary education would help create a workforce conducive to manufacturing business success.

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 agree with WVMA in that the work group is a careful approach toward establishing these limits. The WVMA must be allowed to continue to have a prime seat at the table to provide needed insight on how these limits might affect industry as a whole, hopefully allowing for compromise and understanding.

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?

It is a duty to conserve the earth and its resources. In saying that, a principled measure in ensuring a balance would be to make sure the benefits are more powerful than the costs. If the harm to a business is far greater than the benefits of an environmental regulation, then that regulation should be, on principle, repealed.

Q12

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

To better serve the public I have attended:

NACo High Performance Leadership Academy, an innovative, program created to equip frontline government professionals with practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and communities.

County Leadership Institute, a rigorous program developed by the National Association of Counties and Cambridge Leadership Associates that enhances the capability of officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to complex challenges facing government.

The Mountain State Land Use Academy – West Virginia University School of Law – works with local governments and land use decision-makers to encourage sustainable development in West Virginia communities.

Community Leadership Academy – West Virginia University Extension Service – provides community leaders with a solid foundation in public organizational and financial management.

Q13

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

Either or, any time.

Q14

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

<https://m.facebook.com/woodrum4ww/>

Q15

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Jack David Woodrum

Q16

Office Seeking

WV State Senate

Q17

Party Affiliation

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Q18

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