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Erikka Storch  
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**Q1**

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

Government should get out of the way and let the job creators do what they do best.

**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 been actively involved in the Wheeling community for nearly 3 decades, working and volunteering with various groups.

**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.

Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce

Wheeling Rotary Club

Junior League of Wheeling

Wheeling Health Right

Regional Economic Development Partnership

**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?

Education, opioids, loss of population, and access to broadband would be a largest threats. We, as a legislative body, have gluten a good start on several of these.

**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 am a huge advocate for the removal of this regressive tax. As a former manufacturer, the real property taxes that I paid, were equal to the personal property taxes we paid on inventory, machinery, and equipment. I had a standing order in our shop to ship as much as was complete on June 30.

**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?

With feedback from the job creators, create an environment that is not overly burdensome with regulations, has strong educational results, and a fair legal system.

**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?

Educate. Educate. Educate. Through programs like the Herren Project, we can reach the children who will one day be our workforce. We need to teach doctors the better and safer ways. We need to train employers to recognize signs of employees who may be plagued by addiction.

**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 have always been supportive of non-discrimination legislation.

**Q9**

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

With feedback from those who create jobs, encourage our community and technical schools, who are able to react quickly, to create programs most needed. As my role at the Chamber of Commerce, we are current working on a strategic action plan with WVU to make sure we have the Workforce needed for our region.

**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 am not sure I have a position in this rule yet, as this will be bundled and changed. I would look to Rebecca for clarification as to how to these measures.

**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?

In my district, there are pretty much zero opportunities for industrial development, as we have zero rail and minimal barge load out; however, with my structural steel fabrication background, I am a huge advocate of industrial investment.

**Q12**

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

I support regulations that are similar to other state's but no more stringent than federal regulations.

**Q13**

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

Yes

**Q14**

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

@erikka\_storch

Erikka Storch for WV House of Delegates

**Q15**

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**Q16**

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