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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Vince Deeds
Office Seeking: State Senate
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 10th

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: PO Box 902
City/Town: Lewisburg
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 24901
Country: USA
Email Address: deeds4wvsenate@gmail.com
Phone Number: (304) 992-9305

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state)

Summers County High School

Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA)

Virginia Tech (Political Science and Psychology), State Police Academy. I also have an equivalent to a masters degree in psychology from UVA through the FBI Academy in 2008.

Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations)

Chief Investigator, Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Head of Security, Greenbrier County Board of Education.

Describe your current job & responsibilities

As Chief Investigator, I serve directly under the Prosecuting Attorney and take the lead on the most complex cases. For BOE, I direct security planning for all schools in the county.

How long have you worked for your current employer?

2017, both, after retiring after 25 years as WV State Trooper

Q4

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

Will email answer

Q5

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?

Will email answer

Q6

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.

NRA, Communities in Schools, pastor at local Sinks Grove Baptist Church, Farm Bureau, Masonic Lodge

Q7

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?

Will email answer

Q8

Do you support the passage of Amendment One on the November 2022 General Election ballot? The measure provides the legislature with the authority to repeal or phase out tangible personal property in the future, this includes tax on personal vehicles, small business inventory, and tax on manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment.

Yes, I am in favor of the amendment.

Q9

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?

Will email answer

Q10

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?

Will email

Q11

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?

Will email

Q12

What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs.

Will email

Q13

What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

Will email

Q14

What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

Will email

Q15

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?

Without a clean and productive environment, it will inhibit business profitability. I believe that government rule making should be based on sound science, not on media hysteria. I believe manufacturers should retain a seat at the table and have fair comment period before potential new regulations come into effect. Benefits must have provable advantage over the cost of the new regulation.

Q16

What do you think West Virginia could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

Will email

Q17

Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of legislator?

I believe God calls us to be good stewards of His creation, and to treat others equally and with fairness. My decision making on relevant policy would reflect this belief and work to ensure that manufacturers are encouraged to create these criteria for the betterment of all employees and the companies themselves.

Q18

If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers with in the state of West Virginia what would it be? and Why?

Eliminating the business and inventory tax. It is a shackle that not only hurts manufacturers, but harms the State of West Virginia as a whole. The two must foster a symbiotic relationship, and removing this tax in a responsible manner is critical.

Q19

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

Yes, please contact me at any time.

Q20

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

Vince Deeds for WV State Senate - 10th District

WV Manufacturing Jobs PAC Survey

Vince Deeds

~~WV Manufacturing Jobs PAC Survey~~
Email received
after deadline
on 7/19/22
9:00 am

All other questions submitted online.

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

I believe that government's role in relation to business and industry should be one of positive facilitation. State government should be an AID to business and industry, not a hindrance through overburdensome regulation and taxation. I am a true believer that investing in ways to make the lives of business leaders easier will always come back to help the State of West Virginia as a whole in many ways. State government should derive counsel from business and industry and always make sure it has a prime seat at the forefront of the table in policy.

5) 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 was blessed to serve as a West Virginia State Trooper for 25 years, retiring in 2017 as Lieutenant Colonel: Chief of Staff. I am also the chief investigator for the Gbr County Prosecutor's Office and the Director of Safety for Gbr County Schools. I am also the Pastor of Sinks Grove Baptist Church. For the benefit of my community, I have devoted my life to the service of others and strive daily to strengthen the physical and emotional security that our neighbors feel around them. As State Senator, I want to help strengthen the fiscal sense of security of West Virginians so they can have more opportunities to better themselves, as well as the comfort of mind that West Virginia is THE lifelong land to build and raise a family.

6) 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.

Communities in Schools, Heal our Land (fighting the drug pandemic in Western Greenbrier), Masonic Lodge, Children's Home Society, WV State Troopers Association, numerous gun organizations

7) 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 issue is a cancer on society. We lose so many that have so much potential, losing a generation of parents as well. This contributes to almost every other issue West Virginia faces, including employment, business development, and education. It takes so much taxpayer money to keep these individuals in prison. Every person that is a drug user is someone who is not contributing to society.

We have to take a multi-spectrum approach. On the user level, we need opportunities for mandatory effective treatment. Actual drug dealers, those making the money, need to face serious prison time. With the multi-angle approach, we can hopefully put the user back as a contributor to society and end

the current vicious cycle where we lose generations of human beings. I have witnessed this tragedy up close and personal through my entire adult life.

9) 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?

The current question is how to manage our surpluses to accelerate recovery. I see this as multipronged with focuses on carefully analyzing our strengths and weaknesses. Working with businesses like NUCOR in this past session, hearing their needs and working to accommodate, is critical. Let's invest in trade schools and support initiatives to market them and make them more affordable. Let's work toward eliminating the business and inventory tax in a fair way. The pandemic has exposed the need to invest heavily in broadband internet. Let's wisely invest back in our people and expand by focusing where it counts.

10) 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 mentioned in question 7, this is the most serious challenge our state faces. Beyond mandatory effective treatment for users and stiffer penalties for dealers, I find it vital for state government to encourage faith-based treatment facilities and opening pathways for them to open up across our state. Our government should actively be looking into properties and staffing for drug treatment facilities and help private entities in their quest to start facilities when help is requested.

11) 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?

My sister is a member of the LGBTQ community, and I would never want to see her or any other individual's rights affronted. Every person is welcome to the State of West Virginia, no matter their background, ideology, or creed. I will never vote to take away any of the current rights enjoyed by all West Virginians, already on the books.

12) What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs?

We must have sufficient professionally-skilled and semi-skilled workers to meet demand. We must invest in research as to what types of job industries that we are looking to attract to West Virginia, and ensure we have workers with the skill sets available to meet the needs of those industries. Let's further incentivize careers by facilitating the growth of the new JumpStart Savings Program. I am in favor of the private market exploring charter schools that directly focus on teaching these skills. Every young person should be exposed to the potential of a career in these fields and the excitement that will be derived. They also should know of the increasing interest of manufacturers in West Virginia, to encourage them to stay within the state.

13) What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

As the Director of Security for Greenbrier County Schools, I see firsthand many incredible success stories, but also several tragedies related to the education system in our state. Education issues will NOT go away based on the amount of money we throw at it. Instead, we must empower parents to make decisions for their children based on their individual needs. No child is the same and neither is every teacher, and blanket standards on education will never improve standards. Making sure that teacher pay is merit based, competitive, and result driven will help our state attract and retain top quality teachers. We must have strong performance standards and high reward for achieving those objectives. I believe in further expansion of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. I believe in measures giving more local control to education. I believe in the expansion of charter schools and letting tax dollars flow toward where more children attend. I also find it vital to improve our early childhood development efforts by investing in Pre-K programs.

14) What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

Funding should go toward where the greatest needs are. STEM education is increasingly a lifeblood for our state and our attractiveness to manufacturers looking to move here. I believe representatives of the manufacturing industry should have a direct line to these school programs where they can mentor and facilitate relationships with aspiring students who are intrigued by technical careers and business careers. We have to heavily fund STEM and make an effort to improve output, as our state has truly fallen behind in this category. We should review our education standards and metrics in these disciplines, and invite those who have had successful careers as a result of STEM programs to play an active role in the kids' lives.

16) What do you think West Virginia could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

I believe the process starts now. This does not mean we give up on fossil fuels, as the transition should be well-thought out. But the transition must also be realistic with the forward vision of a long-term renewable-energy based market. The potential use of reclaimed mine land into wind mills and solar farms is there. Nuclear energy should be explored further. Communication with both fossil fuel and renewable energy industries is critical. Renewable energy is not the enemy of fossil fuels. It is simply the reality that we face and must start to acclimate toward. If renewable energy sources are phased in over time across the state, the blow to our economy will be far less severe and more manageable.