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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: **Paul Espinosa**  
Office Seeking: **House of Delegates**  
Party Affiliation: **Republican**  
District: **98**

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**Q2**

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: **107 Hancock Court**  
City/Town: **Charles Town**  
State/Province: **WV**  
ZIP/Postal Code: **25414**  
Country: **US**  
Email Address: **paul@espinosafordelegate.com**  
Phone Number: **304-268-4266**

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**Q3**

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state) **Jefferson High School, Shenandoah Junction, WV**  
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA) **West Virginia Wesleyan College, BA**  
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations) **ROCKWOOL, Public Affairs Manager**  
Describe your current job & responsibilities **Community affairs.**  
How long have you worked for your current employer? **3 years**

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**Q4**

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

I believe in limited government that fosters a positive business climate.

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**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?

During my 10 years in the legislature I've sponsored and worked for passage of a host of legislation intended to attract and retain business including legal reform, regulatory reform, education reform and tax reform.

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**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.

WVMA, Eastern Panhandle Business Association, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, West Virginia Chamber and Rotary Club of Charles Town.

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**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?

Implementing tax reform to foster continued economic growth.

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**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've sponsored this legislation.

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**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?

Continue to advocate for continued regulatory reform to ensure West Virginia is not an outlier.

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**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?

I've been pleased to sponsor and work for passage of legislation to provide age-appropriate education on the perils of opioid use, enhancing penalties for drug king pins, and providing treatment for those impacted by addiction.

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**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?

I'm an advocate for non-discrimination, but do not support creating an additional cause of action that would adversely impact businesses.

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**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.

I've sponsored and worked for passage of legislation expanding workforce training and will continue to advocate for education choice and workforce training programs.

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**Q13**

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

I'm an advocate for education choice that I'm convinced will benefit public education through competition. I'm an advocate for locality pay to help attract and retain teachers and school service personnel in border counties. I'm also an advocate for greater accountability to ensure students are receiving services commensurate with the considerable investment we're making.

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**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)?

I support job shadowing and mentorship programs designed to increase student awareness of manufacturing opportunities and have been pleased to participate in the Education Alliance's career exploration program.

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**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?

I believe West Virginia must adopt regulations that do not place us at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states. Job creators and potential investors deserve a predictable regulatory climate.

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**Q16**

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

I support an all of the above approach to energy diversity. I have been pleased to support the repeal of the prohibition on nuclear energy as well as legislation designed to encourage the availability of alternative energy.

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**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 respect private businesses right to adopt such goals, but believe those decisions should be market driven rather than dictated by government.

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**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?

Repeal of the tax on business equipment and inventory. I have sponsored and advocated for passage of this legislation and will be forcefully advocating for passage of the constitutional amendment during the General election campaign.

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**Q19**

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

Yes.

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**Q20**

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

EspinosaforDelegate.com; Facebook: EspinosaforDelegate; Twitter: @DelPaulEspinosa.

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