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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Tom Fast
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 51

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: P.O. Box 332
Address 2: None
City/Town: Fayetteville
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25840
Country: U.S.
Email Address: votetomfast@cisinternet.net
Phone Number: 304-254-4080

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

North Marion, Fairview, WV

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

**Fairmont State (BA Political Science) Regent University
School of Law (J.D.)**

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

Fast Law Office L.C. Attorney

Describe your current job & responsibilities

General practice of law. All aspects of a busy law practice.

How long have you worked for your current employer?

26 years

Q4

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

Government is instrumental in creating the business atmosphere. If it is good, tax friendly, not overly regulatory, businesses will come and thrive, and vice versa.

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?

A vast amount of experience in the law. We have built two successful businesses and continue to run them. Having grown up on a farm, I have been endowed with a good work ethic and a well rounded practice approach to tasks.

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.

Member of Nazarene Church, Oak Hill, WV. Current member and past president of Fayette County Republican Executive Committee. Upward Bound basketball coach. Former President of Fayette County Bar Association. Delegate to WV Legislature.

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?

In the business context, it is important to continue advancing the positive business atmosphere we have been building for the past 8 years. We need to pass the Property Tax Modernization Act Amendment and the legislature needs to follow through with the elimination of the business and inventory tax. I have run a bill on how to do this. I hope it gets a strong look in January.

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.

Absolutely.

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 the repeal of unnecessary regulations. Pass Amendment 1 and have legislative follow through. Continue to work on critical building site infrastructure. Continue education reforms to have a ready workforce.

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?

Strengthen the family. Strong anti-drug campaigns such as the "Just Say No" campaign that worked. Policies that create self responsibility and less dependence on government. Maintain and enhance prevention, treatment, and education work, including faith based programs.

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?

All are welcome and at the same time religious liberties must be preserved. This is true for individuals and employers.

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.

We must continue advancing apprenticeships and vocational education opportunities. In addition, we need to carefully detract from a dependency on government and promote policies of self reliance.

Q13

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

Education choice is important and will make a difference. More discipline and higher expectations in schools are critical.

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)?

Legislation could be passed to require a greater focus on STEM education. Industry should be very active with county boards of education to strongly display the benefits to students, families and communities of career training in the primary and secondary education settings.

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 we have done good work in this area in the past 8 years. The Legislature needs to listen to industry and true science make common sense decisions.

Q16

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

I believe coal and gas remain critical for the energy production of our state and country. As technology increases, we can create workable policies to continue incorporating renewable energy sources.

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?

If the goals are realistic and based on truth, they should be considered in weighing proposed legislation.

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?

Exercising authority under amendment 1 (assuming it passes) to responsibly eliminate the business and inventory tax on businesses.

Q19

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

Yes

Q20

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

Facebook is within my social media realm, but the better way to follow and communicate with me is personal contact.
