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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** marty gearheart  
**Office Seeking:** house of delegates  
**Party Affiliation:** republican  
**District:** 37th

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**Q2**

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address** 131 Henderson Dr.  
**Address 2** 704 Bland St. Room 617  
**City/Town** bluefield  
**State/Province** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code** 24701  
**Country** United States  
**Email Address** marty.gearheart@martygearheart.com  
**Phone Number** 3043200879

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**Q3**

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

**Bluefield High School Bluefield, WV**

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

**Concord University BS in Education**

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

**Managing Member Gearheart Enterprises, LLC**

Describe your current job & responsibilities

**I manage and operate a sign manufacture and installation company**

How long have you worked for your current employer?

**14 years**

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**Q4**

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

I think government needs to take from citizens and business only what is needed to perform its essential functions, thus I like low taxes, personal freedom, and less and more reasonable regulation.

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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?

I have built more than one business including my current business. Via my previous employer I was afforded the opportunity to work with many large companies across the country. I also taught and coached in public school many years ago. I currently act an an official for secondary school football and basketball. This along with activities within the chamber of commerce, church, and republican party all enhance our area.

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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.

Bland St. United Methodist Church  
Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias  
Mercer Officials Board  
Mercer County Republican Executive Committee  
West Virginia Republican Executive Committee

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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?

We have made a lot of progress however there is much more to do. The most important issue in my mind is tax relief for West Virginia tax payers. There are two taxes that will be considered for reduction, Income and Property. I will work to effect reduction to elimination of either. If Property tax modification doesn't get approval of the voters. Then I will sponsor and advocate for income tax reduction. (sponsored last two sessions)

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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

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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?

I think employers want the freedom to run their business as they think will allow them to prosper. Thus lower tax, less red tape, more reasonable regulation, and environment where employees want to live and work are important. This allows all to work , play, and prosper.

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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?

A job is the great motivator. When one works at a meaningful they tend not drift into things like drugs. More and better paying jobs is the best answer to this question.

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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 believe in rights for all West Virginians. I do not believe in special rights for some. Employers should find an open and accepting atmosphere for their business and employees where opportunity is available to all.

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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.

Manufacturing skills typically require vocational skills and we have developed excellent vocational schools for general skills in High Schools and an outstanding group of community and technical schools to refine these skills. We need to continue to encourage the specific cts to address the specific skills needed by business in their area.

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**Q13**

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

Outcome tends to be code word for good grades. I want to see good grades but not given but earned. The biggest problem in k-12 is discipline in the classroom. I am authoring a bill to address this for 2023 session.

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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 think the outreach from industry to the schools or the schools defining the need is a solid start.

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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?

As stated, by creating a balance in law and the review of rules that enforce that law. It is a time consuming process to go through all these rules. Good start has been made.

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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?

Diversity is great. Competition is better. To the victor go the spoils. WV should be using the least expensive, most available, and most efficient forms of 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?

West Virginia has solid values. I respect business choices, however I don't we should attempt to bow to ever social choice of every business. Work with all. Compromise values shouldn't be done.

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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?

tax reform. As stated previously, it is the single area where the current majority have not been able to assist our citizens and business and is essential for prosperity.

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**Q19**

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

Yes Sir/Ma'am.

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**Q20**

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

Marty Gearheart

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