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**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, July 08, 2022 9:19:38 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 11, 2022 6:00:38 PM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
**IP Address:** 38.70.0.141

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**Q1**

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** Kathie Hess Crouse  
**Office Seeking:** House of Delegates  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican  
**District:** 19

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**Q2**

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address:** 520 Eighteen Mile Creek Road  
**City/Town:** Buffalo  
**State/Province:** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code:** 25033  
**Country:** United States  
**Email Address:** kathiehess@gmail.com  
**Phone Number:** (304) 533-6396

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**Q3**

Education &amp; Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state):** Charleston High School, Charleston, West Virginia  
**Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA):** West Virginia State University, Bachelor Degree, Biology  
**Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations):** Member of the West Virginia House of Delegates  
**Describe your current job & responsibilities:** Pass legislation, represent the people of my district  
**How long have you worked for your current employer?:** Less than 1 year

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**Q4**

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

My philosophy towards the role of state government as it relates to business and industry is that government should pass laws that make it easier to create jobs and keep our state moving. Government should do no more than absolutely necessary for the well-being of our citizenry, and then get out of the way.

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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?

As a wife, mother, and a Homeschool mom, I bring a different perspective. I believe in the freedom of choice - to choose what school your children go to, what kind of work you want to do, and what kind of life you want to lead. That is the perspective I bring to the table and that is what I keep in my heart every day in the Legislature.

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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.

Commissioner, West Virginia Athletic Commission  
President, West Virginia Home Educators Association  
Member, West Virginia Citizens Defense League  
Christian Home Educators  
Home School Legal Defense  
Putnam County Convention And Visitors Bureau  
Putnam County Republican Club  
Rotary Of Putnam County  
Putnam County Republican Women  
Kanawha County Republican Women  
West Virginia Federation Of Republican Women  
Kanawha Valley Soap Box Derby

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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?

West Virginia was under one-party rule for over 80 years. We need to clean up the law and the regulatory scheme in this State to provide job creators with the tools they need to employ more workers and produce more output for our state to thrive. An enhanced economy and more opportunity will fix many societal ills.

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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?

West Virginia needs policies that make it more competitive. I support lower taxes, fewer burdensome regulations, and robust education reforms that make West Virginia more attractive to bring jobs to this State.

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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?

Our people need support. The biggest thing we can do to break the hold that opioids have on our people is to break the cycle of hopelessness. I will work to create policies that create more jobs and provide more opportunity. I will work to build a better education system in order to prepare our children for the workforce. Finally, I will work to provide resources for mental health initiatives in order to help people who feel trapped to overcome their 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?

Equality under the law means equality of opportunity - not outcome. I am committed to a West Virginia where all mountaineers are able to live and work. I do not believe that workers in West Virginia should be discriminated against because of their race, sex, national origin, etc. I do not believe that employees of any company in West Virginia should be discriminated against, blamed, or made to feel less important because of the color of their skin. Because of this key conviction, I am opposed to Critical Race Theory and the use of Critical Race Theory in workplace training.

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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.

We need to make it easier for children to choose a trade school and to learn manufacturing skills. We should work to incentivize this as a viable option just as much as we incentivize college education.

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**Q13**

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

I am a huge school choice advocate, a homeschooling mom, and one of a few who stood up to the Teachers Unions in West Virginia to fight for the right of School Choice in West Virginia. We should fund students not systems.

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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 have a degree in Biology, so I believe in STEM education. Providing opportunities to all students to learn to their fullest potential is one of the most important things we can do in our schools. We should emphasize and incentivize vocational and technical education as much as we incentivize and emphasize college education.

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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?

We must continue to balance our commitment to the environment with our commitment to our people. However, we must not force burdensome regulations that harm the economic fortunes of our State.

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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 was proud to vote in favor of SB 4, to eliminate the ban on construction of new nuclear power plants. I am dedicated to continuing to invest in West Virginia 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?

As a legislator, I am always listening to the perspective of my constituents and experts in the matters that we are voting on. Ultimately, I represent my constituents, but would always be open to suggestions and guidance.

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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 relief is crucial. Given what we have seen with our economy nationally, we should be making it easier for people who make things that we need to operate.

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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.

Twitter: @KathieHess

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KathieHessCrouse>

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