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Page 1

Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Patrick Lucas
Office Seeking: WV House
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 24

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 4 Wildwood Road
City/Town: Barboursville
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25504
Country: United States
Email Address: patricklucasrealtor@gmail.com
Phone Number: 13046346275

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Huntington East High School Huntington, WV
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): Marshall, BS Marketing
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Century 21 Homes & Land, Broker / Owner
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Managing realtors, selling real estate
How long have you worked for your current employer?: 23 years

Q4

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

State Government's role is to ensure that there is a level playing field for all businesses. While laws that pertain to safety and the environment as well as taxes are a necessity, we must make sure that they are not to the point of excess and we drive businesses away.

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 been involved in my business community for over 23 years. As a Small Business Owner, Realtor and Broker, I work every day with individuals, businesses and organizations to work to improve our community to help us have a better place to work, live and raise our families. As past president of the Huntington Board of Realtors, I have donated countless hours to community service projects. My involvement with Marshall University and Boards that I serve on help me stay involved with programs in my area and to keep my finger on the pulse of what is happening in the community.

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.

Huntington Area Habitat for Humanity
Marshall University Big Green Board of Trustees
Huntington Board of Realtors Board of Directors
WV Association of Realtors Board of Directors

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?

The first issue we must improve on is our economy – we have a surplus in the budget and we must have a balanced budget. With inflation on the rise and having a budget surplus, we have to find ways to change our taxes to return money back to the tax payers to give them relief from our current economic situation, but also so we can improve the business climate in our state. In the event of a national economic downturn, WV must be at the top of every list when businesses will look for a place to relocate.

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

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?

Passage of Amendment one will give us the ability to remove the archaic taxes on inventory, machinery and equipment which causes businesses to look elsewhere. We also need to re-evaluate our tort laws, malpractice laws and workers compensation to make sure we are competitive. We have to improve our education system in both k-12 but also in the votech as well to make sure we have a job 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?

We have to support the work of our Attorney General who has been taking legal action on this front, but we also have to have resources available for folks who want to stop using addictive substances.

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?

The job of government is not to create incentives for initiatives private employers want to take. In regards to discrimination, the job of government is to make sure we have strong anti-discrimination laws.

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.

As stated above, we have to support K-12 as well as growing our votech programs. Manufacturers need to work with board of education as well as the legislature and vocalize what programs and gaps exist so they can be closed.

Q13

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

Fully funding our education system, having competitive pay and benefits for our education employees and maintaining proper structure to make sure our children have up to date and safe facilities to learn and prepare for the future.

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)?

Recent discussions on charter schools needs to be explored to included charter schools that have a vocational focus such as STEM and Medical programs as well as working with our local school systems to improve our vocational training.

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?

While the state must regulate certain industries, it must also be careful not to go so far as to put businesses out of business.

Q16

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

While WV Is known for Coal, we do have a diversification in our energy portfolio to include natural gas, wind, solar and hydro (although not widely used – it still exists) Recently, nuclear being a possibility in WV, we have to look at all sources that we can provide our growing economy. As more and more companies relocated to WV and expand here, we have to have energy that is diverse and makes sense in the areas they are developing and meeting their needs where they are.

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?

Many corporations have established those criteria to meet the demands of their customers and to remain competitive in our social environment. As a member of the legislature, my focus in this area includes non discrimination as is outlined in the National Association of Realtors Code of Ethics.

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?

I would work to improve our education system to bridge the gap between what our employers need and what our workforce provides.

Q19

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

Either is fine.

Q20

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

Facebook: Patrick Lucas WV House of Delegates
