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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: KEITH w MARPLE
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 69

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 4069 JOHNSTOWN ROAD, LOST CREEK, WV USA
City/Town: LOST CREEK
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26385
Country: United States
Email Address: mvistafarm@aol.com
Phone Number: 3046228492

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Roosevelt-Wilson (R-W) Nutter Fort, West Virginia 26385
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): WV Wesleyan & American U. BS Administration of Justice
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Retired Washington DC Police Officer & Retired WV Magistrate
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Retired
How long have you worked for your current employer?: 26 yrs Metropolitan Police,DC/20 yrs WV Magistrate

Q4

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

State Gov. oversees & governs Businesses & industries and attempts to regulate & enforce the laws, rules & regulations so businesses & industries can function to do their jobs & serve the best interests of the people of our state & our country.

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?

Experience in enforcing existing laws, rules & regulations and interpreting same as well as handling civil & criminal cases in Magistrate Court I also serve as a Vol. Fire Fighter in my community, I am adopt-a-hiway coordinator for our Lions Club and work with Solid Waste Authority to have a Community Clean up & Dumpster Day.

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.

Lions Club, United Methodist Church, Vol. Fire Dept, Masonic Lodge & Shriners.

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?

Right now Inflation is hurting everyone & everything and businesses/small companies can't get enough employees. I would like to see our State fill all the vacancies and raise salaries to keep State Workers and follow our Governor's lead to reduce and end the State Income tax which would bring retirees in from other states with State Income Taxes much like Tenn., Fla., & Texas are doing now. It would also bring in more Industries & businesses with workers who would take advantage of the 'no state income tax' benefit. I would work to push our natural resources, gas, oil & coal as well as tourism & up date our state park's cabins & lodges. I would like to see retired State Workers get an annual cost of living raise to their pensions based on Federal Cost of Living raises each year or a percentage thereof.

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.

I do support the idea of giving the legislature such authority and letting them decide what taxes to do away with and what taxes to phase out and which to keep.

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?

As I mentioned previously do away with the State Income Tax, raise State Workers Wages and give retired state employees some type of cost of living raise each year.

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?

Take a long and hard look at our State Code and make any changes to the penalties to deal with the drug dealers and put them away and enforce enhanced penalties for repeat offenders. We must protect our young people and we must educate them as well to the dangers of fentanyl and all others drugs.

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?

Everyone has rights and should be treated equality but I would not let transgender males play girl's sports and rob our young women of their right to compete against other girls in their own sports. My thought is to ask your sister, your daughter or your grand daughter if they want to play sports with or against transgender males and share the same locker room or bath room with them?

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.

Education and training as well as on the job training is always the answer but the solution is money to do and fund these things. We have many such programs in place and they are limited by the lack of money/funding to expand or to continue. If we do the math we can prepare for the future workforce and enhance the skills of the current workforce.

Q13

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

Same ole answer, money and funding. Other states are hiring our better teachers with better salaries and better retirements. WV has no retirement 'cost of living' to add to state retirements either for teachers or other state workers. Again do the math and you will solve the problem.

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)?

STEM education is what our grandparents called 'reading, righting & righmatic', the three 'r's'. If our schools can prepare and educate our student to be proficient in 'reading', writing proper English and solving 'math' problems then we can have programs and partner with business & industry to further train and prepare students for the future workforce thru career and technical vo-tech centers and Community colleges.

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 long as we have people whose whole belief that every phase of industry and business is causing or has caused 'Climate Change' and is destroying the Earth, every State and Federal regulation, environment rule or law that requires a permit to be issued to disturb the soil or a stream or a tree, plant, forrest, wetland, animal, bug, worm, snake, fish or fowl is going to be challenged in Court and fought and appealed again and again to delay and prevent said 'permit' from being issued. These actions have and will prevent a lot of future industrial job growth and investment. It is a "Pandora's Box".

Q16

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

The State could offer monetary incentives with tax brakes and grants to business and industry to promote these renewable energy diversity systems being used.

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?

These would be postive things to consider as a part of a total package being presented for approval.

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?

When we look around the Nation and World today we see that businesses and industries are lacking 'computer chips' to build a multitude of products. Most of these chips have been built overseas and the USA needs these chips to be built within our country for security reasons. That would be a great manufacturing product to be built and produced here in West Virginia.

Q19

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

I live 2 hours away from Charleston. I could do either remotely or in person.

Q20

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

I am on Facebook under my name, Keith Marple. I do not do Twitter or any other social media as I have no cell phone service where I live in a remote rural area of Harrison County.
