



2020 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey is available to complete online at www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2020. You may also scan and email your completed survey to Rebecca McPhail at rebecca@wvma.com, or mail by **August 3, 2020** to:

West Virginians for Manufacturing Jobs PAC
2001 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Candidate Name: Trenton C. Barnhart Office Seeking: House of Delegates - 7th District
Party Affiliation: Republican Email: BarnhartforWV@gmail.com
Address Line 1: 5 Wolfe Lane
City: St. Marys State: WV Zip: 26170 Phone: 304-480-9371

Questions:

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

The role of government is to put policies in place so that the free market can flourish. As Delegate, I have been committed to improving our state's business climate and working to incentivize investment in our state.

2. 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 Community Banker, I've worked to provide a better banking experience in Pleasants County by working to provide a better financial services experience. As Delegate I've consistently worked with stakeholders on the local and state levels to promote economic development.

3. 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.

NRA, WVCDL, WV Farm Bureau, Pleasants Co. Republican Executive Committee.

4. 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?

Our greatest challenge is a shrinking population which stems from a lack of jobs and a terrible drug epidemic. I intend to work with the business community to eliminate barriers to business development and work with community stakeholders to ~~create jobs~~ provide services to end the drug epidemic in our state.

5. During the 2020 Legislative Session, SJR 9 and SB 837 moved in the West Virginia Senate, but fell short of the votes needed to move to the House of Delegates. The intent of the effort was to allow West Virginians to vote on a constitutional amendment to phase-out/repeal of manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment tax, business inventory, and tax on passenger vehicles while making local governments and schools whole. Please describe your ideas for addressing this issue which requires a change to the West Virginia Constitution.

We must continue to educate the Legislature and the Public on the importance of Tax Reform in our State. These taxes have served as a "Donut Bait" sign in WV for decades. I supported the proposal in the 2020 Legislative Session and will support it once again.

6. 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?

We need to focus on Tax Reform, removing barriers for businesses to relocate to the State. We also need to continue Occupational Licensure Reform, which remove barriers for hard-working West Virginians entering the workforce.

7. 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?

I think we need to continue working to provide more services and to provide more job opportunities. This entire issue is as a result of a lack of opportunity/jobs.

8. 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 that private companies and organizations should be solely responsible for setting policies regarding personnel matters. Based on recent ^{SCOTUS} Supreme Court decisions, ~~the~~ statewide legislation isn't necessary.

9. What are your specific ideas related to developing a diverse and skilled workforce in West Virginia?

We should work to ~~provide~~ incentivize our young people to pursue post-secondary education and trade and apprenticeship programs. We should make education our center-piece in order to improve our workforce pool.

10. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection proposed a rule for the 2021 Legislative Session to adopt a portion of US EPA recommended human health criteria which established limits for certain environmental permits. The WVMA is actively involved in ongoing discussions related to these criteria and supports the WV DEPs approach to establish an active work group to further evaluate these important measures. Please describe your position on the proposed rule.

I think we should continue working with industry leaders to ensure quality environmental standards and also equitable business development policy. Making compromises where possible but fighting back against "non-starter" policies that impede business development.

11. 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 protecting our environment is important, we must be sure we're doing everything we can to incentivize investment in our state and to promote job creation. We should be working with other states with job-friendly policies to ensure competitiveness and national viability.

12. What would you like to share with our members that we have not asked?

I look forward to continue being a partner of West Virginia Manufacturing.

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

Yes

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

Facebook = Delegate Trenton C. Barnhart

Twitter = Trenton C. Barnhart

Instagram = TBarnhart

**SAVE THE DATE – 2020 WVMA All State-Legislative Dinner
Charleston, W.Va.**

Monday, November 16, 2020

**Sitting and newly elected Legislators are encouraged to attend as guests of the WVMA
Occupancy restrictions may lead to registration limits – details to follow.*