



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: BRENT BOGGS Office Seeking: House of Delegates 34th
Party Affiliation: Democrat Email: boggs34@gmail.com
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Questions:

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

State government should create an environment where business and industry can thrive, providing necessary assistance to facilitate growth - providing it is within our financial means and for the benefit of our citizens

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?

Nearly a quarter-century of government experience - many in leadership positions, along with a 38 yr. working career and serving on numerous boards, commissions and appointments to benefit our citizens.

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.

Masons, Shriners, Kiwanis, Lions, NRA, BCARSE; Board of Directors - ¹Highmark WV; ²Central WV Aging Services, Inc; ³Braunton Co. Memorial Hospital - WVU Medicine

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?

Currently - the ongoing pandemic that threatens our health, education, and workforce. We need aggressive measures and a sound economic policy, based on fact and a renewed cooperation between branches of government.

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.

First, there does not appear to be a consensus of opinion by voters on the issue. To move forward, it would need a better plan with a roll back provision if it does not work as proponents claim. Also our economic situation would need to be stronger to guarantee counties and schools be made whole.

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?

Stave the tide of population loss; better trained and educated workforce; immediate push to make broadband available to every home and business in WV; strengthen rural health care access; promote a more healthy WV population; increased college & post-secondary education.

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?

Treating it as an illness instead of a crime for those addicted. We must offer treatment - both inpatient and outpatient - in our entire State, not just in larger communities.

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?

De-politicize the issue. Partisan bickering and one-upmanship are killing our State.

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

- ① Drug screening and treatment
- ② Renewed push for expanded votech programs
- ③ Programs to promote collegia degree completion - Grad. & post grad.
- ④ Make sure our tax structure and quality of life lead the nation.

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.

Working group to work through this complex issue is preferable to a protracted fight on the House or Senate floor. Facts tend to become lost in an emotional and inflammatory setting.

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?

West Virginians certainly want and need jobs - good paying jobs with benefits. They also want safe job sites, employers that respect our environment and public health. Government should reward these employers with strategic investments in infrastructure and regulatory reforms.

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

West Virginia is not one region with one mindset. With exceptions, many regions are never considered for economic development projects. A more economically level playing field would help change the perception that much of our state - like central WV - is being left behind.

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 - Brent Baggs
Twitter

(I post only when I feel it is meaningful - not meaningless political static)

**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.*