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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:56:38 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 31, 2020 1:23:58 PM
Time Spent: 01:27:20
IP Address: 216.20.137.224

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Q1

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

As a small business owner in the manufacturing sector my philosophy is the less the better. We have far to much bureaucracy to facilitate new business as well as business retention.

Q2

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 am a small Business owner in the manufacturing industry , Chairman of the Wood County Republican Executive Committee , Member of the West Virginia Republican Executive Committee, Member of the Vienna City Council, As a councilman I have a proven record of working to reduce taxes / fees that I feel are unwarranted, cutting cost , reducing spending while increasing efficiencies.

Q3

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.

Wood County Republican Executive Committee
West Virginia Republican Executive Committee
Chamber of Commerce of the Mid Ohio Valley
NTEA
WVMA
Gideon's International

Q4

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 natural resources are under attack , our coal industry , our oil and gas industries. We must remove the obstacles that stands in the way of maximizing their output. We can do this while protecting the environment and our landowners.

Q5

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.

I firmly believe this phase-out repeal must happen. I have no doubt that our local governments and schools can be made whole but cost cutting and waste reduction in the States budget. I also believe that enough new business will be created / jobs created by eliminating this tax that the loss of revenue would be off set.

Q6

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?

Infrastructure upgrades are critical . Adequate Broadband is crucial. In my County (Wood) we have 7 exits off of I 77 . Every exit needs much work to optimize economic development. Our downtown Parkersburg exit is a perfect example . It is an absolute eye sore . The whole interchange needs reworked . The potential is there to create hundreds of jobs . Jobs that are the back bone of our economy. Yes it will cost money but the return on investment is absolute.

Q7

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 used to say that the education against the use of drugs needed to start at home . I now realize that many of our children are actually exposed to this crisis at home. With that being the case , then that education needs to start at the school level . We need to give our education system the tools they need to use as a starting point for the war against drugs

Q8

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?

As a business owner I would never condone racial injustice or bigotry. As to the LGBTQ community , I do not agree with the lifestyle but would not discriminate against. I do not believe any specific fairness laws need be put in place. We are all protected by the constitution. Does unfairness happen ? of course but it also happens with those that have a physical or mental handicap. It happened to me as a child because I came from a poor family , but I do not expect a bill to be enacted in each case

Q9

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

More focus on the trades . We have a shortage now and it will get worse . If we ever hope to have a storage hub or a cracker we have to be ready to supply the trades with manpower. I would consider assisting with student loan payments to graduates who stay living and working in State. If they move out of State or take a job out of State they would have to take over the payments in whole

Q10

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 support any process that allows our state to move forward by working with groups to ensure our environment and the health of our citizens are protected . The regulations must be adequate but cannot be ridiculous to the point of being impossible to comply with

Q11

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?

There are many examples . I will share one . 5 years ago I built a new state of the art manufacturing plant. It is an all metal building . I manufacture all metal products. I was forced to put in a sprinkler system . I argued (unsuccessfully) that there was nothing to burn. That system cost me 10s of thousands of dollars. I have built plants in neighboring states and did not have to do this. This money could have and should have been spent on equipment. It would have also paid the salary of two more employees for a year. Every time the fire marshal showed up it cost me money . This is not acceptable and I'm ready to fight to reduce the red tape and bring in business.

Q12

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

Often we hear candidates talk about job creation. Jobs are the backbone of our economy . Way to often the politicians that talk about job creation have never created a job in their lives and probably never will . Job creation is not a talking point for me , its something I do every day . I realize my county and state needs a lot more jobs than my business will create . Creating jobs takes more than talk. It takes a plan. I have specific plans for our county that I truly believe has the potential to create hundreds of jobs

Q13

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

Sure would

Q14

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

Facebook - Roger Conley

Q15

Name

Roger Conley

Q16

Office Seeking

House of Delegates

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

10

Q19

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