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Q1

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

State government should be a partner for businesses, not an impediment, while at the same time ensuring reasonable protections for the health, safety, and welfare of West Virginia workforce and citizenry.

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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?

As a former legal counsel and legislative director for the Governor's office, I understand how to communicate and build coalitions to solve problems. Ultimately, I bring a reputation for truthfulness and a commitment to listen to various points of view and find common ground.

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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.

Board member, Marion County Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer, Fairmont-Marion County Airport Authority, Member, Lions Club

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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 children and grandchildren moving to other states because of the lack of opportunities to stay in West Virginia. We need more investment in our vital infrastructure, including roads, broadband, education, and access to health care, to create opportunities for people to stay and come back to West Virginia.

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**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.

Like many, I believe the manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment tax is not helpful to recruiting and creating certain businesses in West Virginia. To pass a constitutional amendment, there needs to be certainty about what other taxes will be increased to make local governments and schools whole and the period of time over which the changes will take effect. These taxes must be broad-based to gain the necessary momentum for a constitutional amendment.

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**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?

We need to strengthen workforce development coordination with industries and trade organizations like the WVMA, Because this is major issue for many businesses looking to locate to West Virginia and those who recently have located here. We also need to focus more resources in our Department of Commerce for recruitment and retention of businesses, and to invest more in entrepreneurship. There are many impediments for West Virginians to start businesses and employ other West Virginians, and we need to address and overcome those issues.

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**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?

We need to more long-term treatment options in West Virginia, and better coordination of grants to address individual community needs to treat for substance use and mental health issues.

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**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?

I support reform efforts that ensure accountability where individuals who belong to these groups are discriminated against or treated unfairly. Also, I believe that we need to do better to recruit and support minority business owners and entrepreneurs in our state.

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**Q9**

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

We need to improve communication between industries and higher education institutions to ensure that young adults in West Virginia are being taught the skills that will make them valuable in the real world. We also need to create an atmosphere in West Virginia to attract people from out of state, and keep our children and grandchildren here.

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**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 do not have a firm position on the rule, as I have yet to review and discuss with stakeholders.

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**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?

I believe that policy-making in this regard should be clear, fair, and reasonable.

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**Q12**

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

My website is joeygarciaww.com.

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**Q13**

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

Yes

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**Q14**

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

@JoeyGarciaWV - Facebook and Twitter

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**Q15**

Name

Joey Garcia

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

WV House of Delegates

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Democrat

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**Q18**

District

50

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**Q19**

Email

joeyg301@yahoo.com

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**Q20**

Phone

3043767960

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**Q21**

Address

Address

**207 Circle Drive**

Address 2

**None**

City/Town

**Fairmont**

State/Province

**WV**

ZIP/Postal Code

**26554**

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