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Q1

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

I believe in the free market, thus, I believe that government should have limited involvement in private enterprise in order for businesses and the economy itself to flourish.

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?

Due to my young age, I haven't had the ability to create a business. However, I believe that I bring fresh ideas and a much more business friendly approach than the current incumbent. I have been a dedicated volunteer for local cleanups, fundraisers, and faith-related activities. I have also been involved in several graffiti clean-ups in our small towns.

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.

Due to my young age, I have not had the opportunity to yet enjoy being a member of said organizations. However, I am a loyal member of my church and heavily involved with the West Virginia Republican Party!

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?

I think the most critical threat to our state is the drug crisis.

Drug addiction leads to child endangerment and neglect. In many cases, it leads to an influx of children in the foster care system which is experiencing one of its highest numbers on record in WV. I believe that local and community/faith based drug recovery programs provide a refuge for drug users to speak with people they know personally and with people who can be with them in a matter of minutes in a time of crisis. The amount of success that I've seen from these groups have been an inspiration to me. I will fight with all my power to create funding for these groups for advertisement and transportation for those who wish to attend the meetings but have no means of transportation. This is crucial to the economic success of West Virginia in my opinion.

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 am in support of this bill. I thoroughly believe that we should repeal the business inventory tax as well as other taxes that stifle business in West Virginia. I support the ability of West Voters to make the decisions that they feel necessary, thus, I support said legislation that would put this constitutional amendment on the ballot.

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?

As aforementioned, we need to repeal the business inventory tax, cut regulations, and institute free market policies that are crucial to economic success.

I think that rebuilding infrastructure and investing in various forms of energy consumption is crucial to West Virginias economic success and the pathway to attracting businesses to our state.

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?

As I previously mentioned in one of the questions above, I believe the key is local/community drug recovery, not government programs. Please refer to my answer on question #4.

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 do NOT believe or support any discriminatory employment or business related policies. I believe that everyone is equal, is equal in the sight of the law and the Constitution. I personally do not feel that this is one of the big issues in attracting businesses to West Virginia.

Q9

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

I think we need to focus on vocational and technical trainings in our community colleges. Many students find themselves completing certificate programs and other training programs throughout high school and carry on for a year or two after high school. I think the WV Legislature needs to focus more on making these training more available and attractive to young people and entice them to stay in West Virginia.

Furthermore, I think we need to invest in more in STEM related education in our schools. There are very few certified STEM teachers in West Virginia's public schools. I believe this field is key to future economic success and the economy is taking on a more global and technological shape. I have and continue to support higher wages for teachers who teach in STEM related fields to attract STEM professionals from across the nation to West Virginia.

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 would have to learn more information about this specific rule, however, I am cautious of environmental regulations that have little positive impact on the environment yet devastate businesses.

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 think there is room to make the environment cleaner. As can be seen across the nation and across the globe, consumers are increasingly seeking to do business with more environmentally friendly businesses. However, I do not believe that heavy environmental regulation is the answer. I believe that we should keep environmental standards that have little impact on businesses while readdressing environmental regulations that are harmful to business and do little to improve the environment. This is a case by case situation for me.

Q12

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

I am supportive of tax reforms across the board and I believe in cutting taxes across the board as well. According to your records, my opponent is not willing to vote for free-market pro-business policies and I can guarantee that I will be a much more business and jobs-friendly delegate for my district.

Q13

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

Absolutely. I would love to speak over the phone or via video chat due to COVID-19 but would certainly be willing to meet face to face also.

Q14

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

<https://www.facebook.com/electJoshHolstein/>

Q15

Name

Josh Holstein

Q16

Office Seeking

House of Delegates

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

23rd

Q19

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