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Q1

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

Government should make it as easy as possible to operate within our state by limiting and reducing the amount of regulation it puts in place.

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 spent many years as a volunteer firefighter to help protect and serve my community. Aside from just fighting fires and responding to other emergencies, we also raised funding to provide kids and their families with food and gifts for the holidays.

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.

WVCDL, NRA, and the Putnam County Republican Club

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?

A lack of good paying jobs and a trained workforce. Getting rid of the Business and Inventory tax would help bring jobs back to our state. Working to train people in the state for the jobs that are needing to be filled by providing training programs as low to no cost.

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 felt that both these were a great way to address these tax issues and would have supported removing those taxes by allowing the people of the state to vote on it. All of those taxes need to be phased out and removed.

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?

Removing the Business and Inventory tax has always been something I have supported and pushed to help bring job growth to our state. Also ensuring that we have a well train workforce.

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?

Continue to ensure we have treatment options available for the recovering addicts. Keep studying what is and is not working across the country, then work to implement those actions as needed.

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?

All employers are free to set their own policies for their companies. The Government shouldn't restrict those companies from being able to set the policies they feel is best for their company.

Q9

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

Ensuring the options to become educated and trained for the job they are seeking is available to everyone.

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'm happy to work with the WVMA and WVDEP to support their studies and allow proper time to further evaluate the issues that are being looked at more specific to WV rather than across the nation.

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?

Allowing all the stakeholders to have some input in the regulations so we know the possible impacts it may have on our industrial facilities across the state. Then work together to find what will work to promote job growth and investment.

Q12

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

I'm always more than willing to hear from everyone who would like to reach out. Agree or Disagree, you will always be welcome to come talk with me about issues you are faced with. In fact, I encourage it and prefer to hear from the WVMA member across the state.

Q13

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

Yes

Q14

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

Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram @JoeJeffriesWV
Website www.JoeJeffriesWV.com

Q15

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Q16

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Q17

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