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Q1

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

My overall philosophy is that the role of state government is to protect citizen's rights, facilitate development of our state through policy, and solve problems where the risk is too substantial for the market do individually. The state should only stay involved until sustained momentum of the market has been achieved.

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?

2. For the past 20 years I have been designing and facilitating the building of infrastructure in communities across West Virginia and the mid-Atlantic. My efforts have led to providing communities with drinking water, wastewater services, and broadband. Additionally, I have been part of numerous economic development projects across the state. Specifically, in my community, I, along with two other gentlemen founded the Shinnston Soccer Association and served on its board for 6 years. Creation of this Association has improved my community and provided the youth of my area a recreation opportunity.

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.

3. WV American Council of Engineering Consultants (President), United Way of Harrison County (Board Member), Healthy Harrison (Board Member), Shale Crescent USA (Board Member), WV Economic Development Corporation (Member), Harrison County Chamber of Commerce (Member), Contractor's Association of West Virginia (Member), WV Chamber of Commerce (Member), WVONGA (Firm Member), IOGA (Firm Member), and WV Manufacturers Association (Firm Member).

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?

WV's loss of population is our most important and critical challenge facing our state. I will support and champion policies that retain recent high school & college graduates. I believe we can increase our retention of our people through development of our entrepreneurship program and continued support of the career and technical schools. It's all about jobs.

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 support the phase-out of the manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment tax. Since it requires a change to the WV Constitution, I would support a statewide vote. Maintaining the county funding will be important and feel that phased approach will facilitate sustainability.

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?

I would push for development of a site readiness program that facilitates our economic development agencies to de-risk sites. Once those sites are sold, the economic development agencies should reinvest the funds into an additional site.

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?

Huntington has had some real success with the overdose response program where the individual that overdoses has immediate counseling. Studies have shown that "hitting rock bottom" helps the addicts recover and overdosing is often considered the bottom. I think these types of programs work over the long haul

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?

West Virginia is and has always been a welcoming state. Diversity and inclusion is a major component of company location decisions. Including the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs with recruitment and retention would be a change I would suggest.

Q9

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

The WV Department of Education must continue to support changing the stigma of career and technical education programs. I believe industry also has a role to play in educating our youth of the opportunities available to them. A partnership at the county level could help change this stigma.

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.

The Division Air Quality (DAQ) & Office of Remediation (OER) are both proposing legislative rule changes in 2021. Most of the DAQ changes are to adjust the state's regulations to that of the federal regulations. There are some adjustments to NOX, SOX, & carbon dioxide that appear to be solely state based. OER is adjusting the DeMinimus table for the voluntary remediation program. (VRP). This will increase the initial cost of the brownfields development and revitalization. In general, I believe that state regulations should not be more stringent than federal regulations unless there is a specific nuanced reason.

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?

As an engineer, I understand both the need to protect the environment as well as foster growth and development. Policies should not only look at the immediate cost and impact but also the long term cost and impact. Policies need a common sense discussion regarding the goal of the policy, such as point source discharge versus distributed source discharge. We should not contaminate our environment. However, that does not mean discharging pollutants within reasonable parameters contaminates our environment.

Q12

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

I am owner in an engineering firm. I will approach issues at the legislature from business perspective understanding that there are always trade-offs between short term impacts and long term goals.

Q13

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

Yes, I would be available for an interview remotely or in person at your preference

Q14

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

Facebook - Riley for WV House / Clay Riley (/Clay.Riley.52)

Twitter - @ClayPRiley

Instagram - Riley for WV House

Q15

Name

Clay P. Riley, PE

Q16

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Q17

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Q18

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Q19

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