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**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 10:29:45 AM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:57:23 AM  
**Time Spent:** 01:27:37  
**IP Address:** 70.41.20.49

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**Q1**

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

I am a small business owner myself, I think we need to lift restrictions from the past, WV isn't business or industry friendly, we must lower the business and inventory taxes this coming session. Until we lower these WV will not prosper. We pay more and do less than surrounding states.

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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?

Small business owner with schooling in Business Management and International Business Management, my restaurant helps feed seniors and underprivileged people in our county.

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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.

Wayne County Charter Wildlife Turkey Federation, NRA, Wayne County Republican Executive Committee Vice Chairman, My restaurant donates food weekly to seniors and underprivileged families.

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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?

Business tax and Inventory tax, I will propose and negotiate new tax guidelines this coming session to ease the burden on businesses. We can't expand giving everything to the state.

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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.

I think we could find a way that could temporarily get this done while we are waiting to be put on the ballots. In the meantime businesses aren't suffering, business and industry would see we will fix this problem

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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?

I gave proposed to my District I will travel and sell WV and her people. This could bring in thousands of jobs if we had a negotiator on behalf of doing business in WV and bring new industries jobs to WV.

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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?

Stop just throwing money at it but have actual comprehensive preventive and rehabilitation in place that's proven to work. Best of its ability

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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?

WV will not tolerate racial practices. They have equal rights under the current law now, companies can practice these laws no matter what people's personal beliefs are. I don't agree we should be talking about our bedrooms in public. With that said, we should stiffen the penalties for anyone practicing anything racial against anyone.

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**Q9**

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

We must put trade schools classes in every high school to have the best training already available to business industry. This way we can secure great growth in WV by new companies

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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 totally disagree, we should keep our decisions and imposing restrictions at the state level with help from the US EPA. That would be disastrous to our state. Period

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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?

We all need clean water and air, but we live in a mountainous area where our living is different than most. To me God put these Natural Resources here for our use, while using commonsense methods to retrieve them. We have had to many restrictions upon our state that has shut us down. We are way different from NY or CA, we need to form a committee to review all these EPA restrictions and make recommendations to the State to correct.

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**Q12**

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

I would say I will be a Delegate many haven't seen before. I will travel to sell WV and workers to bring high paying jobs to our State. We have the best workers we need someone selling these things like was done for Toyota in Buffalo

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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.

Stephens for WV House of Delegates and  
Stephenswv.house

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**Q15**

Name

Jason Stephens

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**Q16**

Office Seeking

House of Delegates

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**Q17**

Party Affiliation

Republican

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**Q18**

District

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**Q19**

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**Q20**

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**Q21**

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