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Page 1

Q1

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

State Government does not create jobs. The government provide services to assist businesses, and encourage job growth amongst private industry.

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 own Integrity Insurance Group, We have 3 office locations in West Virginia and are looking to open a 4th location. I employ 9 people and by the end of the year hope to have 12 employees. In the community I volunteer for the Health Right, I also run my church's home group.

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.

The WV Health Right, River Ridge Church, YWCA

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?

West Virginia has failed when it comes to basic infrastructure. The Kanawha Valley, which I hope to represent, has the 8th Highest Water rates in America. If you remember Century Aluminum left West Virginia citing the high water rates, and those rates in Ravenswood were lower than our rates in the Kanawha Valley. Our fiber optic broadband infrastructure is one of the worst in the nation. I do not know how we are going to attract businesses, or encourage the ones we have to expand without getting these basics right. We have to lower our water rates, and build a strong Fiber optic infrastructure. Also, West Virginia has some of the highest health insurance rates in the United States. I am going to propose creating more competition in the industry. We have been looking for a stable way to fund PEIA. If we create an arm of PEIA called PEIA + and give them the ability to sell on the private market, at an equitable reimbursement rate, we will increase competition and bring down our health insurance rates.

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 bill to remove the regressive inventory tax.

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?

Please see my answers under section 4. If we fail to have basic quality infrastructure at affordable prices, and competitive health insurance costs we will not be able to attract 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?

The epidemic of drug use has crippled the citizens of our state. One of the best ways to bring someone out of addition and depression is a job. We must have opportunities for individuals to seek rehab, and have a good paying job for them when they get out. Depression leads to a tremendous amount of drug use and addition. We need to invest in our mental health systems.

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 am on the Board of Fairness WV. I plan on sponsoring the Employment non-discrimination act, and other bills to ensure racial justice and equality. Also, in speaking with multiple members of minority groups in WV they have requested that we create a community fund for police officers to better engage in the communities they patrol. This creates an understanding of the people in the community and a partnership among residents and the local police force.

Q9

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

I would want to start at the high school level by introducing shop class back into schools, and including education about trade positions.

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 know enough about the rule to have an opinion on it. I will gladly work with the WVMA to hear their positions on the rules and regulations.

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 industry should always have a seat at the table. The rules and regulations should be in place to keep out bad actors, but they should not be so restrictive that we cannot produce and manufacture quality products at competitive pricing.

Q12

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

I have always been fair. I have in the past sponsored bills for the WVMA. I look forward to continuing to work together if I am elected in November.

Q13

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

Yes I would be available for either.

Q14

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

Chris Walters on Facebook, and twitter

Q15

Name

Chris Walters

Q16

Office Seeking

House of Delegates 36th District

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

36th

Q19

Email

chris@iigwv.com

Q20

Phone

304-542-1049

Q21

Address

Address

101 Ariel Heights

Address 2

-

City/Town

Charleston

State/Province

West Virginia

ZIP/Postal Code

25311
