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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:02:38 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:47:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:45:06
IP Address: 72.23.242.103

Page 1

Q1

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

Business and Industry need to have the ability to thrive without government interference and regulation. There is a fine line between regulation to ensure health and safety of citizens and employees and regulation that does not allow business and industry to grow and prosper which in turn delivers more of an economical impact to our state. The best role for the state government is to de-regulate.

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 bring with me a particular skillset to truly understand what each individual business in my district goes through, whether a business has 5 employees or 600. I have opened a channel for local businesses to see me as a resource to assist with the issues they face. Whether it be a DEP regulation that is not being adhered correctly or something as simple as an ABC license renewal, the businesses in my community know they have a voice in Charleston for them.

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.

As a father of 6 children with a full time job that requires travel and my duties as an elected representative, I have purposefully not joined such organizations. So many people become members of organizations to say they are a member, but do not dedicate the time required. I do not have the flexibility in my schedule to commit to organizations and therefore am not going to join one for the sake of saying I am a member of one.

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?

The most important and critical challenge is a skilled, drug free workforce. West Virginia faces so many issues, especially the drug crisis, but it is expanded greatly when it comes to a ready and skilled workforce. We need to invest in our children through skilled trades and more career and technical resources at an earlier age. We also need to focus on rehabilitation of able bodied adults through workforce readiness. My plan would be to shift portions of current financial assistance to higher education institutions to more CTE programs for middle and high school students and to invest in technical workforce rehabilitation programs for adults.

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 believe anytime we can give the people of West Virginia a voice through an election, we need to do that. SJR 9 and SB 837 should have been approved and entrusted to the people of West Virginia and unfortunately that was taken away from them. I would be in favor of voting for these measures to let West Virginians decide the constitutional amendment.

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 stated before, we need to invest in a ready, skilled and drug free workforce. When in competition for investment and job growth, this is a major factor with potential business and industry. We also have a long history of over regulation which turns potential investors away. West Virginia needs to invest in a comprehensive study that focuses on de-regulation so the Legislature can work on removing barriers to potential job growth. West Virginia also needs to continue it's uphill climb with legal reform and our tax structure. These are all heavy lifts as we have seen in recent legislative sessions, but they are all extremely important to improve the economy in West Virginia.

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?

I do not believe that one person has the ideas to stop the opioid crisis in West Virginia. This has been looked at through many different avenues at the state and federal level. My only idea to help with this is through hope. Hope to the individual that they can improve their life value through a career or interest that will allow them to place value on their own life with opportunities like career and technical rehabilitation programs and workforce readiness programs.

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 has always been a welcoming state to any and all people. Through my research, I have not found this to be an issue for any business or industry looking to relocate in our state. Furthermore, I have not been privy to any current issues in our state where private companies and employees expressed this as a priority or a potential barrier to their workforce.

Q9

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

As stated before, West Virginia needs to invest in more career and technical readiness programs for both adults and current students. Some of our high schools are doing excellent work providing real life examples and opportunities for life after high school. When you are able to engage people this early in the process, statistics have shown an increase in a skilled workforce.

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 am not aware of the rule that WV DEP has proposed for the 2021 legislative session. I commend the WVMA for being active in the discussion and their desire to form an active work group to address the rule. I am focused on winning my election so that I may be part of the 2021 legislative session, but as of now, I am not and therefore have not focused my efforts on rules proposed for 2021.

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?

Once again, I believe West Virginia needs to focus on de-regulation to improve the state's economy and raise it's level of competitiveness for industrial job growth and investment. There are federal environmental rules that must be followed and adhered to and I do not believe West Virginia should focus on making the federal rules more stringent.

Q12

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

I trust the WVMA to keep me informed on the issues that matter to you most.

Q13

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

Yes. Either remotely or in person.

Q14

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

I am available on Facebook at "Evan Worrell - WV House of Delegates".

Q15

Name

Evan Worrell

Q16

Office Seeking

House of Delegates

Q17

Party Affiliation

Republican

Q18

District

18

Q19

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Q21

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