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Q1

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

The role of state government is to align its policy to the economic opportunity that will benefit the state and its people while practicing environmentally responsible methods.

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?

Member of the Weirton Redevelopment Authority for over 10 years.

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.

Served as president of my church board for 14 years.

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 is the fifth largest energy producer in the US. We need to add value to these resources so that we get more value from them rather than shipping them out of the state. The prosperity will help ease the economic pain we have suffered for decades.

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 am for phasing out the taxes as long as the current uses of this funding is allowed to continue as is.

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?

We need to use energy resources HERE. With onshoring of production from China we should be able to do this and grow our economy. Also the production of Rare Earth Elements from Coal Mine Operations needs to continue and be brought to fruition if practical.

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 support stronger borders and have always supported tougher drug laws and rehabilitation efforts. We need to continue these efforts. The laws passed to curb over prescription of opioids is having some positive effect, but we need to continue this effort.

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?

Very simple. Follow the law. I personally do not ask or consider personal information when discussing anything or considering hiring.

Q9

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

We need to continuously improve our education system and the goal should always be how to add value to the recipients of that education. Our community college system is properly placed around the state to facilitate this and we need to work closely with industry to build the system to fit their needs.

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.

We need to always assess the effects of various types of compounds to human health and the environment. Where necessary we can impose limits if 1) they make sense, 2) the EPA recommends them, and 3) they are being adopted nationwide.

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 have been able to trim regulation in the past several years with review and sunset provisions. These need to be continued.

Q12

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

The state needs to be more aggressive in bringing manufacturing using material we produce or can produce, including plastics, carbon filament, rare earth elements and others that are being produced currently. In all aspects we need to think about adding value to our resources. This brings jobs.

Q13

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

Any time. I will try to accomodate your schedule.

Q14

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

Mark Zatezalo for WV Delegate on facebook.

Q15

Name

Mark Peter Zatezalo

Q16

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Q17

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