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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1

**Q1**

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** Trenton C. Barnhart  
**Office Seeking:** House of Delegates  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican  
**District:** 9th

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**Q2**

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address:** 5 Wolfe Lane  
**City/Town:** Saint Marys  
**State/Province:** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code:** 26170  
**Country:** USA  
**Email Address:** barnhartforwv@gmail.com  
**Phone Number:** 3044809371

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**Q3**

Education &amp; Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state):** St. Marys High School  
**Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA):** University of Charleston-BA and MBA  
**Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations):** Pleasants County Bank, Assistant Internal Auditor/Director of Securities  
**Describe your current job & responsibilities:** I handle internal audit duties, marketing and help manage investment securities.  
**How long have you worked for your current employer?:** 2.5 years

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**Q4**

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

State Government's role is to create an environment to incentivize new investment, promote entrepreneurial commerce and business development.

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**Q5**

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 have always believed in service, giving back to my community. I'm a former compliance auditor for the State of WV, helping protect taxpayer dollars from abuse and misuse. I currently help serve the economic needs of my community as a Community Banker. During my time in the Legislature, my priorities have been improving our infrastructure, promoting government transparency and supporting pro-business policies to make WV more attractive to new investment and job opportunities.

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**Q6**

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.

- NRA
  - WVCDL
  - WV Farm Bureau
  - Pleasants County Christian Outreach
  - Pleasants County Republican Executive Committee
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**Q7**

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?

Our greatest threat is our declining population. My plan to deal with this threat is to do all I can to cut unnecessary regulation, reform our tax code and promote policies that attract new investment to WV.

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**Q8**

Do you support the passage of Amendment One on the November 2022 General Election ballot? The measure provides the legislature with the authority to repeal or phase out tangible personal property in the future, this includes tax on personal vehicles, small business inventory, and tax on manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment.

Yes!

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**Q9**

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 work with our congressional delegation to help unleash American Energy. I believe in an all the above energy approach, utilizing coal, natural gas, nuclear power, hydroelectric power and renewables where possible. I also believe we must unleash WV manufacturing by passing Amendment one and developing a plan to phase out the Business and Inventory tax.

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**Q10**

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 best medicine for addiction is a good paying job. This is why new investment and innovation is so needed. We must also invest in mental health services to get West Virginians the help they need so that they can re-enter the workforce.

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**Q11**

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 believe that the best person for the job should be hired for the job. This is how my company operates and that's how all companies should operate. But I will not inject myself into the matters described in this question to dictate hiring practices. These are matters best handled in the corporate board room, not in the Legislature.

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**Q12**

What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs.

I have always supported universal licensure reform to help expedite entry into the workforce for the working men and women of our state. I will continue to do that if re-elected.

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**Q13**

What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

We must continue to strengthen accountability measures for our schools while also improving benefits to attract the best educators possible to our state. We must also continue to provide options with our charter school community as well. The competition will help strengthen our schools. We need innovation in education.

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**Q14**

What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

We should do all that we can to encourage partnerships between boards of education and our industry leaders. We should also create incentives for partnerships with community and technical colleges as well. Our goal with education should always be to make today's students workforce ready tomorrow.

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**Q15**

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 must bring industry leaders and DEP officials to the table to develop compromises for common ground. HB 2598 relating to modification of above ground storage tanks is an example of that. We found common ground to satisfy environmental concerns and also help small producers across our state.

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**Q16**

What do you think West Virginia could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

We should embrace an all of the above energy policy and a diverse energy portfolio.

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**Q17**

Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of legislator?

It would depend on each individual policy proposal.

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**Q18**

If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers with in the state of West Virginia what would it be? and Why?

I look forward to eventually helping eliminate the Business and Inventory Tax. I believe it will signal to Manufacturer's and businesses large and small that WV is open for business. It will grow our state's economy exponentially!

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**Q19**

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

Yes

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**Q20**

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

Facebook-Delegate Trenton C. Barnhart

Twitter-Tbarn\_WV

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