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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 07, 2022 5:26:58 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 07, 2022 6:45:31 PM
Time Spent: 01:18:32
IP Address: 75.109.252.172

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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Eric Brooks
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 45th

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 218
Address 2: Wright Street
City/Town: Mount Hope
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25880
Country: USA
Email Address: brooks4wvhouse@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3048778298

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Glen Rogers High, Glen Rogers, WV
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): WVU - Bachelor's Degree
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Retired - Federal Bureau of Prisons
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Retired
How long have you worked for your current employer?: Retired after 26+ years.

Q4

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

Be a help, not a hindrance. We need to change our corporate tax structure in a way that will help current businesses and will allow West Virginia to be able to lure new investment (and jobs) into our State. There exists a competitive market between the States for business/industry. We must put ourselves in a position to compete with other States. That requires corporate tax reform here.

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?

While employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, I served as the legislative liaison for my Local. I was able to travel to Washington, D.C. and advocate for safety measures that were ultimately passed by Congress and signed by the President. These bills have saved lives within the Federal Prison System.

I bring a good understanding of the issues we face in our State and have viable solutions to these problems. I know what needs to be done in order to move our State forward and have the courage to fight for these necessary changes.

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.

Endowment member of the NRA.
Member of West Virginia Citizens Defense League.
Associate member of the Raleigh County Republican Executive Committee.
Active in multiple outreaches through my Church.

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?

Education reform and tax reform.
Want to provide additional options for Parents in the education of their children. Reform current Educational structure in our State (Regional Superintendents instead of County Superintendents for example) to free up educational dollars and help with teacher shortage in our State.

Reduce/eliminate State personal income tax. Reform corporate tax structure. Move towards a "Texas style" corporate tax system.

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.

Absolutely! Must remove the B&I taxes in order to be competitive. This will help current businesses and will help make West Virginia more attractive for new business investment as well.

You will never lure large scale manufacturing into our State with B&I taxes in place.

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?

As mentioned earlier, individual and corporate tax reform and increased educational opportunities that I believe will lead to better outcomes for our children.

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?

A lot of this issue cannot be resolved at the State level. Much of what we see happening in our communities today is a result of a porous southern border.

Locally, we can encourage (and fund) more participation in evidence based recovery programs. These include faith based programs that appear to have the best results overall.

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 think the lack of educational success and our tax structure are far bigger concerns for businesses than these issues. If we are able to successfully address these issues, we will have growth in our State.

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.

More practical educational options for our students. Magnet schools that offer courses for specific career fields for example. More public/private partnerships that lead to career development and job placement.

Q13

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

Competition for the educational dollar. Competition is always good for the consumer. We have never had competition for the educational dollar in our State. We need more options for parents when it comes to the educating of their children. Parental empowerment in the educational system is key to better outcomes for our students.

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 must encourage these career fields more for our students. More public/private partnerships that lead to post graduate employment. Magnet schools that focus on STEM fields.

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?

I believe in local (State) control when it comes to policies/regulations regarding environmental protections. Do not think we need the EPA. We are to be good stewards of our resources. Bureaucrats in DC do not know what is the best way to utilize the resources we have here in West Virginia. I am a West Virginia first candidate. I am an "all of the above" candidate when it comes to utilizing our natural resources.

Q16

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

Again, our State is not to be a hindrance when dealing with this issue. We are also not supposed to be in the business of picking winners and losers as well. Let the best ideals win the day. As I previously mentioned, I am an "all of the above" candidate. If it's good for our State, I am for it. I truly believe we can and should use all available resources for the betterment of our citizens.

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's not the State's responsibility to govern internal corporate goals/aspirations. Should these happen to run afoul of laws in our State, then, obviously, government intervention would be warranted.

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?

Corporate tax reform.

Q19

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

Yes.

Q20

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Brooks4house>

@Brooks45WV on Twitter and Gettr
