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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1

### Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** Jim Butler  
**Office Seeking:** House of Delegates  
**Party Affiliation:** R  
**District:** 18

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### Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address:** PO Box 296  
**City/Town:** Henderson  
**State/Province:** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code:** 25106  
**Country:** USA  
**Email Address:** wwtango2@frontier.com  
**Phone Number:** 304 674-0342

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**Q3**

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state)

**Southeastern, Richmondale Ohio**

Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA)

**United States Marine Corps, basic and advanced helicopter maintenance, maintenance administration, quality assurance, shipboard fire fighting school, nuclear transportation school**

Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations)

**self employed, excavating contractor, Cherry Excavation LLC**

Describe your current job & responsibilities

**all aspects of excavation, class A truck driver, equipment operation, job estimating, site evaluation and planning, book keeping**

How long have you worked for your current employer?

**29 years**

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**Q4**

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

Government should provide basic infrastructure, law enforcement, education etc, then get out of the way. Regulations should be minimal, public policy should encourage business and industry.

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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 two accomplished young adult children, one at the US Naval Academy and one, my daughter, on full scholarship about to begin her first year in college. Following my military duty I owned and operated a small business in California and for the last 29 years I'm operating the excavating business I started. I've worked in my community on major road projects and helped set policy to complete route 35 with no tolls. I've been on the local economic development authority board of advisors, WV Workforce Development Board and local chamber of commerce board.

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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.

WV Workforce Development Board, Mason County Chamber of Commerce, Mason County Concerned Citizens, Mason County Republican Party Executive Committee, and the State Republican Party 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?

It is difficult to rank challenges because they all effect one another. If I have to choose, over the long term education will be the most important. Obviously students need to learn to be very proficient in subject matter. For many years students have been performing poorly, especially compared with other states and countries. Increasingly public schools influence the world view of future policy makers. Our public education seems to be fostering a low performance socialist leaning view rather than a high achieving free market view. I plan to continue to advocate for more and better public, private, or hybrid education policies.

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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, I voted for the resolution to provide for this amendment while in the legislature.

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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?

Better education as previously stated, better workforce development, lower taxes, common sense minimal regulation, more efficient and smaller state government, better law enforcement, drug abuse enforcement, prevention and recovery, and thoughtful infrastructure development.

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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?

Better education to including the harmful affects of drug use, creating a better environment for job creating business so people have good job which tends to lead to strong families and less drug abuse, better law enforcement, and efforts to reverse the social acceptance of drug abuse.

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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 support laws that treat people equally.

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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.

Students need to be informed about, and introduced to, the great jobs available in the skilled labor and manufacturing industries. Social programs that pay adults to sit at home and collect a check need to be minimized, and policies to encourage adults to receive training need to be utilized.

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**Q13**

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

Better education, which could include true merit based pay for teachers (I have an idea to accomplish this using existing data, although I understand how difficult this would be). More education choices like efficient charter schools, and I supported the Hope Scholarship type legislation for many years.

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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)?

It may sound too simple but we need to make stem education "cool" by giving students real word experience in the industries that are, or may be, available. Children and parents often don't know about all the possibilities. We need to minimize the programs which pay people to stay home, in other words make work necessary.

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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 need to ensure that any environmental policy is firmly rooted in fact. The affect of regulation on industries and the jobs they provide need to be fully considered. Once again education is extremely important because if students believe what they are taught, and often what they are taught is not factual, or considerate of the reality of the world we live in, and compete in. To reiterate: if children are taught that the manufacturing industry is bad when they are young they will not seek those jobs, and they will vote against those industries.

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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?

I think that we should promote any energy sources that make economic sense.

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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?

I support policies that treat people equally, with respect and dignity. I support policies that are rooted in fact, and that make logical economic sense to the people of the state.

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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 have the concept of the merit based pay for teachers legislation, I will however have to get help to get it into the form of legislation. I think this could greatly improve education outcomes which begins to address many of the issues discussed on this questionnaire. I realize that this would be a heavy lift, and probably not even feasible at the moment, but we have to start somewhere.

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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.

The only social media I have is Facebook. Jim Butler for House of Delegates, 18th District and my personal page Jim Butler

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