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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Geno Chiarelli
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 78

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 108 Woodside Dr
City/Town: Morgantown
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26508
Country: United States
Email Address: geno@genoforhouse.com
Phone Number: 3042768834

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): South Fayette High School, McDonald, PA
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): WVU, BA Psychology & BA Political Science
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Medmark, Substance Abuse Counselor
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Treatment plan development, case management, addictions counseling
How long have you worked for your current employer?: 16 months

Q4

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

I believe that it is the state government's responsibility to create an environment that allows businesses and industry to grow as long as individual rights are still respected.

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?

In my current position, I work every day with people in order to restore stability in their lives so that they can return to society as a contributing member. I have experience in reintegrating people into social and professional environments. A healthier population means more complete families, motivated workers, and productive citizens.

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.

I am a member of the West Virginia Citizen's Defense League and Gun Owners of America.

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?

I consider the biggest challenge to be the ongoing opioid crisis. I believe that expanding access to treatment and adjusting criminal code would help things trend in the right direction.

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.

I support Amendment One and have been encouraging constituents to do the same.

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?

I believe in offering incentives to prospective out-of-state employers, advocating for small business initiatives here, and revitalizing our population could spell a lot of success for our state.

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?

This will be one of my primary focuses as a delegate. I believe in more treatment options and adjusting the criminal code will help. I believe that we should take more of a healthcare approach with non-violent end users and more of a criminal approach with dealers and traffickers.

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?

It is the prerogative of the companies and employers if they should choose to make these social issues part of their identity.

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 would like to see more training and vocational programs available to high school students. If students could come out of high school after already having received training in a particular field, they're able to not only get into a career quicker, but they'll be able to advance farther.

Q13

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

I believe in school choice and the voucher system. I believe that we should put more decision making abilities into the hands of parents and let them choose where their tax dollars go. Home school, private schools, and charter schools are all legitimate schooling options and parents have the right to make those decisions.

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)?

I would like to see the state work to promote these programs and have more options available for students. Students that have options are going to be more likely to find a career track that works best for them.

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 that we are meant to be good stewards of the environment and that we have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our landscape and our drinking water. However, I do not believe that we should cripple our industry opportunities with needless red tape. So long as safety standards are met, companies should be free to operate and grow. West Virginia has a lot to offer and the beauty of Appalachia can be respected while we take advantages of the resources here as well.

Q16

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

I believe that the free market should decide whether or not our renewable energy industry grows. I think that it should be given a fair chance to perform and operate here; however, I do not believe that the legislature should unfairly stack the deck with subsidies. If there is a demand, we'll create the supply.

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 think that an important part of being a legislator is identifying companies that want to make our state a better place. Working with companies that have similar goals will create an environment conducive to both social and industrial growth. I don't believe that corporations should dictate policymakers and force them to bend to their will, but I believe that a responsible legislator will listen to the experts and do what is best for the state.

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 want to focus on legislation that will free more people from the scourge of addiction. I've worked with a lot of patients that have found success through a medication assisted treatment program and have been able to return to the workforce because of the treatment they received. I want to give more people that opportunity because our people deserve better. As more people recover from the drug epidemic, we will have large groups of people ready to return to work.

Q19

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

I am available for remote interviews unless there was someone in the North Central WV area.

Q20

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

Facebook: Geno Chiarelli for Delegate

Twitter: @GenoforHouse
