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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Mike DeVault
Office Seeking: WV House Dist 74
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 74

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 750 Fairmont Ave
Address 2: z
City/Town: Fairmont
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26554
Country: United States
Email Address: mike@americanfencewv.com
Phone Number: 3046124248

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Fairmont East
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Gwynn tire Service / American Fence Co LLC
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Owner / Manager
How long have you worked for your current employer?: Gwynn 39 Years / American 21years

Q4

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

I feel Government should have a very small foot print on business operations

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 been a small business owner for 39 years. I started a new business from scratch (21 years ago) and have had to be involved with every aspect of government regulations . We started in business in 1983 with 5 employees. We now have 45+ employees.

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.

CASA of Marion county.

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?

retention of of young people. We must develop and attract jobs and provide training to fill those jobs.

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

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?

explore non- coal related industries. the Aero-space industry is growing in NC WV and I do not think we (State Gov) are putting enough resources behind this growth.

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?

I would like to make WV know as one of the states "Tuff" on drug related crimes to deter trafficking to our state

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?

national problem also. Teach and train "inclusiveness " in all levels of school and job training . Develop programs in the work force to insure implementation of these idea/ teachings

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.

Better use/ accessibility of High school technical schools. Better development of the state technical colleges in the state.

Q13

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

this is a complicated question. Giving parents choices of schools for their children I feel would be a good start.

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 do not feel the schools are showing/ demonstrating all of the possible career paths to the students.

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?

this question is not something I have worked on in my time in business

Q16

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

tax credits for installation of renewable energy sources

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 would want to understanding the reasoning behind the
" Goals" and if they are good for WV then - YES

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?

My working in " Retail sales " and " Construction" I have limited knowledge of the single most important issue in manufacturing

Q19

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

Yes
304-612-4248

Q20

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

Facebook :
Personal : Mike Devault
Campaign: DeVault For House District 74 2022
