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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: John Luoni
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 54

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 129 Swarthmore Avenue
City/Town: Charleston
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25302
Country: United States
Email Address: johnluoni@outlook.com
Phone Number: 3045460198

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Stonewall Jackson High School, Charleston, WV

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

**Virginia Tech, M. S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering;
Swarthmore College, B.S. Degree in Engineering**

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

Retired in March 20220 as County Engineer for Kanawha County Commission

Describe your current job & responsibilities

Job Responsibilities included Map Revision reviews, enforced Kanawha County Subdivision Regulations, reviewed and approved new Cell Tower applications, served as chief Financial Officer for the Kanawha County Recycling Center, served as Executive Director for the Kanawha County Regional Development Authority for new water projects

How long have you worked for your current employer?

I served as County Engineer for the last 17 years, prior to my retirement in March 2022..

Q4

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

I believe in creating a business environment that provides quality infrastructure, including better roads, rail and air transportation, and high speed broadband. I want a tax structure that respects businesses and removes unnecessary taxes and regulations to assist in their ability to make a profit. I also place emphasis on making sure there is a quality, well-trained workforce.

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 worked with the Kanawha County Recycling Center to help its ability to succeed by writing grants and administering grant funds; I have worked closely with the Kanawha County RDA and WV American Water to assist in getting new water lines run to serve several communities with no water in Kanawha County. I have worked with developers to insure new proposed subdivisions are designed and installed properly. I have worked with cell tower companies in getting cell towers in underserved areas of Kanawha County.

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.

Kanawha County Recycling Center.

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?

The high cost of energy, fuel and raw materials threatens many businesses. I want to make sure that in West Virginia that we have reliable energy availability and low cost energy. I also want to reduce businesses' tax burden to help them overcome the high cost of raw materials due to runaway inflation.

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 strongly support passage of Amendment One. These tax reductions will help our businesses and our citizens deal with the damaging effects of runaway inflation.

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?

Work to keep our energy costs low by using our state's plentiful fossil fuels. Remove unnecessary business regulations and taxes. Encourage students and potential workers to develop key job skills at BridgeValley Learning Center and provide support. Provide tax incentives to attract new businesses.

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?

We need to enforce our drug laws and adopt tough on crime legislation to stop drug trafficking. I also oppose recreational marijuana since it is a gateway drug. We need to offer assistance to drug users to help them overcome their addiction.

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 would work to supply a well-trained reliable workforce with low-cost reliable energy and an environment that is business-friendly and pro-family. I am not interested in favoring companies with either conservative corporate values or liberal corporate values.

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.

BridgeValley is an excellent resource to get potential manufacturing employees the basic job skills required. The instructors tailor course offerings to meet the needs of companies like Dow and Toyota. We also need to make sure our public education system is doing a thorough job of getting students good reading, writing math, and science skills, and a good knowledge of civics and social studies.

Q13

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

I would encourage parents and students to focus on academic achievement and the importance of education. We also should support vouchers to allow low-income families the opportunity to send their children to private or home schools, much like wealthy parents.

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)?

This is an excellent education technique that offers students the ability to develop key career and technical skills that can be of lifelong value regardless of their career choices. It also helps prepare them for good-paying jobs after high school. This technique helps motivate students to become part of an intelligent, high-achieving, value-oriented workforce. I strongly support this.

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 weed out state regulations and environmental rules that are overkill and unnecessarily burdensome. This is a key part of creating a business-friendly environment, which is the basis for industrial job growth and investment.

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 we have plentiful fossil fuels for the next 100 years that are critical to human flourishing and low-cost reliable energy. I believe unreliable energy sources like solar and wind, raises overall energy costs. However, if a company wants to employ solar or wind, I am fine with it.

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 want to create a good environment for businesses to be profitable and have a well-trained workforce. I want to have a pro-family environment with a solid education system. I also want to make sure we have high quality transportation and broadband access. I am not interested in promoting or adopting liberal or conservative corporate agendas.

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?

Lower or eliminate the business inventory tax and remove unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

Q19

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

Yes, I will be happy to be interviewed. I am available for an in person interview or for a remote interview.

Q20

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

Facebook: John Luoni for House; John Luoni

Email: johnluoni@outlook.com
