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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Mike Oliverio
Office Seeking: State Senate
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 13

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: Mike Oliverio
Address 2: 9 Catalpa Street
City/Town: Morgantown
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26505
Country: USA
Email Address: mikeoliverioforsenate@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3043193339

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Morgantown High
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): WVU BSBA, MBA
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Northwestern Mutual/Financial Advisor
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Insurance & Investment work
How long have you worked for your current employer?: 34 years

Q4

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

Free market capitalism

A government that governs least governs best.

Government shouldn't pick winners and losers, the market should.

My priority....Make it in West Virginia!

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?

34 year successful business

I worked in the Senate to eliminate the business franchise tax, reduce the corporate net, and privatize the workers comp system.

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.

Youth coaching, VP Senior Monongalians. A number of groups associated with my Italian Heritage.

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?

Two wonderful young successful clients of mine married recently and announced they were moving out of State. We need to stop the brain drain and bring new people here. Our demographics are at the root of our problem. More dying than being born. And so many successful people leaving hurt our prospects.

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 haven't made a final decision on that because I hope to learn more about it. I'm leaning towards supporting it, but want to see the plan that could be enacted to help growing counties like Monongalia.

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?

Reduce tax

Reduce cumbersome regulations

Better use State resources to support the private sector, for example I secured funding for and encouraged the 'Industries of the Future' group from WVU to assist WV Manufacturers. WVU extension can do more, too.

Scholarship incentives in the disciplines we need.

Job creation incentives in the sectors we want to develop.

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'm involved with Lauren's Wish a charity working in this area.

The legislature needs to develop a holistic solution.

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?

We have a D & I program with our company and similar efforts could be done at our State level.

This is another example of why you should support citizens who are employed and engaged in the economy. People who are 'full-time legislators' for years after years often fail to bring private sector experience into state government.

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 like the efforts made to make Community & Technical College Courses free or reduced. Expanding targeted workforce programs may help.

Q13

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

I support school choice. I heard school board candidates in the recent election indicate that the increased number of homeschooled students is the 'problem' with public education. Until folks in public education understand the increased number of students being homeschooled is a symptom of the problem in public education and not the problem itself, it will be hard to make the changes necessary to improve outcomes. That aside, I will work as I have done in the past through 16 years on the Senate Education committee to improve our public education system. We are fortunate to have thousands of hard-working public school teachers, counselors, nurses, and staff who work every day to offer public education in West Virginia.

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 have a local program at Cheat Lake middle that I believe could be replicated around the State. I believe I was the first legislator in West Virginia to sponsor legislation to create STEM based scholarship programs over 20 years ago to support our growing Hi Tech jobs in Fairmont at the time.

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 think it would be a very rare case where state regulations should be more strict than federal regulations.

Q16

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

I support of renewable energy legislation nearly 20 years ago. The legislature has since repealed that legislation. Plenty of other efforts could be made to create renewable energy sources. We must continue to be bullish though on our clean coal and natural gas.

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?

We must continue to be bullish though on our clean coal and natural gas. We just have to be careful not to put our state in a position where we cannot help an economic development prospect check off the boxes of what is required for them to do business here. I admire the efforts of our treasurer fighting back against some of the banking institutions who purposely have tried to limit our fossil fuel jobs and State revenue.

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 would first ask the manufacturers what that piece of legislation should be. I don't pretend to know all. I would like to see Made in West Virginia become a priority.

Q19

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

Of course!

Q20

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

Mikeoliverioforw FB

Mikeoliverioforsenate Website
