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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: larry rowe
Office Seeking: house of delegates
Party Affiliation: Democrat
District: 52 (East Kanawha)

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 202 Wayne Isaac Lane
City/Town: MALDEN
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25306
Country: US
Email Address: larrylrowe@outlook.com
Phone Number: 3044155566

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Peterstown High, Peterstown WV
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): WVU three degrees: BA, MPA and JD
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Self
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Attorney at Law
How long have you worked for your current employer?: Since 1980

Q4

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

Business and industry operate and produce. Government regulates with guardrails for safety and proper use of public resources. Governments protect people, populations and communities from the extremes of misuse of public resources. That regulation should be only what is needed to enforce compliance to prevent endangerment of workers, people, and resources including the environment.

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 a family and concerns about future generations; 14 years of experience as a legislator--as a delegate and senator (with a 10 year self imposed gap); 5 years at WV Ethics Commission; 2 years as Chair of Board at WV State U; a published historian of slavery and salt in West Virginia, former President of the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association and saw the potential for tourism development over 20 years ago.

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.

St. Johns Church; Kanawha Valley Village People, a senior organization; Booker T. Washington Memorial Association, and volunteer tour guide for WV State U for Bookers Church and Cabin in Malden

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 government itself and the political structure we rely on to provide new ideas and officials with peaceful transfers of power.

The imbalance of the state's political parties presents many issues about public benefit and justice. Democracy is no longer to be taken for granted.

The Nation's Capitol is no longer a temple of the Republic symbolizing for all Americans the greatness of our founding ideas for liberty, equality and justice, and our democratic republic directed by the Constitution, which once was seen as divinely inspired, and now is just a document to be manipulated for power and money. I grew up in a time when the Nation's Capitol was a holy place to celebrate our work in the World. It still is for me.

Specific problems include (1) unfair tax reductions for high income taxpayers, (2) the new EPA doctrine against regulation of clean water and clear air, and all other federal regulation that does not specify with exactitude what delegated authority is in fact delegated, (3) destruction of public schools with incentives for students to leave the system, bank \$4,300 each year for each child and perhaps use those funds years later for college tuition or even high school boarding academies (12 years of home schooling with 12 years of banked \$4,300 Hope funds is \$51,600.00 for each child in the family), (4) possible bankruptcy of local government, schools, and emergency agencies with Amendment changes in property taxes, unless a plan is developed to limit fiscal problems at the local level.

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.

If we can develop a plan to replace lost revenues, which in Kanawha County alone, total \$61 million dollars; we cannot bankrupt local governments, schools and emergency responders. We can develop a plan but I see no proposals on the table (like raising the real property maximum to 100% from 60%--a tax trade, does it help to almost double the those taxes?)

Question: Will the primary beneficiaries of the Amendment come forth with a plan. I hope so. It is desperately needed.

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?

The tourism corridor in East Kanawha will transform the state with attractions to out of state visitors and remote workers that will redevelop our coalfield communities, make Charleston the Gateway to the Gorge, raise property values on the river plain and across the mountainside and ridge tops along the river valley and beyond. Eleven federal agencies are tasked with helping coalfield communities with new economic development. The Legislature passed a number of bills to address coalfield community developments and demolition of abandoned buildings, and highway infrastructure and water sewer and storm water infrastructure. the Governor vetoed our Broadband Bill, but we will get that going I am sure. Note that the Kanawha County Commission has \$1.2 million in grant funds to put this tourism corridor in place in the next 10 years. It will happen.

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?

Prescriptions for pain must be monitored and limited; illegal drug traffic addressed, Addicted Users should be viewed as suffering from disease and not as criminals. More treatment facilities and programs are needed. It is time to legalize marihuana a pain drug with little chemical addictive qualities.

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?

Issues about how we treat our neighbors must be addressed affirmatively and incorporated into our industrial recruitment strategy. Treatment of minorities --all minorities whether racial or LGBTQ--matters especially to multinational companies that can choose to invest billions anywhere.

The Golden Rule works and discrimination should be banned in employment, housing, and public accommodations and the new Hope vouchers should not be used to fund schools that discriminate against minorities.

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.

Technical skill programs in community colleges and high schools should expand so that all students not going on to college for a liberal education have a plan for skill development needed in the workforce for specific employers. Technical College Tuition is already free for two years. Lets get the students on a path to skills that will give them sustainable jobs, starting in 8th or 9th grade.

Q13

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

Simple: The Public schools systems need smaller class sizes and increased teacher pay. We should set aside the Hope program to drain funding from public schools. Taking away ten percent of school funding will neither pay for smaller class sizes or increase the pool of top teachers who can afford to live on what we pay--some \$10,000 less per year in some counties when compared to teachers in other states. We are in crisis in state public education which the Hope program will only exacerbate.

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)?

See number 12 above. All students should have a path to a work skill that employers value and need. community colleges are too relaxed about their roles. They should be proactive in high schools for training skill paths to good jobs.

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?

Industries should see themselves as being on the front line of the battle to save the planet's climate. Profits that are not directed to prevention of diseases and deaths, can destroy an industry's reputation, like happened tragically to DuPont at the Washington works and Union Carbide in India. Industries must prevent the subtle climate change that will destroy us slowly as a humanity. Industries should diversify their top officials and adopt clean water and clear skies as corporate goals and enforce them voluntarily without government regulation boundaries not being tested and pushed. Cooperation is key, not political warfare, which industry is now winning with recent EPA decision by the top court.

Q16

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

Encourage all types of energy production treating all types equally for taxation, startup and regulation purposes.

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 am impressed with industries that enforce goals for their operations to have clean water and clear skies. I believe in stakeholders coming together to solve their own problems.

I respect industries that see themselves as good neighbors and positive actors instead of crash and burn profit makers. I think we all do. I grew up seeing corporate America as the leader of the Free World and the miracle makers who made our lives prosper with new inventions that brought joy and time for other things than work. and had our eyes twinkle with hope for our futures. Industries should seek that sort of admiration of the young by roles that fit their best dreams.

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?

Broad and generous Workforce development funding in colleges and high schools would help.

See responses to numbers 12 and 14. Making the first two years of state colleges free like we did for community colleges. That would keep students (and our children) in the state especially those who are not directed to a four year liberal education.

Q19

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

Yes I can attend in person in Charleston and by zoom as well.

I would be honored to discuss some of the important matters you raise in your questions.

Also, I would be very very proud of an endorsement from your Association and the State Chamber of Commerce. I try to be a voice of reason for decency and justice in all of its manifestations presented to the Legislature. Best to you and thank you for the time and great effort to manage these thought--provoking questions. I enjoyed it.

Q20

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

I do not use social media.
