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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Andy Shamblin
Office Seeking: House of Delegates District 59
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 59

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 103 Brookhaven Dr.
Address 2: Nitro WV
City/Town: Nitro
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25143
Country: United States
Email Address: andyshamblin@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 3045339766

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Nitro High School

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

West Virginia State University-BS Secondary of Education, Marshall University Graduate College-Educational Leadership

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

Kanawha County Schools-12th Grade Civics & AP US Government Teacher, Elected Nitro City Council Member Since 2012, and Minister at the Nitro Church of Christ.

Describe your current job & responsibilities

Educating Students about History, Civics, and Government. Representing Nitro Residents for over a decade in my community. Ministering to a congregation of approx. 100 members.

How long have you worked for your current employer?

Teaching- 7 years, City Council- 10 years, Ministry- 13 years.

Q4

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

To create an environment that is conducive to business development and expansion.

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?

Passion for community improvement, passion for education, and commitment to learning from others. When I was elected to city council in 2012 the City of Nitro suffered from a poor image and negative news stories continually. The city was "run down" and filled with depilated buildings that plagued the landscape. A decade later we have taken steps rebrand Nitro as a WWI Boomtown through the implementation of a comprehensive marketing plan, worked with private investors to purchase properties to tear them down, clean them up, and then sell them to developers. We have established a land re-use agency to achieve these goals.

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.

Peoples Federal Credit Union-Member Supervisory Committee
AFT WV-Member As a Teacher

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 loss of population and lack of opportunity for younger people to find higher paying jobs. Many of the students I teach will sadly leave our state after college graduation. We must continue to take steps such as reforming our tax code, elimination of the business and inventory tax, and work with investors to attract business and industries that will provide economic opportunities that are essential to stop our population decline.

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 believe it is essential to move forward with needed tax reform.

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?

We need to offer a more business friendly tax code and ensure that our population has the educational skill sets that are applicable to the 21st century workforce. This includes greatly expanding vocational educational opportunities.

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 must expand treatment options and move away from focusing on the criminal justice system for solutions. I think history has demonstrated that we cannot "jail" our way to a fix. We need to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we can offer realistic and innovative solutions.

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 think republicans need to be leery of chasing every "culture war" issue. These issues come and go, waxing and waning in importance depending on the year. I am more interested in working to better the economy, educational system, and infrastructure.

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.

We need to make a consecrated effort to push students towards vocational trades in education. We can also partner with the skilled trades to formulate more formal planes to market those careers.

Q13

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

As an educator I have many ideas. We need to plan for a 21st education system that can meet the needs of a diverse workforce. This involves formulating a fair way of measuring educational outcomes that will enable us to determine how to improve our schools. We also need to attract more and better teachers into the field of education. Which requires raising teacher salaries to competitive levels. Another facet of this problem is holding underperforming teachers accountable. Additionally, our current educational system is top heavy with bureaucracy. We need to work to remove outdated and antiquated regulations that hamper educational outcomes. Lastly, and thinking more long-term we need a serious analysis of the fifty-five county board system. In a sate with declining population we are wasting lots of money maintaining an vast bureaucracy that could be consolidated to provide better, more efficient educational services.

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 a area of critical need. Engaging with all stakeholders and educating them on the value of such partnerships is a good first step. I also think we should offer more internships and "hands on" opportunities for students to appreciate the value of choosing careers in such fields.

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?

Achieving a balance is critical in all areas of public policy. True extremes are generally bad for all involved stakeholders. I believe the key is engaging stakeholders in conversations to ensure that there is understanding regulations that are needed but also how regulations impact industry. As a public officials, we must balance what at times are competing interests.

Q16

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

We need an all inclusive approach to energy. It is past time for us to fully embrace renewable energy sources. The city of Nitro is actively involved in constructing solar farms to power our city buildings. Renewables are the future and the future is now.

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 consider the metrics of such criteria and weigh them in any decisions regarding pending legislation.

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?

Reforming the cooperate tax code and elimination of the business inventory tax--I have been advised by many knowledgeable people that it is an impediment to manufacturing growth.

Q19

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

Yes-preferably during the summer and before August 16 which is when Kanawha County begins the school year!

Q20

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

Andy Shamblin-Personal Facebook

Andy For House-Campaign Facebook

<https://www.shamblinforwv.com/> -campaign website
