

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 07, 2022 11:21:06 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 07, 2022 11:33:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:53
IP Address: 173.81.234.216

Page 1

Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Doug Smith
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 39

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 36 Pisgah Ln
City/Town: Princeton
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 24739
Country: US
Email Address: Smith4WVHouse@gmail.com
Phone Number: 6786568233

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Newton High School, Newton, KS

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

BS - Criminal Justice, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS; MPA - Criminal Justice, City University, Bellevue, WA; MSS (Master of Strategic Studies), U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA

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

Retired U.S. Army, Incumbent WV House of Delegates District-27

Describe your current job & responsibilities

WV Legislature

How long have you worked for your current employer?

2 Years (WV Legislature)

Q4

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

A balanced relationship between the state government and business and industry is required for the welfare and the economy of the state. State government role is to make a suitable environment for business organizations, critical to this is ensuring the state does not overly burden business and industry with regulatory requirements. Most barriers to economic development are the result of counter-productive government policies due to government interference – more regulation interferes with growth. Taxes – should raise revenue however we use them to redistribute income and encourage or discourage behavior – we need a simpler tax code to remove economic distortions.

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?

Was the lead sponsor for House Bill 4353 passed in the 2022 Regular Session. The purpose of the bill was to synchronize county and local elections in conformity with the dates of regularly scheduled primary and general elections. This bill tells the people of West Virginia that we don't believe in the waste of taxpayer money and that we want to make it easier for them to vote, not suppress their vote.

I have over 34 years of Military Service, enlisted and officer, and I have served all around the world. I hold a both a bachelor and master's degree in Criminal Justice and a second master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Having served my whole adult life for the Military I decided to run for office because serving is who I am and I want to use the skills I have acquired to continue to serve the people in Southern WV in District-27 (Mercer and part of Raleigh County). I want to bring fresh ideas and conservative positive solutions to the WV legislature because the future of our community, children and businesses is our biggest challenges.

One thing the Military has taught me is that you must be willing to compromise. Compromise however does not mean abandoning your principles or forgoing partisanship it does mean choosing candidates who are able to set aside their uncompromising mindsets long enough to craft the compromises necessary to improve things for the people.

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.

I am a life member of the VFW, Reserve Officers Association, and North American Hunting Club. I am also a member of the NRA, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), West Virginia Citizens Defense League, and the Bluefield, WV Masonic lodge-85.

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 most critical challenge that continues to threaten our state is the outflow of people to other states due to the lack of "Quality Jobs" and an unfriendly Business environment. We must continue the great progress of creating a business-friendly environment with a positive tax and regulatory climate to encourage business growth and attract outside business to our state.

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.

100% support the passage of Amendment One on the November 2022 General Election ballot. The current tax is an oppressive anti-business tax that punishes investment in new equipment and discourages companies from maintaining inventory in West Virginia. Bottom line up front I believe the business inventory tax is an incumbrance on our state's economy and our ability to remain competitive with other states. It must be done away with!

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?

1) Create positive tax and regulatory climate. 2) Improve broadband infrastructure. 3) Reduce bureaucracy in government. 4) Reduce bureaucracy in education system. 5) Reduce redundancy in the number of state boards and commissions (WV has over three times as many boards and commissions as other states which average around 60).

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 improve and pursue a five-prong approach on 1) PREVENT – Address inappropriate prescribing of pain medications. 2) INTERVENTION – Expand awareness of substance use disorder as a treatable disease. 3) TREATMENT – Expand access to effective substance use disorder treatment. 4) SUPPORT – Expand effective programs that serve families affected. 5) RECOVERY – Pursue expansion of recovery support.

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 believe that there are two key steps business and industry can take to improve racial justice and equity. 1) Employee education – Avoiding discussion leads to perception disparity. We need to encourage business's and industry, already in the state, to educate employees about the realities and inequities of our society and increase awareness of individual accountability of an inclusive workplace. 2) Encourage business's and industry to create an atmosphere of belonging, a team.

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.

Developing a diverse and skilled workforce is dependent on continuous evaluation and the resulting identified changes to the organizational processes. We must not just look at the recruiting and hiring process we must also focus on keeping employees and growing them into leadership roles. Evaluation should look for and root out equity disparities across all aspects of the organizational process (recruiting, hiring, promotions, compensation, and attrition). We must also address the educational requirements and availability of the programs to ensure we have a training workforce to draw from.

Q13

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

We must hold the education system accountable for priority spending for those things that directly relate to educating our children. If it doesn't directly relate to the education of our children then it shouldn't be a priority for spending and the funds will be better spent on those things that are.

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)?

All students need a sound educational background in STEM to succeed in college or Vo-Tech and ultimate career success. The best way for Industry to engage in support of STEM learning would be a coordinated, with the education system, integration of solid project-based approach programs to help better prepare students for how STEM is actually employed in the workplace.

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?

To maintain a competitive atmosphere for industrial job growth and investment any restrictive environmental policy under consideration for implementation must be viewed from the position that any societal gains (benefits) exceed the cost of that implementation. No policy that would cause undue burden on the industrial sector should be implemented.

Q16

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

We must build on the passage of SB-4 which would allow nuclear energy to be used in West Virginia. Specifically micro-reactors.

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 support common sense regulation that doesn't infringe on either corporations or the public. I would have to see the specifics of any policy issues before I could make a final determination as to whether I would support or not. Anything that would cause undue burden on a corporation or the consumer would not be a favorable policy in my view.

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?

Get rid of the business and inventory tax!

Q19

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

Yes, remotely.

Q20

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DougSmith4WVHouse>

Webpage: www.Smith4WVHouse.com
