

What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

State Board of Education, DHHR, SEP
 State BOE - Top heavy with administrators - reduce # and increase teachers,
 DHHR - Too large, duplicates too many services, need to break up
 DEP - Too many regulations, need to focus on inspections and enforcing code
 but reasonable code. Would like to get rid of Tax Department.

What did we not ask that you would like to offer:

I try to have a common sense approach to balance needs of
 worker, business and state, unfortunately too many groups are
 polarized to extremes and won't work together to solve the problems we
 face. I am in this to improve our system of government for the good of
 all of our citizens and the future of our children and their children. We have
 a great state with much potential that hasn't been utilized in the past. Time to start.

Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person?

yes,

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#4



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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
 Started: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 4:42:28 PM
 Last Modified: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 5:33:03 PM
 Time Spent: 00:50:34
 IP Address: 166.170.33.116

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Q1: Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

I believe in limited government and a government that strives to provide a business climate that encourages businesses to locate and expand in West Virginia.

Q2: 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?

Budgetary issues will likely be the foremost challenge facing the 83rd Legislature. I intend to continue my work to right-size our state government to reflect current budget realities and to further enhance our business climate to foster economic growth.

Q3: What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

I plan to continue my support of civil justice, regulatory, tax and education reform to foster economic growth.

Q4: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1? Yes

Q5: Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

I supported and co-sponsored civil justice reform legislation and will continue to work with my colleagues to enact additional needed tort reform.

Q6: Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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've supported justice reinvestment legislation as well as drug testing of recipients of public assistance and support expanded treatment options for West Virginians.

Q7: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage? Yes

Q8: 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 bring the perspective of a regional general manager of a telecommunications company and as a past president of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and as a past member of the Jefferson County Development Authority. I'm pleased to have played a productive role in improving our state's business climate in my first two terms.

Q9: What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

I believe the Department of Education & the Arts as well as the Division of Energy perform duplicative and or marginal services and can likely be eliminated. I believe the HEPC and CCTC warrant close examination to determine how they can be right-sized.

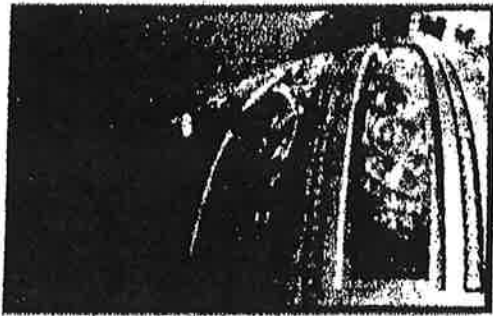
Q10: What did we not ask that you would like to offer?

I would support a phase out of the tax on business equipment and inventory as part of comprehensive tax reform.

Q11: Contact Information

Name	Paul Espinosa
Office Seeking	House of Delegates -66th District
Address	107 Hancock Court
City/Town	Charles Town
State/Province	WV
ZIP/Postal Code	25414
Email Address	paul@espinosafordelegate.com
Phone Number	3042684266

Q12: Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person? In person, By phone



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2016 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey has been sent to you by email. Please complete the survey on line if at all possible. Deadline to return is June 20, 2016.

Please complete the following.

Candidate Name: Tom Fast
Address Line 1: P.O. Box 332
Address Line 2: Fayetteville, WV 25840
Phone/Email: 304-54-0777/ delegatefast@cisinternet.net

Questions:

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

Foster a climate that makes it lucrative to do business in West Virginia.

- Protection of private property for individuals and businesses
- Keep taxes and regulations at a minimum
- Reward success (through incentives, etc.) not punish it with higher taxes

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?

We must have more jobs in West Virginia: but government is not the creator of jobs, the people are. Government must focus on fostering the correct business climate (as stated in question # 1). I've said many times, "Make it lucrative to do business in West Virginia and business will come."

What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

Right-size our government, reduce / control regulations, and make our tax system fair (eliminate inventory tax) so that our businesses can have a state that provides a lucrative atmosphere in which to do business.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1?

- Yes
 No

Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

I supported deliberate intent, open and obvious and trespasses liability as they lend toward a philosophy of protection of private property. I did not vote for the 2015 medical liability reform because it placed hiring practices under the definition of "medical care". I believe there is a direct correlation between inadequate staffing and patient injury.

Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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?

Use technology to help prevent prescription drugs from getting on the streets. Require able body persons to work as opposed to so freely granting welfare checks. Do not legalize recreational use / possession of marijuana.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass FB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage?

- Yes (See additional comment below.)
- No

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?

My 23 year experience as a general practice attorney is a great benefit to serving in the legislature in formulating legislation. In my law practice I serve many business clients and know and see how difficult, and many times plain "crazy", the tax and regulatory burdens are that punish success. These are motivating factors for me to help formulate positive change in West Virginia.

What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

The Secretary position to the Department of Education: Duties can be absorbed by lower level employees. PEIA could be privatized which would provide recipients a better plan with less costs to them and the state. School maintenance could be prioritized.

What did we not ask that you would like to offer:

My research indicates that states with a Religious Freedom and Restoration Act fair better economically than those without it.

Also, I supported HB2852, HB4228, HB4324, HB4540, SB1, and SB259.

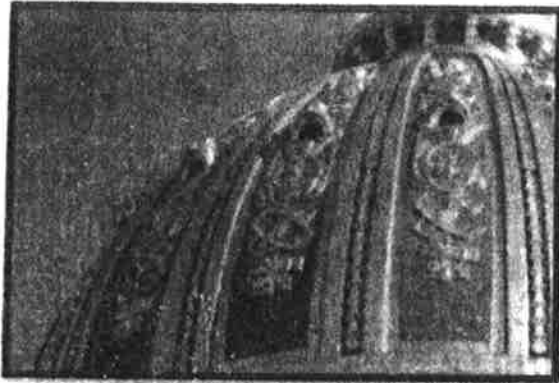
Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person? Yes

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This survey has been sent to you by email. Please complete the survey on line if at all possible. Deadline to return is June 20, 2016.

Please complete the following.

Candidate Name: MICHAEL T. FERRO
Address Line 1: 32 - 9th St McMECHEN, WV 26040
Address Line 2: _____
Phone/Email: (304) 340-3111, MIKE.FERRO@WVHOUSE.GOV
(304) 233-4729

Questions:

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

GOVERNMENT, AS I SEE IT, HELPS TO FACILITATE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY WHEN ASKED TO. IT ALSO SHOULD TRY TO HARBOR A GOOD WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH INDUSTRY AND ITS WORKERS MAKING SURE OF A SAFE WORK PLACE, GOOD WAGES, AND BENEFITS. PERSONALLY, I HAVE WORKED VERY WELL WHEN ASKED WITH AXIALL IN MARSHALL CO. AND WITH AEP AND FIRST ENERGY.

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 PROBLEM IS HOW WE CAN DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY WITH THE DEMISE OF COAL. I HATE IT, BUT I DON'T THINK COAL WILL EVER BE AT THE LEVEL IT ONCE WAS. WE NEED TO BE PROACTIVE IN THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THROWING STONES AT SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE BEYOND OUR CONTROL

What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

HAVE A TRAINED, DRUG FREE, HIGHLY SKILLED, MOTIVATED LOCAL WORK FORCE THAT GETS PAID LIVING WAGES WITH GOOD BENEFITS.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1?

- Yes
- No

Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

I'M NOT SURE. 3RD PARTY BAD FAITH WAS PASSED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO BUT MV INSURANCE RATES HAVE CLIMBED STEADILY - WITH NO ACCIDENTS OR MOVING VIOLATIONS. WV HAS BEEN PURPORTED TO BE A "JUDICIAL HELLHOLE" BY SOME. WITH THE TORT REFORM PASSED. WE WILL USE OF AND ADDICTION TO ILLEGAL DRUGS IN WEST VIRGINIA IS REACHING WHAT MOST ARE NOW CALLING, "CRISIS LEVEL." THIS IS SEE 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?

FIRST OF ALL WE WILL NEVER ELIMINATE THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS. WE HAVE TRIED MANY METHODS "JUST SAY NO", DARE, DRUG COURTS WITHOUT SUCCESS. I WISH I HAD AN ANSWER THAT WOULD TRULY CURB THIS TERRIBLE ADDICTION PROBLEM.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage?

- Yes
 - No
- DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE GUISE OF RELIGION IS REPREHENSIBLE

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?

AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY. WORKING HARD IN MY DISTRICT; BEING ABLE TO SECURE FUNDS FOR ROADS, LIBRARIES, SENIOR CENTERS, VFID'S, SCHOOLS, CITIES, AND HELPING INDIVIDUALS FIND SOLUTIONS TO THEIR VARIOUS CONCERNS OR PROBLEMS.

What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

MAYBE SOME COULD BE STREAMLINED OR REDUCED BY ATTRITION, BUT I CANT THINK OF ANY THAT DESERVE TOTAL ELIMINATION

What did we not ask that you would like to offer:

Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person?

CERTAINLY

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2016 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

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Please complete the following.

Candidate Name: Cindy Frich
Address Line 1: 1248 Bakers Ridge Road
Address Line 2: Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone/Email: (304) 591-1309 / cindyfrich@yahoo.com
cell (304) 276-2245

Questions:

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

The less government intrusion and regulation, the better for business and industry. (I am currently Vice Chair of Legislative Rule making and Review)
Government can help facilitate and fund infrastructure.

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?

Lack of good paying jobs! Help business and industry create jobs by making West Virginia more business friendly: legal reform, less regulations and low taxes on job creators. Facilitate + fund infrastructure. The WAR ON COAL and fossil fuels is the biggest threat. I testified to the EPA that the Clean Power Plan was an existential threat to WV. I'll do what I can to help save our jobs.

What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

I voted for Right to Work + Eliminating Prevailing Wages... Continue fighting the EPA and helping the fossil fuel industries in other ways. For example: I fought for the selenium + aluminum rules changes in Defend the business tax cuts I fought for a decade ago. Continue to listen for ways to improve our legal climate. Fund + facilitate infrastructure.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1?

Yes No I voted YES (I'm the only candidate in the 5th district who voted YES - 10 candidates -)

Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

I support tort reform. I served on the "Joint Insurance Availability + Medical Malpractice Committee and fought for medical malpractice reform, workers comp reform, 3rd party bad faith etc. I'm vice chair of Banking + Insurance Committee and fought for insurance reform 2013-2016 + 2013-2016 + Intermediate Court of Appeals? (I would have enjoyed legal reform more if I was still on Judiciary, but I'm in Finance)

Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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 serve on the new Select Committee on Prevention + Treatment of Substance Abuse. I sponsored many bills some which passed. The enhanced criminal penalties bills did not pass. We need better access to treatment and stronger laws against trafficking.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage?

Yes No If it's on the agenda

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?

Intelligence, good education in political science + economics, institutional knowledge. I have been a reformer to make WV business friendly. I'm the only candidate in my 5 delegate district who voted YES for Right to Work. I fought + I voted for medical malpractice reform, workers comp reform, 3rd party bad faith etc, Business Franchise tax elimination, Corporate Net Tax Reduction, Food tax elimination, Right to work + hourly wage elimination etc. Graduate of Miami of Ohio has taken same courses as US Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (+ 7 foreign languages)

What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

WV Department of Education & the Arts (Duplication)
WV Air Quality Board
WV Environmental Quality Board.

What did we not ask that you would like to offer:

N/A

Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person?

YES

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
 Started: Monday, June 06, 2016 7:45:39 AM
 Last Modified: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:36:51 PM
 Time Spent: Over a week
 IP Address: 76.111.178.18

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Q1: Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

State government needs to help not hinder business and industry by lowering taxes, less regulations, and legal reform to promote true economic growth.

Q2: 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 decrease in our state's tax base is the biggest challenge. The state needs to create a business friendly climate in order to maintain and/or attract more jobs.

Q3: What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

Lowering or eliminating the inventory tax, less regulations, and establishing an intermediate court of appeals.

Q4: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1? Yes

Q5: Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

The state legislatures are on the right track by getting West Virginia off the "Judicial Hell Hole List". Establishing an intermediate court of appeals and continue to pass bills to eliminate frivolous law suits.

Q6: Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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?

Expansion of drug courts, enact legislation to reduce doctors from over prescribing addictive pain medication, support drug prevention education in the schools, and collaboratively work with faith based and secular drug addiction transformation programs.

Q7: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage? Yes

Q8: 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?

Our companies have created jobs in a down economy as well as expanded. We were able to foresee where the industry was headed and make necessary changes in order to continue to be successful.

Q9: What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

1. State school board needs to be gradually phased out to our local level leaders. Each community is different and the local school boards are best fit to know the needs of their schools.
2. WV Women's Commission should be eliminated. West Virginia state government should not be funding special interest groups. It should be the role of private industry and donors to fund special interest groups.
3. School Building Authority needs to be eliminated allow the local leaders in that community to control where new schools should be built.

Q10: What did we not ask that you would like to offer?

The information I shared is a starting point.

Q11: Contact Information

Name	Nancy Reagan Foster
Office Seeking	House of Delegates 38th District
Address	PO Box 6
City/Town	Scott Depot
State/Province	WV
ZIP/Postal Code	25560
Email Address	nancy@nancyreaganfoster.com
Phone Number	304-546-0427

Q12: Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person?

In person



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Please complete the following.

Candidate Name: Marty Gearhart
Address Line 1: 131 Henderson Dr.
Address Line 2: Bluefield, WV 24701
Phone/Email: 304-320-0879 | marty.gearhart@emstygearhart.com

Questions:

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

Create an environment where business has the opportunity for success, where employees have work in good work means advancement and our state remains a wonderful place to live.

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 next challenge is tax reform

What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1?

- Yes
 No

Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

Our legal reform has been positive. I don't think there are additional/major reforms needed. There are many areas of code to clean up.

Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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?

Work! A better economy eliminates the despair the drug business thrives on and allows addiction.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage?

- Yes
 No

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?

Experience, Knowledge, values. I served as VP of sales in a manufacturing business for 20 years. Owned a retail business and taught school. I stay active in church and community and build my business and family daily.

What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

Severely down sized - Education
Eliminated - Arts & Education
Eliminated - Courtesy Patrol

What did we not ask that you would like to offer:

I think a creative method of eliminating the equipment and inventory tax is critical to our future. Toll on WV Turnpike must be eliminated.

Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person?

Yes

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#21



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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 2:12:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:21:31 AM
Time Spent: Over a week
IP Address: 73.152.220.46

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Q1: Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

I believe that the proper role of state government as it relates to business and industry is to ensure a fair and impartial court system to facilitate the resolution of disputes, and to ensure that our roadways and water systems are modern and functional. West Virginia is grossly out of line with that interpretation.

Q2: 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?

West Virginia's fiscal instability is our biggest threat at this time. For many years, state government has been used as a job mill and that is unsustainable. We are now being asked to carry the burden of these workers on the back of the remaining businesses and citizens in the state.

We must, as a state, completely re-think how we pay for government services moving forward, and how we assess performance and accountability of government workers. I believe the first step forward in this endeavor is to pass a strong, actionable population density driven framework for "metro" governments. If we allow our counties to pool their resources and transfer the burden of revenue generation from the state to the counties, it opens up much more options in a time when West Virginia's business climate is in transition.

Q3: What ideas do you have to reverse the trend of job loss and help facilitate job creation in West Virginia?

We must first stop the bleeding in state government by electing a governor who will examine executive agency spending, and audit the PSC and Board of Public Works. Historically the state has looked at our business community and citizenry as little more than a revenue source, and I think that as long as we continue that attitude it will be very hard to be seen as viable for large scale business investment. Getting our fiscal house in order and reforming our tax code to be simpler and more business friendly is paramount in getting West Virginia back to work.

The term "entrepreneurship" gets thrown around a lot right now, and I am not sure that our leadership fully understands the implications that would come with truly committing to a culture of entrepreneurship. The kinds of men and women who are true innovators do not like to be constrained by the shackles of a planned or semi-planned economy, and we must abandon those ideas entirely in order to attract the mindset that will bring such innovation to West Virginia. A real, and salient example of how NOT to foster a culture of entrepreneurship is the Charleston Gazette's smear piece on the alleged ammunition factory that has been announced. If that is the attitude of the largest newspaper in the state - to seek out, ridicule, and use prior failures to cast doubt on private investment - why in the world would someone look seriously at West Virginia for small to mid cap investment?

I do not think that our current economic condition has a simple, or a short term fix. I expect West Virginia to continue on a recessionary track for the next 4-7 years. It is critical that we continue to our current course for legal and labor reforms, so that when the market breaks loose, we are able to capitalize on it. I believe that deep down, West Virginians WANT to work, and want to participate in meaningful production jobs. A large part of our culture is taking pride in our contributions to the steel, glass, coal, timber and other materials that built America and the world - and I want to help build a climate where companies trust our government and labor force to provide the best options possible to facilitate as such.

Q4: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, which makes West Virginia the 26th state to adopt a Right-to-Work law. Do you support the passage of SB 1? Yes

Q5: Enacting legal reform has been a centerpiece of recent state legislative efforts. In general, what are your thoughts on the legal reforms that have been passed? Are there additional legal reform bills you would like to see?

I would like to see legislation passed that absolves secondary and tertiary developers of environmental liability for reclaimed mine sites. I think this liability should be transferred to the state or the DEP if an agency has declared a piece of land appropriately remediated, and an environmental hazard is found to still exist on the site. I would like this to cover mine reclamation as well as brownfield projects.

Q6: Use of and addiction to illegal drugs in West Virginia is reaching what most are now calling, "crisis level." 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?

This is a chicken and egg problem - do we have high drug use because of low opportunities, or do we have low opportunities because of high drug use?

Much of the root of our issues lies in the state of our public schools. I would like to see a resurgence of D.A.R.E. programs in our schools and a focus on technical skills and trade education. Teach young West Virginians to work with their hands and apply critical thinking and problem solving in a practical, functional manner. To me, this is the core to a long-term solution for our drug epidemic. I think that drug use stems from boredom, largely, and sadly many of our federally mandated curricula foster that apathy. If we teach our young people that learning is a lifelong endeavor that has practical application they are more likely to complete high school and remain drug free and find stable, long term employment.

In addition, I think that we must defeat marijuana legalization initiatives in West Virginia. While there certainly is a liberty argument to be made, our state already faces a reputation as having a workforce that cannot pass a drug test. I believe this kind of legislation, and the underlying message that drugs are acceptable, would create a new percentage of West Virginians that are underemployed or outright unemployable.

There are many more cultural factors that influence this issue, and I am not sure what the solution is. I would prefer to see a culture of production and productivity in West Virginia, and communities, schools and parents who reject the trend of portraying intoxication as "cool", and the only way to get cooler is to drink or do drugs. I think that in itself would go a long way to helping alleviate the problems that accompany this issue.

Lastly, as we enter a period of austerity, we must ensure that funding for community and county health programs is protected. These services provide critical front-line roles in addiction and disease treatment for intravenous drug users. Prevention goes a long way in this fight, and it is far cheaper than treatment. I would like to see these centers viewed as places where people who want help for their problems feel safe and welcomed, and can discuss their issues in a confidential manner without fear of punitive measures.

Q7: During the 2016 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature failed to pass HB 4012 known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Would/did you support this or similar legislation for future passage? No

Q8: 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 am a fairly young serial entrepreneur who left the state and came back. Currently, I operate a recycling facility in Huntington. I was able to find a partner, and convince some of my family to move back to West Virginia in order to invest in this business. My experiences in this field have allowed me to visit most of the operational manufacturing facilities in Southern West Virginia. I understand what barrier we have in fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, and how vital production jobs are to our economy.

Recycling is a second career for me. It was very important for me to stay in the State of West Virginia and I found it to be the clearest path to success. My education and background is in television production. Rather than expecting the state to change to my wants and interests, I identified a sector that had potential for growth and assigned my efforts as such. Regardless of whether or not I am elected, I will continue to work to provide green, sustainable jobs in our state through this business.

I understand that much of Charleston's economic future depends on two developments: The realization of the Hobet mine site project, and the Pritchard Intermodal Depot coming online. Those items in tandem allow our region to be much more attractive to large scale industrial development - Hobet allows for a site that is out of the urban core, but still accessible by a short commute. Pritchard is critical as we lack a modern and effective port for freight. I believe that the ability to ship parts and materials IN to manufacturing or assembly facilities is as important as being able to export goods.

My greatest strength lies in my patience and understanding that West Virginia's problems are multifaceted and do not have a simple fix. Much like a course of antibiotics, we must continue the schedule of reforms that are currently being brought to West Virginia and elect leaders who are willing to do what is right, not what is necessary to keep their office.

Q9: What three agencies or departments in state government do you feel should/could be eliminated and why?

I am not a fan of occupational licensing and would be willing to examine the role and functions of those boards.

The PSC system has shown itself to be flawed and ripe for graft, and I believe that we should overhaul and possibly eliminate this very dated section of West Virginia's government.

Lastly, I think we should re-visit Governor Caperton's concept of dissolving the State Board of Education - the cabinet level position of Secretary of Arts and Education should be sufficient in conjunction with the county Boards of Education to service those needs.

Q10: What did we not ask that you would like to offer?

I think there is great potential for West Virginia's future, but we will have to revamp or abolish outright many of the institutions that are not working - both culturally and at a governmental level. Collectively, we need to ask ourselves "what do we have to show for our efforts?" Unfortunately, the answer is "not much".

With the further aluminization of automobiles, and the foundations of an automobile manufacturing sector with Toyota, NGK and Diamond Electric, bringing the Century Aluminum smelter on-line and continuing to develop next generation rolling and fabrication technologies at Constellium we are primed for a cornerstone automobile factory. As businesses look to save money on supply chain, this centralization of resources becomes invaluable moving forward. Pair that concept with cheap, plentiful natural gas for on-site electricity generation, and West Virginia becomes very viable for heavy manufacturing.

We must also foster an environment where people can raise and educate their families in a manner that is in line with our ethics and values. The importance of this cannot be understated. A child who is taught to "get by" will ultimately self-limit their opportunities. As this level of education rises, so do the aesthetics and workings of our communities - and to me, that is the crux of attracting and retaining modern, world-class businesses. It is much easier to say "we have a nice city here, and would like your company to be a part of it" than to say "well, it's not so great now, but we promise that with your investment it will get better".

Q11: Contact Information

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Q12: Would you be available for an interview by phone or in person? In person, By phone