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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: William Earl Ridenour
Office Seeking: West Virginia Delegate
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 100

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 802 MISSION RIDGE DRIVE
City/Town: HARPERS FERRY
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25425
Country: United States
Email Address: ridenour1945@gmail.com
Phone Number: 703-868-2837

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Huntington North High School, Huntington, Indiana

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

Master of Strategic Studies, Marine Corps War College, Quantico, VA; MA Economics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Post-Graduate Intelligence Program, Defense Intelligence College, Washington DC; BA History, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

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

Retired Marine and retired Defense intelligence officer

Describe your current job & responsibilities

N/A

How long have you worked for your current employer?

N/A

Q4

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

State government should facilitate an environment for business and industry, but should not be in the role of picking winners and losers.

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 spent most of my lifetime in the Marine Corps and the federal government developing an understanding of how both the executive and legislative systems should work within our governing model.

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 member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the West Virginia Citizens Defense League.

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 important challenge facing West Virginia and the United States is an out of control federal government that is an increasing threat to our Liberty. I intend on working with other state legislators to devise means to resume our role as the principal bulwark against federal government domination, and guard against overreach by the federal government and bureaucracy.

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 fully support this amendment. My information indicates this is either Amendment 2 or 3, not 1.

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 reduce regulations and taxes, including business inventory taxes and sales taxes. We also need to reduce spending to ensure we can maintain lower taxes. We must re-assert state authority over areas where federal government departments and agencies have exceeded their authority's as evidenced in the recent Supreme Court decision regarding EPA regulations. We must develop our educational system, including school choice, so that our students are among the best, rather than near the bottom. We must create a business-friendly environment, including reducing corruption. We must create an environment safer from criminal activities and a culture where people and businesses can flourish.

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?

The federal government is facilitating rather than inhibiting our drug problems, by its failure to secure our southern border. West Virginia should work with other states to shut down opioids crossing our southern border. West Virginia should also work with other states to identify Chinese networks and Mexican cartels that are facilitating drug problems within the U.S., and use every legal means to attack those entities, including actions to seize their assets.

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?

Businesses are best suited to determine the employees they need, not special interests groups or government bureaucrats. Businesses should ensure equal opportunity for all, but should hire employees based strictly on the qualifications and merits of the individuals seeking available positions. Hiring based on any other criteria is not living up to the ideals embodied in our Declaration of Independence or the Constitution.

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 focus more of our high school educational system on training our youth in vocational skills, vice focusing our efforts to push kids to colleges, where they learn little of potential benefit for the jobs and work environments they will likely be engaged in. We should allow businesses to assist in providing this vocational training, and allow businesses increased access to students to help orient them to useful careers. West Virginia should also work with businesses to create and support vocational training venues for individuals who have graduated from or left school.

Q13

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

School choice is critical to creating a competitive environment to increase quality in education. Charter and private schools, and home schooling will force our public schools to increase their quality. We should reduce non-core subject classes to focus much more on critical core subjects that will ensure our students are prepared for society. We must also eliminate the Leftist agenda, including CRT, transgenderism, etc., being forced onto kids, as this is not only destructive, but reduces the critical thinking abilities of our kids. Our children need to be taught the ideals and culture that made our country great, not the proselytism of the Left. We need to focus on classroom education, vice resourcing state and school bureaucracies. We also need more in-person classroom instruction, vice less effective virtual instruction. Virtual instruction has its place, but it is less effective than purported by special interest groups.

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)?

As stated above, West Virginia should focus far greater efforts on vocational education and training. STEM subjects are key components of the core subjects our schools should be focusing on. We should engage businesses for ideas on how to train students in STEM subjects that will enhance their career choices. We should invite businesses to partner with schools to assist in developing STEM programs and participate in classroom activities and instruction.

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?

West Virginia should work with individuals and entities with expertise on aspects of the environment that have not become political tools of one party or another. These experts should work with state government departments to devise regulations that protect the environment, while ensuring that our economy remains robust and conducive for growth. We must focus on facts, not politics to determine appropriate regulations. We must also ensure that the livelihood of the People is our overriding concern.

Q16

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

West Virginia should focus on producing reliable energy from the plentiful resources within our state, including coal, natural gas, petroleum, and hydroelectric power. We should also examine nuclear power as a potential means, if it is economically viable and effective. We must first ensure that West Virginia has sufficient energy to support our population and businesses, and work with like-minded states to ensure we get not only electrical power, but sufficient fuel to power the vehicles critical to ensuring we can continue to maintain our society. We need to have agreements with other states to provide any excess energy resources and production to those states that can provide us with the fuel we need to power our vehicles. West Virginia should not provide any governmental support for or subsidies to any solar-powered systems or wind power for energy production, given that most solar systems result in extreme environmental pollution and frequently require the equivalent of slavery to obtain the raw materials. Wind power is also problematic, as the evidence is that it is killing off much of our bee population, as well as large numbers of birds, and is also polluting landfills. No incentives should be provided for these systems.

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 will work to eliminate ESG criteria from any aspect of West Virginia. West Virginia should adhere to free enterprise policies, not anti-Liberty agendas.

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?

Reduction of taxes and regulations on businesses. Good businesses focus on profits. Taxes and cumbersome regulations interfere with making profits.

Q19

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

Yes.

Q20

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

<https://billridenourfordelegate2022.com/>. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077662644406>.
<https://www.instagram.com/billridenourfordelegate/>. <https://gab.com/billridenourfordelegate>.
