



2022 General Election -- Legislative Candidates' Questionnaire

This survey is available to complete online (preferred) at www.wvma.com/candidatesurvey2022. You may also scan and email your completed survey to Rebecca McPhail at rebecca@wvma.com, or mail **no later than July 15, 2022*** to:

West Virginians for Manufacturing Jobs PAC
2001 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Candidate Name: Andrew Anderson Office Seeking: House of Delegates, 56th District

Party Affiliation: Republican District: 56th Email: Andrew@Andersonforwv.com

Address Line 1: 971 Ridgemont Road

City: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25314 Phone: 304-610-2744

High School Attended (School, City, State): Nitro High School, Nitro, WV

Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained: West Virginia University, Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering

Current Employer & Job Title: Business Development Officer, Cooperative Business Services

Time with Current Employer: January 2021 – Present

Current Job Responsibilities: Responsible for helping businesses throughout West Virginia secure commercial loan financing in partnership with local credit unions.

Questions:

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

Even though West Virginia is a small state, I believe we can compete on a national level if we identify favorable policies and the right infrastructure for businesses to grow and succeed. As a member of the legislature, I will work to decrease regulations to help grow our economy. We must provide an environment for infrastructure, broadband and transportation that attracts business and creates jobs in the Mountain State. I will work toward a regulatory and tax climate that enables capital to be efficiently invested.

2. 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 nearly 20 years of diverse business and industry experience in manufacturing, energy, and banking. I began my career at NGK Spark Plugs in Sissonville, WV. I then moved to Cincinnati, OH where I served as a Project Manager at Toyota North America for more than four years. My love of the Mountain State and value of being close to family brought me home and I have worked in West Virginia for the past ten years. I know what it takes to build and run a successful business in West Virginia. My professional experience has centered around manufacturing, operational effectiveness and business development. As a member of the legislature, I will be an advocate for business and industry. I have built and expanded multiple manufacturing facilities including two in southern West Virginia – Mining Controls and Tabor Machine.

3. 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 previous member of WVONGA and IOGA and I served on the Commerce Committee of IOGA.

4. 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 issue facing our state is the ongoing drug epidemic. We must continue to aggressively fight the drug epidemic and stop the illegal flow of drugs into our state. The drug epidemic directly correlates with our workforce availability we need to work with the drug and family court system to get people back into the workforce and reunite families.

5. 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 strongly support the passage of Amendment One/Two. I truly believe that the equipment and inventory tax is the most regressive tax policy in our state by a wide margin.

6. 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?

Workforce participation and development is critical for West Virginia to compete and witness job growth. We must make sure that every West Virginian who wants a good paying job can obtain one. Now more than ever, we must support and expand our Career Technical Education Schools (K-12) and our Community and Technical Colleges throughout the state develop a skilled and adequate workforce.

7. 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?

I believe an "all of the above approach is needed to stop the drug epidemic. We must work with the drug and family court system to enable people to get back into the workforce and reunite families. It is also critically important that we start enforcing the existing drug laws and stop the illegal flow of drugs into our state.

8. 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 all West Virginians should be respected and treated equally.

9. 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.

It is important that we project and communicate West Virginia's future workforce needs to our existing education infrastructure (CTC, 2-year and 4-year) so we're able to develop and train individuals to fill labor and workforce

needs of 21st century economy. Additionally, we should consider programs that incentivize companies to provide on-the-job training for the development of new employees.

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

We must ensure our students are prepared for the jobs of the future and we must recognize that now every student has the same academic needs and goals. We should provide students with opportunities to learn firsthand how their work applies to potential career paths and we should provide tangible outcomes such as college credit or professional certifications to high school students to set them up for success.

11. 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)?

We should encourage and foster relationships between our public schools and industry. We should increase work-based learning for students and invite them to job shadow or intern within our workplaces to experience firsthand STEM in action.

12. 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?

We should be looking for ways to streamline permitting and reduce the regulatory burden on businesses investing in WV.

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

I support an "all of the above" approach to energy inclusive of reducing tax and regulatory burdens to increase the ability to effectively invest capital into diverse energy sources.

14. Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of the legislature?

I believe a pro-business climate helps all companies, including those concerned with ESG scores. I believe in a fair playing field with low taxes and low regulatory burden.

15. If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers within the state of West Virginia what would it be? and Why??

The most important piece of legislation is the elimination of the inventory & equipment tax. Removing this tax will allow West Virginia to be competitive in attracting new business to the state.

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

Yes, I am available for an interview in-person or remotely.

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

Facebook.com/andersonforwv

**SAVE THE DATE – 2022 WVMA All State-Legislative Dinner
Charleston, W.Va.**

Monday, September 12, 2022

**Sitting and newly elected Legislators are encouraged to attend as guests of the WVMA
Occupancy restrictions may lead to registration limits – details to follow.*

Surveys received after July 15, 2022 **will not be reviewed or considered for candidate endorsement.*