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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1

### Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** Gary Howell  
**Office Seeking:** Delegate  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican  
**District:** 87

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### Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address** PO BOX 39  
**Address 2** (Fix this)  
**City/Town** KEYSER  
**State/Province** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code** 26726  
**Country** United States  
**Email Address** gghowell1966@gmail.com  
**Phone Number** 13047886554

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**Q3**

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

**Keyser High School, Keyser, WV**

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

**Potomac State College of WVU, AA, Keyser, Frostburg State University, BS, Frostburg, MD**

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

**Howell Holding LLC, CEO**

Describe your current job & responsibilities

**Small business everything**

How long have you worked for your current employer?

**32 years**

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**Q4**

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

Government needs out of the way to allow people and businesses to use their talents.

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**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?

Various bills lowering taxes on business that have passed, continuing to work on others.

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**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.

Potomac Highlands Guild, Board of Directors, Mental Health Provider

Rotary, Past President and Current member. Associate Member Ruritan, member Keyser Moose Lodge.

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**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?

Job growth is causing a labor shortage and housing shortage. All need addressed.

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**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, from the being I expressed it would not pass without giving an incentive for the general public. Based on what I saw in a past Virginia election I suggested adding on personal vehicles to get the public to vote their own interested. I am glad our leadership listened.

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**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?

Lower taxes, get creative in other areas. I am currenting working on a tax credit for distribution centers using the WV Turnpike. The credit will be equal to what they pay in tolls if their end point or beginning point is a WV distribution center.

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**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?

Education at a early age is the only real solution we have to work on that.

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**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?

Not creating new courses of legal action against our corporate citizens is the best course of action to help them.

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**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.

Currently working with Sarah Tucker on training additional students for existing jobs in areas. This will increase the needed skills making it easier for those companies to expand. This will also drive up the demographics of those skills, make it more attractive to new companies. I also am looking into dual college credit in the final years of High School. This will make a read workforce trained and debt free.

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**Q13**

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

Continue to create alternative pathways for parents to educate their children.

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**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)?

See answer to 12

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**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?

State regulatory agencies should act in a capacity to help meet federal requirements. They should be helpful to business not adversarial

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**Q16**

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

Currently looking at construction of intrastate pipelines. I am an all of the above. We need to look at West Virginia as an energy producing state, not a specific type of energy.

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**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 take them into consideration in the context of the needs of the people I represent.

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**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?

There is no single piece of legislation, the economy is to complex for an answer to that. Northrup Grumman would have different needs than Clorox's Kingsford Charcoal division. Lowering the inventory and equipment taxes after the passage of the amendment would be a priority for me.

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**Q19**

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

Bex can catch me in Charleston in my office during interims.

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**Q20**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/DelegateHowellCampaign>

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