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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Todd A Kirby
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 44

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 109 W Hendricks St
City/Town: Beckley
State/Province: West Virginia
ZIP/Postal Code: 25801-3354
Country: United States
Email Address: todd@kgalawww.com
Phone Number: 3042372182

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state): Liberty High School (Raleigh)
Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA): Marshall
Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations): Kirby & Ashley, L.C., Partner/Owner
Describe your current job & responsibilities: Attorney
How long have you worked for your current employer?: 11 years

Q4

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

The State has a responsibility to provide an environment for businesses, large and small, to flourish and grow. More government spending means more tax dollars that are paid by businesses which could otherwise be used to grow businesses. Regulations should be targeted and minimal to not overly burden businesses, particularly small family-owned businesses who don't have the resources to ensure compliance with a litany of regulations.

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 been on the front lines of the opioid epidemic as an attorney for foster parents, grandparents, parents and children in abuse and neglect cases for over a decade. I have led groups of citizens who have stood up to government overreach and demanded that our God-given rights be protected from and by the government. As the owner and partner of a law firm I have had the opportunity of learning how to get groups of people to work toward a common goal.

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 West Virginia Bar Association, the Raleigh County Bar Association and an active member of Faith Community Church in Beckley, West Virginia.

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 drug epidemic is a generational and significant problem in this state and it must be addressed immediately. Education is also very important as without an educated population there is little hope that there will be progress as a society and as a state. Dealing with these issues would promote economic development in this 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.

YES, I absolutely support this measure and believe that it will be a huge benefit for new and existing businesses in our state. Money saved by this measure would allow that money to go into payroll or investments for the future of the business.

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 to rates that are competitive with other states in our region. Reduce the size and scope of our state government to allow for businesses to keep more of their money. Focus on ending the drug epidemic on every level from the distribution of drugs to addiction all the way to recovery and the secondary effects of drug addiction. Bolster our education system by eliminating waste at the state level and getting more resources into the classroom where it is needed most.

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?

Pass very strict and severe punishments for drug dealers. Look at programs and treatment facilities with good results and try to learn from them and implement their positive attributes into programs and facilities across the state. Fund early intervention programs and crack down on the pharmaceutical industry when their products harm the residents of our state.

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?

Ensuring that discrimination for any arbitrary reason is prohibited is always a good start for encouraging businesses. I would highlight the inviting and friendly attitudes of the population of this state to businesses looking to move into this state.

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.

I will emphasize the importance of trade schools in our ever changing economy. Provide funding to trade schools and sectors of education that will translate into actual and useful skills for blue collar workers.

Q13

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

Eliminate waste at the state and local administrative levels and get more resources into the classroom where it is most effective. Incentivize teachers to stay in West Virginia by making their pay and benefits competitive with other states in our region. Encourage parent and community involvement and input with respect to education in their communities.

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)?

Make it a priority to ensure that our kids leave school with a full understanding and appreciation for STEM education. Industry leaders and participants should have an open line of communication with public schools and their leadership to ensure that the needs of the industry are being addressed in the education children are receiving.

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?

Laws that protect the safety, health and overall welfare of the citizens are important and should be enforced. However, any law that is overly burdensome or that is outweighed by the economic and social impact should be looked at with skepticism. There is a common sense balanced approach that would allow for environmental concerns to be addressed while allowing industries to grow.

Q16

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

I am for all of the above. Geothermal, nuclear, wind, solar, coal, natural gas, oil and any other possible source of energy. There is an energy crisis and it will get much worse over the next year. We need an all hands on deck approach and leaders with an open mind.

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 am not sure that corporations' governance criteria would have much of a direct impact on my decision-making as a legislator. I have no problem considering ideas where I share a common goal with a corporation.

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?

Elimination of waste at the state level in the education system and a close second would be reform with respect to opiate abuse and trafficking.

Q19

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

Yes, in person would be good.

Q20

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

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