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**COMPLETE**

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### Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Candidate Name:** Rodney Miller  
**Office Seeking:** WV House of Delegates  
**Party Affiliation:** D  
**District:** 32nd

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### Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

**Address:** 325 1st St W  
**City/Town:** Madison  
**State/Province:** WV  
**ZIP/Postal Code:** 25130  
**Country:** United States  
**Email Address:** miller4wv@gmail.com  
**Phone Number:** 3047846341

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**Q3**

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

**Van HS, Van, WV**

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

**WV Institute of Technology, AS; WV State University, BA**

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

**Retired Sheriff; current WV Sheriffs' Assoc., Executive Director**

Describe your current job & responsibilities

**Overall operation of organization, membership recruitment, legislative management, training of sheriffs and deputies**

How long have you worked for your current employer?

**9 years**

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**Q4**

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

I believe there are times where both can co-exist and work together, but there are many others where state can over-regulate business and industry. Overall, there are issues which may be of a public safety concern that certain standards which may need work and both entities can meet and collaborate on a solution, but overall, a business is generally private in nature and it shouldn't be the duty nor the mission of the state to dictate how that industry conducts its business.

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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?

Prior 4 years as a legislator in 2016-2020

Worked the legislature as an advocate/lobbyist from approx. 1992-2015

Have served over 30 years in the law enforcement profession and understand that with that enforcement, laws have a real impact on people and business, both for good and bad.

With enforcement background I bring a unique understanding of the WV Code as a whole to have a broad working knowledge to know how one section can directly and indirectly affect each other.

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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.

WV Sheriffs' Assoc., Exec Dir and Life member

National Sheriffs' Association Life Member and serve on Governmental Relations Committee and Committee of State Sheriffs' Associations

WV Deputy Sheriffs' Assoc., Life Member

Madison Baptist Church, Madison, WV, member

Odell Masonic Lodge #115, Madison, WV

International Order of Odd Fellows, Boone Lodge #170, Madison, WV

Beni Kedem Shrine, Charleston, WV

ROJ, Court 111, Charleston, WV

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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?

Letting our guard down when the state may currently be experiencing budgetary growth. That is how we have gotten into trouble in the past. We need to keep stimulating growth throughout WV, not restricted to a few areas of the state. If we don't keep striving toward that goal of maximum capacity, we can fall into a lull of forgetting how to work and before we know it slip backward into a shape of disrepair. There are lots of tentacles involved in keeping the growth pursuit at the forefront, but in general we need to keep up the effort across our state.

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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.

In general, yes. In specific areas, I have concern. I know of no one who like paying property taxes, either personal nor business and inventory. The passage of the amendment in November could be an easier sell to most everyone if a plan is actually established to do a few things including how counties can, and would be fully funded other than just a few folks saying " trust us"; does it prevent a runaway legislature the ability to even do the opposite of the desire, to raise B&I or personal property tax rates in the future in order to backfill holes that could develop in downturn years.

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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?

Be welcoming and not divisive. It puts us in a bad light if there's always controversy about something.

ALL parties come together to work for betterment of our state and growth.

No hidden agendas and work to get everyone on board and address issues ahead of time and not in the face of those looking to come to WV.

Invest in education. Diving education by controversy is not preparing or presenting an educated workforce appearance.

As with a resolution I presented when in the House, declare our state a firearms friendly state and encourage manufacturers of firearms and firearms accessories to relocate into WV. The resolution would not be placed on agenda to run.

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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?

We need follow-up and incentives for follow-up. There appears to be a growing industry of treating those with substance abuse and opioid misuse issues across the state. We may need even more, but what happens after that? We need systems in place to allow for after getting clean, to teach those to become contributing members of society, to get training and enter the workforce, or be entrepreneurs and establish their own business. At the same time, there can be incentives put in place to encourage businesses to give that second chance, or to allow growth of an upstart business. I believe the benefits are multiple. First, help clean up our society. Second, produce a willing workforce. Next the incentives would be small for businesses to create tax-paying contributors to society. Lastly, impacted communities could begin to thrive and survive. It appears people don't know what to do after they may get clean, and the stigma and desperation can send them back to the substances that dull that particular issues they may have.

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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?

Simply put, treat everyone the same. WV needs to quit ignoring issues which are potentially keeping companies and workers from relocating to WV. If we have areas of concern that have been identified by businesses or organizations such as the WVMA as growth inhibitors, those need addressed and collaboratively addressed to make sure the fix does what is intended to do and not create more problems, either socially or in the business world.

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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.

Education and training are paramount. Make career and technical education exposure and education earlier in our schools. Also, this same CTE should welcome and be encouraged for adults to participate. There was a time in history I remember adults doing that very thing to help them in their work like such as welding, hydraulics, electricity, etc. These same schools could also educate adults in higher tech job skills while the next generation is preparing in our high schools and career centers.

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**Q13**

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

Much of it could be tied to funding and accountability. I think that educators should be competitively paid across the state, to encourage more to invest in their schools and communities. Accordingly, educators should be held accountable to certain fair standards that allows that student to advance to their highest potential, and not hold those high achievers back. Students are inherently different. Some work with their minds, some with their hands and some work with both. Cookie cutter education may not work. Work toward a multi-faceted approach to allow students to excel in their own path instead of forcing them into something they won't.

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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)?

I have seen honors academy type facilities in counties which were very beneficial to students, where higher achieving STEM minded students were brought together from several schools to work on this higher level. It was very productive. Again, funding negatively impacted the ability for that academy to remain open. I would like to see curriculum developed to allow for the inclusion of business and industrial professionals into the classroom. This brings real-world application and examples before students who can see what is needed for them to be productive in the future. I can give them an idea of an education they will need to prepare for their future. There could be more collaboration with WV's higher ed institutions to help promote/present classes to better prepare, or even give a head start to students in STEM areas.

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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?

I believe a standard effort should always be made to bring both sides of an issue to the table to present perceived issues and develop potential solutions between all parties, well before any type of action is developed or enacted. There could be times that interim sessions could be used as mediation between groups to set industry standards and self-police on issues rather than to legislate answers fixed in time, that may not be adequate as situations change in the business, industry or environmental world. Unless urgency would dictate, require that dialogue to take place prior to consideration of any legislation.

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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?

That is likely to be a gradual process. With WV being a traditional coal dependence state, that is the general mindset of most West Virginians, so any perceived variance from that creates social issues. As industry seeks to have a green energy stamp on their products, it appears this stamp is an advantage to recruiting new industry into West Virginia. By leveraging funding sources and tax incentives that are out there to help lure industry that desire renewable energy for their work, bringing jobs back into communities that have lost them due to the downturn in coal mining jobs could be an incentive for a more positive consideration of renewables. Education is another important consideration, both in our schools and in our public. Education of the general public may be more difficult, but once they see the growth attached to such as well as the dependability that can come along with it, that can impact the negativity propaganda that is circulating. Some of the same arguments have been used against coal for many years. It comes down to education and proving itself. Development in locations such as the SEVA project of SunPark at what is known as the old Hobet surface mine can help alleviate some of those issues and help in public education. People are beginning to accept renewable energy as they are seeing it develop for industry rather than home electricity use.

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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?

Yes, consideration of such internal policies become relevant, especially when those policies may be better than the legislation being purposed. Regardless of any outcome of potential legislation, I believe that industry should have a seat at the table for consideration as well as anyone else.

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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?

First, I would ask what is needed to support manufacturers. You are the experts in the field. Outside of that, I would think that tax incentives to encourage the draw business/industry to WV need addressed. Along with that the incentive for people who have a desire to go into business could be looked at, to stimulate growth.

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**Q19**

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

I am available for either as my office is next door to WVMA offices

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**Q20**

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

Website: Miller4WV.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Miller4WV](http://www.facebook.com/Miller4WV) and [www.facebook.com/rodney.miller.129](http://www.facebook.com/rodney.miller.129)

Twitter: @Miller4WV

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