

#23

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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: David Elliott Pritt
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Democrat
District: 50

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 111 Weaver St
Address 2: N/A
City/Town: Oak Hill
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 25901
Country: United States
Email Address: pritt4house@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3046407507

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Oak Hill High Oak Hill, WV

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

Community College of the Air Force: AAS (Applied Avionics Systems); Concord University: B.A. History; Concord University: M.A. Teaching

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

Fayette County Board of Education

Describe your current job & responsibilities

7th and 8th grade classroom teacher: Social Studies (History)

How long have you worked for your current employer?

3 years

Q4

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

It is the state governments role to ensure safe industry practices for workers and community members. The state government should also do everything in its power to attract high paying and skilled jobs to the state through whatever means necessary.

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 am a public school educator and I work with middle school kids on a daily basis. I also direct the school social studies fair program. I coach my son's soccer league team. I also work with Youth in Government program for Fayette County as well as directing the "Save the Children" Summer program for Fayette County at the Divide Elementary location.

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.

AFT-WV

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?

Our most critical challenge is for sure the drug and substance abuse epidemic. It is draining our work force, tax base, and putting severe strains on our foster care and criminal justice system.

I would consider my time in Charleston successful if I can work to secure funds--public or private--for an inpatient rehabilitation center in my county.

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.

Unsure. I would need to see studies on revenue impact.

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?

Itemized tax write offs for families who can prove repairs to major household appliances in lieu of purchasing new. This would shore up small local repair businesses.

Working to improve our state's infrastructure all the way around: electrical, water utility, internet, etc. This is one of the biggest hindrances to attracting new employers in the 21st century.

Showcasing and protecting our state's natural beauty. With the new National Park designation for the New River Gorge in my county, we are in a prime opportunity timeframe to attract new developers while maintaining what makes our local area special.

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?

See #7.

I see this impact every day in my classroom. I have so many students who aren't being raised by their parents, and it is creating a devastating ripple effect across our state in every possible place.

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?

Pass the Fairness Act that would ensure protection for those individuals within workplaces across WV.

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.

Expanded high-school level vocational programs. Personally, I believe vocational programs should be mandatory for all high school students, but I know realistically that is not possible. I learned a trade while in the US Air Force (Aircraft Electrical Repair), and I firmly believe that expanded vocational training at the high school level or state educational grants for adults to return to vocational school would alleviate some of this issue.

Q13

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

Better oversight of allocated funds, consolidation of State Ed. Department agencies to reduce redundancy.

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)?

Approved industry specific days within certain grade levels where industry representatives comes to speak to students to showcase their line of work.

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?

Having clean water is vital for WV's future. I think a pre-pay system where industries buy in to protecting the watersheds around them would be an excellent way of allowing industries to take responsibility for their local environments without the state government relying on unexpected fines and fees to address compliance issues.

Q16

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

Treat all sources of energy the same--no special legislation or preference for any one form of energy production. All get the same tax breaks, etc.

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 look at this issue on a case by case basis. Responsibility is key for me. Is everyone taking responsibility for their own actions: state government and private enterprise?

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?

It depends on the unique view point of your organization as to what is most important to you. I am willing to have those conversations with you. Shooting from the hip, I would say the expanded vocational training for high school age students and expanded state ed grants for adults to return to vocational school. Our over depleted workforce is a HUGE problem; it needs addressed.

Q19

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

Yes. Either.

Q20

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

<https://www.facebook.com/elliottpritt4house>
