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Page 1

Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Justin White
Office Seeking: House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 80

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: 121 Holland Ave.
City/Town: Morgantown
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 26501
Country: United States
Email Address: whiteforhouse@gmail.com
Phone Number: 3042880147

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

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

Saucon Valley High School, Pennsylvania

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

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology, Master of Science in Exercise Physiology, Minor in Healthcare Administration through the Masters of Public Administration at West Virginia University

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

Premier Landscapes

Describe your current job & responsibilities

Owner

How long have you worked for your current employer?

20 years

Q4

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

The role of state government is to protect employees, the environment, and to hold companies accountable without overextending their boundaries. It is very important government not be allowed to over regulate business and industry to the extent our West Virginia business and industry cannot be competitive in a national and global market.

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?

As a small business owner I create jobs and have an understanding of what it takes to create a business environment that brings about growth in the job market. I have served as adjunct faculty for The College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University teaching Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. While we all need to understand that small business is the backbone of economy, bringing in larger business and industry vital to the continued growth of the state.

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'm currently a member of the West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, National Federation of Independent Business, Board of Director for Habitat for Humanity, and am currently serving as a Police Commissioner for the City of Westover.

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?

West Virginians are leaving our state for better paying jobs. It is important that we attract new business and industry specifically to Monongalia County. To encourage new industry to West Virginia we need a well educated workforce with a particular emphasis on trade industry training. We must additionally take on the opioid crisis at a comprehensive state wide level, to ensure we have a healthy viable workforce to attract new industry to West Virginia.

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

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?

We must continually maintain and improve our infrastructure to meet the needs and support a growing economy. This includes investment in infrastructure for roadways and access. We also need to improve broadband as it is essential to facilitate the everyday functions of all businesses. Particularly in today's ever changing work conditions businesses need to be able to offer work from home opportunities which requires consistent statewide broadband access. In investing in our future workforce to attract new businesses, we must collectively improve our human capital participation in order to drive a strong West Virginia workforce.

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?

Create a coalition of different agencies including first responders, medical providers, mental healthcare providers, and law enforcement to better understand and work together to find a viable solution to the impending problem. We need all of these agencies working diligently on this crisis. If we can create a better sharing of information and collaboration this will lead to a lasting comprehensive solution.

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?

We need to foster an all inclusive environment in all workplaces and in our communities.

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.

Over the course of my campaign I have been able to better understand and appreciate the role that manufacturing and the trades play in the development of West Virginia's economy. I have had the opportunity to meet Kathy D'Antoni, Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, regarding the West Virginia Board of Education's Simulated Workplace and to tour the MTEC Vocational Program with its director Mr. John Pollock. Educators and business leaders need to be made aware that the programs of training students in the trades offer them the opportunity to obtain lucrative jobs in manufacturing, heating and cooling, construction and various other trades. This educated workforce will help to better serve West Virginia in filling current manufacturing positions and attracting new business to the state.

Q13

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

Supporting and promoting local education and job development programs such as the Simulated Workplace Program and vocational schools.

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)?

STEM education is a big part of our K-12 as additionally in our career and technical centers. As stated in the previous answer we need to continue emphasis on the Simulated Workforce Program and allow businesses coming to West Virginia to have an input in helping develop a curriculum to prepare a workforce for their particular need.

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?

Government regulations need to serve its function without overstepping their boundaries that can then inhibit economic growth potential.

Q16

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

While supporting our current energy industry we need to explore and be open to the diversity of new opportunities in renewable energy.

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?

All these criteria are important as we support and bring industries to WV

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?

I would address eliminating small business tax inventory, doing so would create more business friendly climate and attract in state and out of state investment in business.

Q19

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

Yes

Q20

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

Facebook -Justin White for House of Delegates
