

Voters Guide WV Governor November 8, 2016 General Election

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Candidates for WV Governor

Office Governor

Name Bill Cole

County of Residence Mercer

Party Republican

Biography

Bill Cole resides in Bluefield, WV with his wife and two daughters. He earned a Bachelor in Business Administration from Northwood University. He is President of Bill Cole Automall. He won a seat in the state Senate in 2012 was elected Senate President in 2015. The campaign website is billcolewv.com.

1. With the continuing decline in the coal industry, what industries would you promote to increase the West Virginia economy?

I will always fight for coal, but we need to diversify our economy and create good-paying jobs for our workers. I will work to expand broadband to every community in our state and implement a manufacturing strategy that will use our abundant supply of natural gas to get it to market and create downstream manufacturing jobs.

2. What should be done to implement West Virginia's existing Flood Protection Plan?

West Virginia responded quickly to the tragic flooding that swept our state in June. The stories of West Virginians coming together to help their neighbors that I heard as I traveled to all of the affected areas was touching. I will work to improve our infrastructure to try and prevent these disasters without adding undue burdens to homeowners and businesses.

3. What should be done to avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016?

In order to prevent a situation like we saw this year, the Governor who sets the revenue numbers needs to present a budget based on realistic projects. This past year the Governor offered a budget that was about \$6 million above what he proposed in the fiscal year before while collections were down \$426 million.

Office Governor

Name Phil Hudok

County of Residence Randolph

Party Constitution

Biography

In 40 years, I've taught all high school and middle school sciences, was SREB national presenter of outstanding teaching practices in Nashville, owned Century Photo since 1972 and been media and documentary producer for Call To Decision Ministries. I've served on County Planning Commission, Lions Club, Tax Study Group. My wife and I have four daughters. www.hudok.com

1. With the continuing decline in the coal industry, what industries would you promote to increase

the West Virginia economy?

I don't need 60 words on this one. A state government that cuts its own waste, provides and maintains reliable infrastructure, minimizes the tax burden and red tape on private enterprise, assists as a resource for all new and existing entrepreneurs, and plays no favorites enabling free enterprise to work its own magic.

2. What should be done to implement West Virginia's existing Flood Protection Plan?

Since there are many acts of nature where total protection cannot be achieved, we need to look at what is practical, manageable, feasible, and economically possible and then prioritize. What government can do best is through records and research provide the information for folks to make intelligent decisions, that being where the ultimate responsibility lies

3. What should be done to avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016?

First, cut waste and West Virginia has its share. For personal freedom reasons, I would push for decriminalizing marijuana, pardon incarcerated marijuana users, and open up the state to industrial hemp. There would be an immediate positive effect of productive people, instead of a correctional system monetary drain. However, people must return to the mindset of independence and personal responsibility.

Office Governor

Name Jim Justice

County of Residence Greenbrier

Party Democrat

Biography

Jim Justice is the owner of The Greenbrier and runs 102 different companies. Jim has created jobs in coal, agriculture, medicine, and tourism. He coaches boys and girls basketball at Greenbrier East High School. Jim earned his undergraduate degree and a masters in business administration from Marshall. He and his wife Cathy, have two adult children, Jay and Jill.

1. With the continuing decline in the coal industry, what industries would you promote to increase the West Virginia economy?

I won't give up on coal; there are opportunities to bring back coal jobs. However, coal alone won't get it done. We need to grow jobs in tourism, agriculture, timber, energy, medicine, and education. I know how to create jobs in these areas because I've done it before. I can market this state and take us to heights we've never seen.

2. What should be done to implement West Virginia's existing Flood Protection Plan?

I saw first hand the devastation caused by the June flood. We need to bring the experts to the table and review the best way to protect West Virginia families, businesses, and homes in the event of the next flood. We must work together to shorten the time it takes to get to people who are hurting.

3. What should be done to avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016?

We need to grow revenue by creating new jobs. Senator Bill Cole wasted \$600,000 of taxpayer money because he failed to pass a budget on time. When I'm governor, the legislature won't get paid until they pass a budget. I'm a businessman; I'll do a top to bottom review of state government to get our fiscal house in order.

Office Governor

Name David Moran

County of Residence Preston

Party Libertarian

Biography

I am a successful sheep farmer in Eglon, WV, and a Professor at the WVU as an Adjunct. I am a professional scientist, graduate of MIT and awarded a Ph.D in Hydrodynamics. I served as the first President of the National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling University. My wife Lori and I both volunteer teach at Aurora School and Church.

1. With the continuing decline in the coal industry, what industries would you promote to increase the West Virginia economy?

I have a comprehensive plan to make WV the leader in the development of the new emerging Fourth Manufacturing Revolution that is the new global industrial paradigm. Mineral resources and coal must be used for new industrial products instead of simple mining. Every worker in WV needs the chance to retrain for the future under my new educational plan.

2. What should be done to implement West Virginia's existing Flood Protection Plan?

We need to work together as civic volunteers and institutionally for new infrastructure to build permanent flood protection programs for all of our citizens. WV is a state of flood plains, the Flood Risk Map covers almost half of our State. WV will always be vulnerable unless we build for the future everywhere, not just repair and rebuild after disasters.

3. What should be done to avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016?

The excess and wasted costs in our State budget must be eliminated. As Governor, I will immediately call for a complete, fair, and thorough audit of every State program and work to eliminate every waste that does not serve the needs of our citizens. Only after we have trimmed our waste should we consider new sources of revenue or taxes.

Office Governor

Name Charlotte Jean Pritt

County of Residence Kanawha

Party Mountain

Biography

Charlotte, WV born and educated, was an administrator and educator in public schools and higher education, a small business owner, marketer for an investment firm, a strategic planner, and a stress management coach. As a former legislator, Charlotte has more legislative and direct experience working with the state budget than all the other gubernatorial candidates combined.

1. With the continuing decline in the coal industry, what industries would you promote to increase the West Virginia economy?

My economic development plan adheres to three criteria: renewable/sustainable, economic opportunities for all West Virginians ecologically sound. It includes decriminalization and promotion of hemp products, decriminalization of cannabis for medical and adult personal use, farm to table organic industry, solar panel manufacturing and grant writing to capture eligible funds. Details @ www.charlottepritt4gov.com

2. What should be done to implement West Virginia's existing Flood Protection Plan?

Elect a governor who is not controlled by extractive industries such as timber, coal, hydrofracking and ALEC/Koch brothers and who does not practice “disaster capitalism” which bypasses competitive bidding in times of emergency and allows cronyism. As governor, I pledge to reinstate the WV Flood Protection Plan and support the 26 involved agency’s suggestions.

3. What should be done to avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016?

WV needs (1) to clean up cronyism by a statewide audit of every agency's bidding and out-of-state contracting practices to stop the hemorrhaging of millions of WV tax dollars going to out-of-state vendors and contractors rather than to WV workers and businesses, (2) to reinstate prevailing wage, (3) to diversify the economy. Details www.charlottepritt4gov.com