

Voters Guide 2016 General Election

Voters Guide US House of Representatives November 8, 2016 General Election

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of West Virginia as a public service. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidates' responses were limited to 60 words.

Candidates for US House of Representatives Congressional District 1

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 1

Candidate: Mike Manypenny

County of Residence: Taylor

Party: Democrat

Biography

I'm a former member of the WV House of Delegates, farmer and small businessman. I serve on many non-profit boards as a volunteer, including Northern WV Centers for Independent Living, TV Chamber of Commerce, Tygart Valley CAC, Project HOP2E Food Bank, Taylor County Farmers Market, Tygart State Park Foundation, Taylor County Family Resource Network, Taylor County Substance Abuse Task Force.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

To help our coal industry we need to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and require all public funded projects buy Made in America products to revive our industrial base, including steel, which would increase demand for WV met coal and coal mining jobs. Also Federal money for retraining programs for unemployed miners.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

I support an increase on the top income earners making over \$250,000 a year and eliminate the tax subsidies for Corporations like Exxon Mobile and General electric that make hundreds of millions of dollars a year and continue to get tax subsidies which is considered a form of Corporate welfare. I would also support exemptions for reinvestments in American jobs!

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

Our Veterans deserve our full support and respect for their service to this Country and our Freedoms. I support unlimited mental health services and other forms of healthcare for all our men and women who served in the United States military!

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 1

Name David B. McKinley

County of Residence Ohio

Party Republican

Biography

David McKinley represents West Virginia's First District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since 2011, McKinley has served as a strong, independent voice in Washington. McKinley has been

recognized for his bipartisan work on issues from energy to health care. One of just two Professional Engineers in Congress, McKinley founded and built an architectural/engineering firm before being elected.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

Excessive regulations have hurt coal miners and decimated our economy. I will continue to fight against anti-coal policies, and push to invest in research to use coal more efficiently and cleanly. We also need to do more to diversify our economy and provide opportunity for coal communities. I've introduced legislation to do that and offer training for laid off miners.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

Our tax code is too complex and has too many loopholes that benefit only the well-connected. It needs to be simpler, fairer, and flatter. The tax code should make it easier to create jobs, increase wages, and expand opportunity for hardworking taxpayers. The Better Way plan developed by House Republicans includes reforms to do that. Learn more at better.gop.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

Our veterans have sacrificed, and they deserve the best care when they come home. Sadly the VA system is broken. Congress has taken action to fix it, including passing the Clay Hunt Act, which expedites access to mental health services for veterans. This is a first step and more needs to be done to improve access to mental health care

Candidates for US House of Representatives Congressional District 2

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 2

Name Mark A. Hunt

County of Residence Kanawha

Party Democrat

Biography

Mark Hunt was born and raised in Kanawha County. In addition to his successful 22-year career as an attorney, he also served for 14 years in the state legislature. The eldest of five children in a working class family, he still lives in the same neighborhood where he grew up.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

Congress must support education and workforce development and retraining initiatives; secure monies for viable redevelopment projects, agribusiness and rural development opportunities; explore development of coal-bed methane reserves; and continue to fund clean coal research and development.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

First and foremost, we must simplify the tax code by lowering individual and corporate tax rates and decreasing the current number of brackets. Next, tax breaks that are inefficient or unfair to individuals and small businesses should be cut. Finally, we must ensure that the Buffet Rule is strictly adhered to.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

We must repay our veterans for their selfless service by providing them with access to quality healthcare, including transportation to and from medical and mental health facilities, and educational and training opportunities. We must also look to combat homelessness in our

veteran communities.

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 2
Name Alex X. Mooney
County of Residence Jefferson
Party Republican

Biography

Alex Mooney and his wife live in Charles Town with their three children. The son of a Cuban refugee and Vietnam veteran, Alex grew up with a deep appreciation for American ideals of freedom and responsibility. Alex will continue to defend West Virginia against President Obama's disastrous policies while encouraging job creation and prosperity in West Virginia.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

Congress must fight back against the EPA. I introduced the Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining Act, preventing the Obama Administration from implementing a regulation intentionally designed to kill as many as 80,000 coal jobs. My bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 235-188. I will continue to fight against over regulation of the coal industry.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

The current tax code is a mess. At over 60,000 pages, it is riddled with rules and unfair carve outs for politically favored industries and high taxes that discourage hard work and entrepreneurship. I favor scrapping the current tax code and lowering taxes on employers and individuals to create jobs and allow people to keep more of what they earn.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

As the son of a Vietnam War veteran, I will always prioritize the physical and mental health of our service members. That's why I cosponsored H.R. 577, which will assist veterans living in rural areas across West Virginia. This legislation will allow veterans living more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility to obtain quality healthcare at local facilities.

Candidates for US House of Representatives Congressional District 3

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 3
Name Matt Detch
County of Residence Greenbrier
Party Democrat

Biography

I am a native of Greenbrier County, WV. My family immigrated to West Virginia to work in the mines. I possess both a bachelors and masters degree in criminology. I served for more than four years with the US Secret Service under Presidents Bush and Obama. I enjoy staying in shape, the outdoors, and playing with my Australian Shepherd, Sydney.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

Communities affected by the decline in coal must be seen as a national priority. West Virginia must diversify its economy and compete with outside markets. Congress can provide the vital

tools needed by these communities to help diversify and strengthen their economies. Funding infrastructure development and education will be imperative to helping local communities develop and create good jobs.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

The tax code must be reformed so that it removes the burden from the lower and middle class, and taxes the top percentage of income earners at a fair rate. Small businesses must be given tax breaks so they can be encouraged to grow and create jobs. Loopholes must be removed so that companies operating overseas cannot avoid paying taxes.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

I support *any* improvement in health services that would benefit our veterans. In addition to traditional forms of mental health services, it is important we provide veterans with non-traditional mental healthcare. I believe providing veterans with non-traditional types of therapy through creative mediums will help reduce post-traumatic stress and veteran suicide.

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 3

Name Evan Jenkins

County of Residence Cabell

Party Republican

Biography

Born and raised in the Mountain State, Evan Jenkins has a passion for fighting for West Virginia values. Evan has served as a volunteer leader for the Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and helped start Lily's Place for our babies. Evan and Elizabeth Jenkins have raised their three children in West Virginia and attend the First Presbyterian Church.

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

We need a bold new vision to strengthen and diversify our economy with good-paying jobs. That's why I cosponsored the RECLAIM Act, which will bring \$1 billion in funding to our region to help diversify communities hardest hit by the downturn in coal. West Virginians deserve opportunity, and I have the solutions to help put our people back to work.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

Our tax code is broken. We must make our tax code simpler, fairer and flatter to grow our economy and create jobs. By lowering taxes on small businesses, working families and seniors, we can enact real reforms to put more money in your pocket and stop special interest tax breaks.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

Our veterans have made enormous sacrifices to defend our nation, and I will continue our fight to ensure they receive the care and benefits they deserve. As your representative, I have increased funding for mental health services at the VA, expanded access to care for rural veterans, and worked to hold the VA accountable to our nation's heroes.

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 3

Name Zane Lawhorn

County of Residence Mercer

Party Libertarian

Biography

I am an Optometrist operating two offices, employing two doctors and fifteen employees. I served as

the Elector for the WV Republican Party in 2008. I am an author having published four books. I founded the first ICANN approved Internet Domain Name Registrar in WV. I was awarded the Gold Key International Honor Society for leadership. My website is www.zanelawhorn.com

1. What should Congress do to help West Virginia communities impacted by the decline in the coal industry?

Congress should pass the Save Coal Act restoring energy regulation back to the 1990 Clean Power Act. Instead of submitting to the devastating policy of the EPA, Congress should take action and my top priority will be to restore coal mining jobs. West Virginia needs coal until we can diversify our economy, develop renewable energy resources and build needed infrastructure.

2. What measures would you propose to reform the federal tax code?

Until we can eliminate the income tax and install a fair tax, I would reform the tax code to; eliminate income tax on all small business generating less than \$100,000 annually. Our economy needs jobs and Small Business is the backbone of our economy. Lower taxes will generate more job opportunities in every community.

3. What improvements in mental health services for veterans would you favor?

I will demand that the wait time for our veterans be eliminated. Veterans deserve the best of care and if the VA can't provide a service; the veteran should have a health care card from the day they are honorably discharged that will allow them access to any provider. My brother is a disabled veteran so this is personal.

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

Voters Guide WV Secretary of State November 8, 2016 General Election

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Candidates for WV Secretary of State

Office Secretary of State
Name John S. Buckley
County of Residence Hardy
Party Libertarian

Biography

I have legal, legislative, and court management experience. I’ve chaired a “Fair Campaign Practices Committee” overseeing 600,000+ citizens. With my legal training, I’ll enforce election statutes scrupulously. With my legislative experience, I’ll advocate effectively for needed statutory reforms. Having managed a 22-judge federal court of 150 employees, I am well prepared to oversee the Office of Secretary of State. www.JohnBuckley4WV.com.

1. What changes in the voter laws would you support to increase voter participation?

We don't need more laws; we need more civic pride. I'll advocate for open, inclusive elections, with all qualified candidates invited to debates. I'll attack the cynicism in the general public about politics and elections that leads so many to skip voting. Citizens are tired of childish politicians. As a Libertarian, I'm the best referee between squabbling Republicans and Democrats.

2. What steps would you favor to improve the public's access to campaign donor identities and campaign expenditures?

Simplify campaign expenditure reporting; focus on the amount and source of donations. Increase penalties for fraudulent reporting. But here's the real problem: it's the power of elected officials to benefit special interests that leads special interests to court politicians with campaign contributions. Reduce the power of government in the first place to get at the source of political corruption.

Office Secretary of State
Name Natalie Tennant
County of Residence Kanawha
Party Democrat

Biography

I have been Secretary of State for eight years where we provide innovation to save businesses time and money so they can create jobs; I cut costs, saved money and gave back more than four million dollars to taxpayers; I protected our elections and served our military. I have a Bachelors and Master's degree from WVU. Please visit www.natalietennant.com

1. What changes in the voter laws would you support to increase voter participation?

I have a record of upholding the integrity of elections for voters. I recently championed legislation that makes it easier to keep voter rolls clean of those who have moved or died. We recently started successful our Online Voter Registration and will soon implement Automatic Voter Registration to make it easier for those who are eligible to vote.

2. What steps would you favor to improve the public's access to campaign donor identities and campaign expenditures?

There is too much money used in political campaigns. To change that, Citizens United opinion must be overturned because it allows unlimited funds that are not easily identified. On the state level, I have updated the Campaign Financing Reporting System that makes it easier for citizens to view candidates' reports of those who have contributed and what candidates spend.

Office Secretary of State
Name Mac Warner
County of Residence Monongalia
Party Republican

Biography

I am an Army Veteran, West Point graduate, sixth generation West Virginian, father of four military officers, husband of 34 years, and I live in Morgantown. I have spent most of my adult life in uniform, protecting democracy while helping to build broken countries around the globe. As Secretary of State, I will draw upon those experiences to improve WV.

1. What changes in the voter laws would you support to increase voter participation?

It should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. People participate when they know their vote matters and is equal to others. Participation will increase when confidence in elections improves, when people can register and vote easily, and when they see safeguards to fight fraud. Working with and listening to county clerks is vital to improving the voting process.

2. What steps would you favor to improve the public's access to campaign donor identities and campaign expenditures?

Let's raise contribution limits to balance the current trend of "dark money" and super PACs. Dissuade outside groups from spending secret money and lift the hood on who's giving what. Small contribution limits favor incumbents with name recognition; our state laws should mimic federal laws. Candidates deserve to run their campaigns and voters deserve to see who is funding them.

Voters Guide State Auditor November 8, 2016 General Election

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Candidates for State Auditor

Office Auditor

Name Mary Ann Claytor

County of Residence Kanawha

Party Democrat

Biography

I'm a coal-miner's daughter and life-long resident of WV. I worked as a state auditor for the State Auditor's Office for over 20 years until the sudden illness of my son.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Howard "Cookie" Claytor III, for over 30 years. We enjoy spending time with our three children and our four grandchildren.

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of Auditor?

The duty of supervisor of public offices which includes auditing local governments, reviewing and approving budgets of local government offices, training of elected officials, and approving proposed levy rates. Citizens and other third parties expect these duties to be performed efficiently and at minimal cost. I am the only candidate that has extensive experience in performing all of these functions.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

The only candidate for State Auditor with over 20 years of experience in the following areas: governmental accounting, training local governments and state auditors, working at the auditor's office, performing compliance and financial audits, holding local governments fiscally accountable, and ensuring expenditures of local governments are in compliance with the laws and regulations of West Virginia. #therightskillsmatter Go to MaryAnnClaytor.com

Office Auditor

Name JB McCuskey

County of Residence Kanawha
Party Republican

Biography

I attended The George Washington University and WVU College of Law. Currently, I am an attorney at Steptoe & Johnson, I represent the citizens of Kanawha County in the West Virginia House of Delegates and my wife, Wendy, and I own and operate a retail store in our neighborhood. Visit www.mccuskeyforwv.com for more info

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of Auditor?

As State Auditor I will make certain the office is publicly accountable for every dollar spent, keeping in mind that the state's money is the people's money. It is the responsibility of the State Auditor to ensure that all aspects of the office run efficiently and effectively. With heightened transparency we can empower all West Virginians to become citizen-auditors.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

I am experienced in both state government and private business. As an attorney, trained in our state's great public university, I understand the ethical obligations that come with public office. During my time as a Delegate, I've seen the need strong leadership in the State Auditor's office and that's why I am running to serve all of West Virginia.

Office Auditor

Name Brenton Ricketts

County of Residence Jefferson

Party Libertarian

Biography

A resident of Jefferson County for over 16 years, and a former small business owner in Charles Town. Married, with three children and 2 grandchildren, I am very active with my middle school son's wide-ranging academic and athletic activities, and my daughter's considerable community theater participation. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/ricketts4wv

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of Auditor?

Every year the State agencies and departments ask for more tax money and very little changes come from those expenditures. Reports have shown that many of them hoard money, yet ask for more, and even spend that money frivolously just not to lose it. It's time someone, not beholden to either political party is there to expose this waste and fraud!

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

With 25 years experience in the private sector as Project Manager, I feel I have great qualifications for this position. As a Project Manager, it was always my responsibility to constantly review and oversee how the company money was received and spent on every project. I would see this job as Auditor no differently and the tax payers as my employer.

Voters Guide State Treasurer November 8, 2016 General Election

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Candidates for State Treasurer

Office Treasurer

Name John D. Perdue

County of Residence Kanawha

Party Democrat

Biography

John Perdue is a 1972 graduate of West Virginia University and a native of Boone County. He and his wife Robin have two adult daughters. Since taking office, Treasurer Perdue has worked diligently to make West Virginia a better place for families, business owners and citizens of all ages

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of State Treasurer?

As the banker of state government, Treasurer Perdue manages more than \$13 billion of state money annually. The Treasurer's Office has set records in the Unclaimed Property Division by returning more than \$160 million to rightful owners over the course of his administration. In addition, he oversees the state's Board of Treasury Investments, the West Virginia Retirement Plus deferred compensation plan

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

Treasurer Perdue has served the people of West Virginia for more than 40 years. He started his public service career with the Department of Agriculture in 1973 serving as assistant Commissioner. In 1989 he became executive assistant to former Governor Gaston Caperton and served as a member of his executive staff for eight years. As Treasurer, he put together a professional

Office Treasurer

Name Ann Urling

County of Residence Kanawha

Party Republican

Biography

After a successful 30 year career in banking I am honored to have been recruited to run for WV State Treasurer. I am from Harrison County and a graduate of WVU. I am currently the Senior Vice President of Summit Community Bank and an active board member of The Childhood Language Center and The Rea of Hope and live in

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of State Treasurer?

I would work with other members of the board of public works in a cooperative manner with a commitment in the Treasurers' office on modernization, efficiency and transparency. Identifying areas where unnecessary expenses can be eliminated and revenues maximized while also streamlining operations. Greater transparency could be achieved through the use of an online portal similar to the State of Ohio.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

After almost 30 years of professional banking and management, I have a proven record of budgetary experience and a keen working knowledge in all areas of financial accounting and

banking. The State Treasurer is the State's Chief Financial Officer. It makes sense to have an experienced, energetic banking professional with team work and leadership mastery to serve in this role.

Office Treasurer
Name Michael Young
County of Residence Putnam
Party Libertarian

Biography

I started working as a teenager, and haven't stopped since. I have an associates degree and served in the USAF, and experience in many different types of business. I have managed all types of businesses and know how to work with people to get the job done. My work ethic will be continued at the capitol.

1. What is the most important responsibility of the Office of State Treasurer?

The most important responsibility of the treasurer is to be a frugal trustee of the public's hard-earned money. My biggest priority will be to ease the financial burden on the citizens of WV. Every dollar the state spends wastes or mismanages comes out of the pockets of working people. When government is in your bank account, WV families suffer.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

Having a long and extensive business record and having worked for small businesses, like my current position, and corporations alike. Having worked for multiple small businesses I would seek to ease the burden on all business. I am a hands on person, and as such, I would make it my goal to be at WV legislature tax and financial dealings.

Voters Guide Commissioner of Agriculture November 8, 2016 General Election

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Candidates for Commissioner of Agriculture

Office Commissioner of Agriculture
Name Buddy Guthrie
County of Residence Monongalia
Party Libertarian

Biography

With an undergraduate degree in business administration and a master's degree in software engineering, both from West Virginia University, a background in family farming as well as experience in fields, ranging from construction and event staffing to fitness instruction. HAN avid community activist, and volunteer for Boys & Girls Clubs and for programs bringing inner-city kids to the country for outdoor

1. What do you see as the role of Commissioner of Agriculture in spurring the economic growth of

agriculture?

The commissioner's role is simple, to be an advocate and protector of rights for farmers and consumers in the state to exchange goods. There are way to many roadblocks that exist in our current system that bog down and burden current farmers, and that deter potential agricultural entrepreneurs from entering the market. The commissioner's role should be to fight tooth

- 2. Do you feel that the environmental impact of agriculture has been properly addressed? If not, what changes would you favor?**

Environmental impact of agriculture is a big deal, and needs to be addressed. When addressing this however, we need to tread lightly on our approach, and make sure that it allows leeway for innovative concepts so that our agripreneurs can come up with solutions. Generally speaking a small scale farmer's cows burps and or beef or hogs manure finding its

Office Commissioner of Agriculture

Name Walt Helmick

County of Residence Pocahontas

Party Democrat

Biography

Graduate of WV Tech; OU Economic Development Institute, and Mendenhall School of Auctioneering. Teacher and businessman. Elected to Pocahontas County Board of Education, Pocahontas County Commission, House of Delegates, and State Senate for six terms (Senate Finance Chairman for 8 years). Walt launched a family agricultural operation on his 200-acre Pocahontas County farm. Elected Commissioner of Agriculture in 2012.

- 1. What do you see as the role of Commissioner of Agriculture in spurring the economic growth of agriculture?**

WV consumes over \$7 billion worth of food each year, yet grows less than \$1 billion. This is a \$6 billion economic opportunity. The Commissioner must provide leadership, guidance and assistance, in the form of technical, distribution, marketing and sales support to help those entrepreneur farmers throughout West Virginia that want to take advantage of this growth opportunity.

- 2. Do you feel that the environmental impact of agriculture has been properly addressed? If not, what changes would you favor?**

With the highest percentage of family farms in the US, WV family farmers are the most knowledgeable and environmentally responsible farmers anywhere. My Department works closely with WV family farmers, the WVU extension service and other organizations, to continually monitor, develop and implement best environmental practices for the benefit of both farmers and the general public.

Office Commissioner of Agriculture

Name Kent Leonhardt

County of Residence Monongalia

Party Republican

Biography

I hold degrees in Wildlife Management, and Business management, and graduated from the Defense Intelligence College, the Defense Language Institute, and the USMC Command and Staff College. I retired from the USMC with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

My wife and I restored an abandoned WV Farm in Monongalia County. We raise cattle, Sheep, and goats. Currently State Senator www.kentforwv.com

1. What do you see as the role of Commissioner of Agriculture in spurring the economic growth of agriculture?

The WVDA should provide farmers with assistance in marketing, and developing markets in and out of state. We must not repeat the traditional crops of the past that have declined, but look for new opportunities in specialty crops and meats. The department should not be experimenting with taxpayer dollars and running aggregation centers that could be done by private industry.

2. Do you feel that the environmental impact of agriculture has been properly addressed? If not, what changes would you favor?

Recent reporting has revealed that the waters of WV streams are improving through voluntary practices made available through the USDA. My concern is the duplication of effort between state agencies. Recently the WVDA opened a soil nutrient testing lab in competition with WVU Extension. Those funds could have been better used for water testing to pin point pollution entry points.

Voters Guide State Attorney General November 8, 2016 General Election

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of West Virginia as a public service. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidates' responses were limited to 60 words.

Candidates for State Attorney General

Office Attorney General
Name Karl Kolenich
County of Residence
Party Libertarian

Candidate did not reply

Office Attorney General
Name Patrick Morrisey
County of Residence Jefferson
Party Republican

Biography

I'm the product of a middle-class family, which instilled in me a good work ethic. I worked my own way through college and law school, eventually becoming a partner at one of the largest, most respected firms in the country before being elected Attorney General in 2012.

www.patrickmorrisey.com

1. As attorney general, what areas of consumer protection would you emphasize and promote?

We have made fighting the substance abuse epidemic our top priority and established the drug fighting unit in the Office. Our actions brought in over \$38 million from drug companies and we are implementing a plan to cut opiate use by over 25 percent. We have enjoyed record breaking settlements, while returning over \$33 million to taxpayers.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

While I've practiced law for 24 years in senior private and public positions and served as Attorney General, my opponent has barely practiced law over the past 5 years. To be Attorney General, you need to be more than a part-time lawyer. My office won the unprecedented victory against Obama at the Supreme Court, saving coal jobs.

Office Attorney General
Name Doug Reynolds
County of Residence Wayne
Party Democrat

Biography

Graduate of Wayne High School (WV); B.A. political science, Duke University; J.D. WVU College of Law; Reynolds and Associates Law Firm, 2003-2012; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, 2008-2012; Legislator, WV House of Delegates, 2006-2016; Currently CEO of Energy Services of America, a West Virginia company with over 700 employees.

1. As attorney general, what areas of consumer protection would you emphasize and promote?

The first step would be rebuilding the consumer protection division in order to fight fraudulent schemes and scams that target our seniors. That includes combating price gouging in the pharmaceutical and other industries. I would also fight the drug epidemic ravaging our state by cracking down on prescription pain pill manufacturers and distributors who knowingly flood our state with poison.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?

I'm a fourth generation West Virginian who understands the unique problems our state faces. I also have years of experience in both the private and public sectors. As CEO of Energy Services of America, I've experienced the issues WV businesses confront, while also working to make WV a place where people thrive during my 10 years as a Delegate.

Office Attorney General
Name Michael Sharley
County of Residence Monongalia
Party Mountain

Biography

Mike Sharley (Mountain Party) graduated from WVU and the WVU College of Law. He is a small business owner since 1996; his solo law practice has a primary focus on child abuse and neglect, criminal defense, civil rights abuses, and disability rights. He lives in Westover, WV and serves on several non-profit boards. Read more at sharleyforwv.com.

1. As attorney general, what areas of consumer protection would you emphasize and promote?

Two major consumer protection problems is debt collection abuse and contractor fraud. Our elderly are particularly vulnerable to both these. Collectors often do not comply with the law and use scare tactics and harassment, while with a sluggish economy, many unemployed perform contractor work they are not qualified to do either through an overestimation of abilities or actual fraud.

2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified

candidate for this office?

Protecting the civil rights of the citizens is an important duty of the Attorney General. I have 20 years of experience bringing cases under the WV Human Rights Act on the basis of race, gender, age, and disability. I also have represented clients on appeals in the area of criminal law, abuse and neglect, and land use.