

US House of Representatives Congressional District 1, State Senate District 3, WV House of Delegates Districts 8, 9 & 10 Candidates for November 8, 2016 General Election

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US House of Representatives 1st Congressional District Candidates

Office U.S. House of Representatives District 1
Name 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

WV State Senate 3rd District Candidates

Office WV State Senate 3rd District

Name Donna J. Boley

Party Republican

Biography

WVU-Parkersburg; appointed to Senate - 1985; Re-elected 8 times; Presently serving as Senate Pro-Tem in Senate; Chair of Confirmations; Vice-Chair of Education and military; member of Senate Finance and Energy committees; Legislative Rule Making Review, and others.

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

I will work to help overcome Federal Government's Disastrous regulations on coal along with promoting the gas industry as they struggle to build pipelines as a way to distribute their product. I also support tourism, agricultural and small businesses (which are the backbone of our economy). I will work with our county commissions and development authorities to bring business to WV.

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

This is an issue that has caused a real slow down in property sales and the Legislature has asked a committee to come up with a plan which we should be asked to vote on in 2017. June's floods in WV has made this issue a top priority.

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

The 2015 and 2016 Legislature faced the issue of not enough revenue by cutting government, rainy day fund and cigarette tax increase. We need our leaders to work on cutting more unnecessary spending BEFORE the 2017 session. Legislators are reluctant to increase taxes on businesses OR taxpayers until we have looked at our spending practices.

Office WV State Senate 3rd District
Name Bradley VanZile
Party Democrat

Biography

I was a member of the Army for 15 years having deployed for both Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I am a union pipefitter with Local 565 out of Parkersburg. I fought for my country now I am ready to fight for the citizens of WV.

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

We must diversify our economy and help our local small businesses thrive in West Virginia. Tourism in this state would help raise revenue if we promote how great this state is. Agriculture is another example that could help this state move forward using traditional crops as well as introducing newer crops to the area to be proactive in this region.

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

We must identify areas that are in need of improvement and be proactive to fix them so that we can minimize the unfortunate death and destruction that has affected our citizens. I will also do anything to protect West Virginians safety as well as property damages. I support anything to help make WV a safer place moving forward.

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

We need a diversification of our economy and supporting our small business owners investing in the infrastructure. Our small business owners need assistance to grow their businesses and make them want to open their businesses in WV. The legislation also needs to be a proactive legislation and not a reactive one.

Office WV State Senate 3rd District, Unexpired Term
Name Mike Azinger
Party Republican

Biography

I am a 1983 graduate of PHS, where I was also senior class president. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Jackie. We have three wonderful children.

I was elected to the House in 2014; have years of experience in business, sales, and political consulting, and hosted my own daily radio show dealing with politics, culture, and current events.

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

President Obama and his EPA have been especially lethal to the coal industry in West Virginia; it's the job of the legislature to stand up to this egregious abuse of the 10th Amendment. That said, natural gas is an obvious choice. In the big picture, however, WV must become a job creating state by boldly cutting taxes and regulations.

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

Speaker Armstead called for the flood plan to be discussed in September's interim sessions. Some of the items up for discussion were improved flood warnings, management of flood-plain construction, etc. There is only so much government can do to prevent flooding, of course. Reasonable government remedies should be considered outside of additional taxes and regulations, growth of government, etc.

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

The Republican-led legislature sent the Governor a balanced budget without any new tax hikes; the Governor chose to veto that balanced budget. We have too much government for a state this size. It's time to cut government and the prodigious waste that exists in our budget. Families and job creators prosper where taxes and regulations are few and reasonable.

Office WV State Senate 3rd District, Unexpired Term

Name Gregory K. Smith

Party Democrat

Biography

Graduate WVU--Retired CEO, Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield (now Highmark)--Former Chair, MOV Chamber of Commerce--WVU-P Board of Governors--numerous non profit Boards of Directors Web: gregoryksmithforstatesenate.com

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

The most critical issue we face is to put partisan issues aside and create a better economic climate for new and quality jobs. Oil and Gas (cracker plant is still viable), timber, tourism and agriculture can be vibrant industries in our state. Public and career education must be coordinated closely to provide skilled training consistent with these and other priorities

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

This plan is more than 14 years old and many of the provisions still need implemented. Seems to be discussed only after a major flood. Better coordination between counties, municipalities and state government needs to be more effective. Also, more than 20 dams are in need of repair, therefore funding is an issue for some of the provisions.

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

The most fundamental responsibility of the legislature is to pass a balanced budget. Too much time spent on partisan politics and personal agendas instead of focusing on government efficiency, infrastructure, education and business development. Private sector business principles need to be applied to move our state forward. Politics as usual will certainly not allow our state to reach its potential.

WV House of Delegates Candidates

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name Bill Anderson

Party Republican

Biography

Born: Parkersburg, WV

Graduate: Williamstown High School; Marshall University, BA; West Virginia University, MA
U.S. Airforce Vietnam Veteran and Retired Williamstown High School Teacher

Elder: Williamstown Presbyterian Church, Vice Commander: American Legion Post 159

Elected to the House of Delegates 1992-2014 & current Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Delegates.

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

We must continue the development of the state's natural gas reserves. The tourism industry is important to the future of our state and further development can be accomplished with additional promotion as well as infrastructure improvements. Our research universities and the development of new technologies will be important in the future of improving West Virginia's economy.

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

The major problem holding back implementation of West Virginia's flood protection plan is funding. The plan was developed more than a decade ago. Additional funding for projects preventing flood damage will decrease the need for funding to clean up flood damage. Improvements in the state's economy will provide opportunities to further implement flood protection initiatives.

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

The legislature prepares the budget based upon the Governor's revenue estimates. This year's estimates were very difficult due to the collapsing revenues from severance taxes from coal, oil, and gas production. The state's tax base needs to be broadened and made less dependent upon the volatility of the energy industry.

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name David Bland

Party Democrat

Biography

I am a lifelong resident of West Virginia. I graduated from PHS in 1988. My father was a coal miner (UNWA) for 34 years. My brother Randy Bland was a state road worker of UE Local 170. I have been a member of the IUPAT for 15 years. I am a Marketing Representative for the IUPAT.

FB-David.Bland.3914

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

As the son of a coal miner, I respect the plight of the coal industry. I also see the need to diversify and expand wind, solar, natural gas, and timber industries. We have always been rich in natural resources but left poor by exploitation and greed. We should benefit from our natural resources. Tourism & entrepreneurial hubs need expanded.

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

The legislature must agree that a flood protection plan be implemented and work to protect the most vulnerable areas. Altered terrain and changing weather patterns require us to be forward thinking and proactive.

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

The budget is the most critical work of the legislative session. We need to cut waste, encourage small business growth, think outside the box and budget within income restraints. Agreement & cooperation between the parties could eliminate the need for special sessions. The rainy day fund must be maintained for emergencies such as the recent flooding

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name Ray Hollen

Party Republican

Biography

Raised on a small farm I learned the values of hard work, honesty, and sacrifice.

I'm a Marshall University Graduate, a retired USCG Officer, a retired WV State Trooper, a family man and a church leader.

I'll use common sense, my desire to serve the public, my public servant experience, and my leadership skills for the good of the people.

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

I will promote many types of industries that promote job growth in West Virginia. With our supply of oil and gas, I believe that we need to bring in industry that will create long lasting jobs in the oil and gas business. I also promote more automobile manufacturers to build here.

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

I believe that we should take a look at the plan and take an honest and sensible approach to implementing the plan. We should work with our Federal Representatives to help us along the way, so not to place a heavy burden on the state budget.

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

We have a serious problem in WV with the declining population and businesses closing. The loss of population and the loss of jobs equal the loss of money for the state. We begin by looking at cutting the size of Govt from the top, while also looking for ways to bring in more jobs and reverse the population decline.

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name Jim Marion

Party Democrat

Biography

age 63,married, wife Jan,2 kids-John and Jamie,2 grandkids-Lauren and Zach. I have lived in Mineral Wells for 33 years. I graduated from PSHS and have 1 year at WVU. I worked for UPS for 27 years as a delivery driver, retiring in 2005. I am a retired member of the Teamsters Union 175.

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

Promote tourism which is the state's best natural resource. Pass statewide hunting on Sunday which will bring in more money. Legalize the hemp industry which is better for the environment. Legalize medical marijuana. Tax both of them. Improve roads and schools which will bring more businesses to WV.

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

Implementing the whole plan would cost too much money, money that could be used elsewhere. But a sustained annual program using state and federal money would be effective in reducing the loss of life and damages.

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

We need to start cutting back now. Elected officials should take a 25% pay cut. Make it a priority to start working on the budget at the start of the legislative session. Bring back prevailing wage to get more tax money. Get rid of right to work for less to get better paying jobs and more taxes.

WV House of Delegates District 10 – Vote for not more than 3 candidates

Office WV House of Delegates District 10
Name Vernon Criss
Party Republican

Biography

Graduate of PHS and West Virginia Wesleyan College. Worked in our family businesses for over 40 years.

Served in House-of-Delegates from 1987-1990.

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

Keep coal out front along with oil & gas. Third World Areas of Africa, India and Japan are building COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS. They will need our CLEAN-BURNING COAL. Yes, Japan is moving towards coal from nuclear.

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

We must look to the Army Corps of Engineers, who control the waterways and have built the current flood controls in West Virginia's streams.

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

Delivery of our services in a way using 21st Century systems in a 1950's set-up. The current system of "top-down" has been in the works for over 30 years. We need a system of "at point sale" without all the red tape and overhead.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10
Name Andy Daniel
Party Democrt

Biography

I am a lifelong resident of Parkersburg WV, son of David and Brenda Daniel. After graduating PHS in 1998 I became a commercial carpenter. In 2004 I started in business with 3D Construction and now employ up to 100 employees. My passion in life has been to create better paying jobs with good benefits.

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

I believe that we should be using the resources that this great state of West Virginia has to create jobs. We should promote tourism. We also have some of the greatest colleges here in West Virginia. Why are we not having the research departments study what West Virginia's job opportunities are?

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

I do believe that West Virginia's Flood Protection Plan needs implemented and to do that we need more revenue. To create more revenue, we need more jobs. If elected officials could work together, instead of fighting they could create more jobs and concentrate on things like fixing roads therefor making West Virginia a more attractive place for business to come.

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

The first thing I believe would avoid a budget crisis next year would be to elect representatives that have proven to be efficient and do their jobs on time. The only constitutional responsibility a state legislature has is to pass a balance budget and it cost us the taxpayers an additional \$6000,000.00 in legislative wages to accomplish that last year.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10
Name Frank Deem
Party Republican

Biography

Frank was born in Harrisville, WV; Graduated from Marietta College; is a Navy veteran; is married and has 8 children. Frank owns JF Deem Oil and Gas. He has served in both the Senate and the House. He was named a Distinguished West Virginian by Governor Manchin and was 2011 WV Oil and Gas man of the Year. See frankdeemwv.com.

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

The natural gas industry. There is great need for natural gas in the northeastern and southeastern U.S. With well designed pipelines, we can supply these regions and encourage businesses that require our energy output to move here.

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

The 365 page Comprehensive Flood Protection Plan needs to be reviewed and implemented. We can never prevent flooding, but we can mitigate flood damage by improving flood plain construction, educating the public, using flood dams, improving storm water flow, improving flood insurance programs, and developing better flood warning systems.

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

No one wants to see cuts or taxes. We are a small state and the citizens are taxed enough. Until the business climate improves, it is looking up but will take time to grow; cuts will have to be made. Several good ideas for cutting and economic growth were introduced at the WV Business Summit this summer. But implementation takes time.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10
Name John R. Kelly
Party Republican

Biography

Educated Wood County Schools, Graduated Mountain State College, AAS; PCC (WVU-P), AAS; Glenville State, RBS. US Air Force veteran. Retired DuPont. Served on Council, 85-96, 2013-2014. Council President, 3yrs; held VP, Chairmanship of Public Works, Finance, and Personnel Committees. Five years on Area Roundtable. Elected to the WV House of Delegates 2015. Various Civic and Fraternal organizations.

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

The natural gas industry remains the easiest and quickest avenue of development in WV today. We are producing, and exporting, 500,000 cf of Ethane every day. This is enough to supply six cracker plants along the Ohio River. The next progressive step for the industry is completion of transportation pipelines to efficiently get that gas to market for processing.

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

The Legislature considered a Flood Plan several years ago but that plan was not adopted. Aspects of that plan are being considered by the Government Organizations Committee during the Interim Meetings and will likely be addressed during the 2017 Session. I generally support identifying a single state agency to coordinate future flood prevention efforts as recommended by the plan.

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

The budget crisis in WV was the result of decades of failed leadership and policies in our state. To fix the problem, we must elect conservative leaders in the Legislature and Board of Public Works. We must right-size government operations in WV by weeding out waste, fraud, and abuse; and creating opportunities for 21st Century jobs in WV.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name J. Morgan Leach

Party Democrat

Biography

J. Morgan's background includes a B.S. in Journalism and a J.D. in Energy and Sustainable Development from WVU College of Law. He is the founder and Executive Director of the West Virginia Farmers Cooperative. Their mission is to build a local food economy and adopt new cash crops to make farming more profitable. Visit jmorganleach.com and wvhemp.org for more information.

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

Diversification through agricultural innovation will help offset the decline in coal. Our mission is to target economically depressed areas and create new jobs in farming and manufacturing for women, veterans, displaced coal miners, and recovering addicts. Social enterprise companies will help us transition into the bio-regenerative economy of the future that will capitalize on the nexus between energy and agriculture.

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

There should be a priority on protecting our people and property. We have an opportunity to create jobs necessary for implementation of the Flood Protection Plan. This includes better management of flood plains, improved flood warning systems, better oversight of mining and timbering, building code enforcement, and more comprehensive flood insurance plans. Being proactive will help us mitigate future disasters.

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

The perceived correlation between tax cuts for big business and job growth is simply not accurate according to the WV Center on Budget and Policy. A strong plan to alleviate our budget crisis is economic diversification by creating new industry, taxing existing industries appropriately, and investing in higher education to provide the skilled workforce necessary for new industry to thrive.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Bill Merriman

Party Democrat

Biography

I attended all Wood County Secondary Schools, graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1987. Attended Ohio Valley College obtained an Associate Degree and continued my education at Glenville State College where I obtained a bachelor's degree in business management with a concentration in accounting. Attended Capital Law School in Columbus, OH and earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1996. I

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

I believe economic development is critical for the State of West Virginia. Obviously, the use

of all of our natural resources would be promoted to increase the West Virginia economy. However, all businesses (small and large) should be promoted.

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

Given the recent flooding and weather related disasters in West Virginia implementation of the Flood Protection Plan is important. The administration has to be strong and capable of having all officials work in a non-partisan fashion for the health, safety and welfare of all the West Virginia citizens.

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

To avoid a budget crisis such as the one that occurred in 2016 all elected officials need to work together for the betterment of West Virginia and leave political agendas out of the decision making. West Virginia's bond rating was recently downgraded by the Fitch Rating Service. Other than the restrictions on coal, a primary source was the states