

# Wood County Candidates for May 8, 2018 Primary

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## WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District Candidates

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name **Mike Azinger**

Party **Republican**

### Biography

Mike Azinger works in the family business, Azinger Group. Mike served one term in the House of Delegates from 2014-2016, and was elected to the State Senate in 2016. Mike teaches an adult Sunday School class and lives with his wife Jackie and their three children in Vienna.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

The Republican legislature submitted a balanced budget with no tax increases and no money taken from the rainy-day fund. The budget was submitted before the end of the 60-day session, eliminating a requirement for an extended session to approve the budget. This has not happened in approximately thirty years, and saved the taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

West Virginia has come a long way in the last four years of Republican leadership in the areas of lawsuit reform, regulation reform, and job increases. Year-to-year job increases since 2017 have seen an increase of 3,500 jobs in construction, manufacturing, mining and logging, etc. The gas industry is also looking very promising, along with the severance taxes therefrom.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

The legislature needs to have a laser-focus on ridding the state of taxes like the onerous business and industry tax that is antiquated and punitive. Perhaps no other state tax is as counter-productive as this one. We need to continue with tort reforms and regulation reform also. West Virginia's single-most hurdle to prosperity is years of burdensome economic policy.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name **Simon Hargus**

Party **Democrat**

### Biography

I grew up here in Wood County, where I live with my wife and son. I'm the owner and operator of First Settlement Physical Therapy. Since I took over 4 years ago, the size of our business has doubled and we employ 130 people. I graduated from PHS, have a doctorate in Physical Therapy, and an MBA in

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

I am not satisfied with how the legislature has handled the budget largely due to their misplaced priorities. The legislature has emphasized cutting social programs and not paying its public employees sufficiently or giving them adequate benefits. This led to the teacher work stoppage. They have prioritized corporate give-a-ways and tearing down unions instead of taking care of our people.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

Legislators need to hold industries financially accountable via honest assessments of the damage they do to our roads, air, water, and land. This begins with strictly enforcing the current rules; for example, making sure well heads are properly closed. Corporations cannot get out of their commitments to clean up worksites via bankruptcy and loopholes. We need stronger penalties for non-compliance.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

The legislature should work to incentivize technological developments, job training and school programs, and new businesses. This includes, but is not limited to, expanding alternative energy production, funding state-wide high-speed internet, decreasing the cost of post high school education (from apprenticeships to colleges), supporting the hemp and medicinal marijuana industries, and bringing jobs from Washington to District 3.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name **Jim Leach**

Party **Democrat**

**Biography**

Leach is a well-rounded WV Senate candidate. A Vienna Councilman, a lawyer with a Masters in Energy Law, and a former prosecutor, he also owns a local computer company, is a licensed general contractor/electrician and supports local causes. As a 6th generation Wood Countian, he and his wife, Joanna, raised four children, all of whom went on to WVU. Jimleach.vote

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

No. WV is struggling to develop balanced fiscal policy designed to serve all West Virginians, yet our legislature wasted time haggling over long-overdue raises. West Virginia needs environmentally-responsible energy policy and sensible cannabis legislation. In my view, we must act urgently because WV is poised for explosive growth. However, if we wait, it will be too-little, too-late, again.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

West Virginia is an energy state carrying environmental impacts from coal/industrial expansion and abandonment. Local examples include Manville,

the catastrophic IEI/Ames fire and fertilizer algae plumes in the Ohio River. State law charges the WVDEP with environmental oversight of air, soil and water quality to remediate historic contaminants and to prevent future impacts. The economy and environment must balance.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

Urgently develop: 1) Natural gas and alternative energy industry in WV to create quality businesses and jobs that use our natural resources within our borders to benefit our people; 2) Agriculture. Be an early adopter of hemp, an incredible source of food, medicine and fiber, and responsibly grow the cannabis industry to create an entirely new revenue source in WV.

## **WV House of Delegates District 8 Candidates**

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name **Bill Anderson**

Party **Republican**

### **Biography**

Graduate: Williamstown High School, Marshall University,BA, West Virginia University,MA. Vietnam veteran: United States Air Force. Retired Teacher. Member: First Presbyterian Church of Williamstown, American Legion Post 159 - 1st Vice Commander, Wood County Farm Bureau, West Virginia Education Association, Retired. Member of House of Delegates, 1992 - present. Chairman: House Committee on Energy.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

The collapse of the coal industry saw a decline in coal production from 150 million tons a year to 80 million tons in 2016 and 92 million tons in 2017. The loss of severance taxes was staggering. The loss of jobs in this industry forced examination of every aspect of the state's budget. The budget situation improved this year.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

We need legislation requiring large warehouses storing various products to maintain up to date inventories of materials stored and the information to be available to emergency responders at all times.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

The legislature needs to continue encouraging community and technical colleges to adjust curriculum to meet the training and educational needs of citizens seeking jobs in our changing economy. The legislature needs to continue examining and modifying our tax laws to attract additional investment in our state.

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name **David Bland**

Party **Democrat**

### **Biography**

1988 graduate of PHS. My occupation is 17 years in the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. I have been a Business Agent and Marketing Representative for the past 7 years. I am a trustee

for the Parkersburg Area Labor Council and Vice President of the Parkersburg/Marietta Building Trades.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

I am not satisfied with how the state legislature has handled balancing the budget. I don't believe you can cut finances from our school systems to help our state. I believe that creating better jobs with higher pay is the first step in fixing our state budget

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

Reinstating Prevailing Wage would put more responsible contractors back on State funded projects and create a safer work environment. Addressing the opioid epidemic should be a top priority in creating a healthier environment in our State.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

In order to diversify our economy, we should invest in Industrial Hemp and the use of cannabis for medicinal use. Another boost to our economy would be to raise the Severance Tax on the gas that is leaving our state, to match the taxes other states in surrounding areas are imposing.

## **WV House of Delegates District 9 Candidates**

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name **Ray Hollen**

Party **Republican**

**No Reply**

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name **Jim Marion**

Party **Democrat**

### **Biography**

Married, two kids, two grandkids. Retired from UPS and retired member of Teamsters Union 175. I have lived in Mineral Wells for 35 years. At the young age of 64 I think I have a little horse sense and I will listen to the concerns and issues of everybody.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

No, they didn't look to increase all state workers pay. That should be their first priority. Then look to gradually lower the tax rate on business inventory or personal property taxes on vehicles.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

A law to have warehouses have a list of contents in case of fire or other catastrophe so first responders know what they're getting into. Don't let outside interests run this state

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

First, take care of the people here, teachers, school service personnel, state police and all

state workers which will attract more businesses. Second, promote tourism to attract more visitors. Third, we can't let people from outside this state run the legislature.

## **WV House of Delegates District 10 Candidates**

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Vernon Criss**

Party **Republican**

### **Biography**

Graduate of PHS-1972.

Graduate of WV Wesleyan-1976.

Business Executive in Family Businesses.

Previous Service in Legislature: 1987-1990. Elected in 2016.

Past President of Boy Scout Council.

Vice-President of Camden Clark Foundation.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

Even though it appears long and drawn out, each department of State Government has a budget hearing before the Finance Committee starting on day one. After the Governor issues his amount of the projected revenue estimates for the year, then the committee discusses each part of the budget. Then votes the budget out to the full body to discuss and

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

With the passage of the Road Bond last Fall, the Highway Department is starting new road projects this Spring that will make our roads safer and provide jobs for our citizens. That causes a much better lifestyle and healthy attitude.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

Create tools for new business to start and grow here. 90% of new jobs, come from small business. Reduce regulations and harassment by Government.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Andy Daniel**

Party **Democrat**

**No Reply**

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Frank Deem**

Party **Republican**

**No Reply**

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Harry Deitzler**

Party **Democrat**

### **Biography**

Harry Deitzler is a WV attorney representing people for 42 years. Deitzler and wife Kathe operate the Deitzler

Foundation which has provided over \$1,000,000 in grants to local and state charities. Deitzler is past president of Public Justice Foundation, a national charity that underwrites public interest litigation and past president of the WV State Bar which governs all WV attorneys.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

Deitzler believes that members of the legislature must work together to address the needs of our people in West Virginia. Individual members of the legislature have the duty to find common ground necessary to fund education, basic public services, and development in our communities. Deitzler is not satisfied that the current legislature has successfully addressed those tasks.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

Deitzler believes that the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection must retain its power to enforce health and safety laws. Equally important, it must be staffed by qualified individuals who have the education and real world experience necessary to draft, update, and enforce reasonable regulations which are necessary to protect our citizens without preventing essential industrial development.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

There are limits to what the legislature can do in causing the development of a more diversified economy. The bigger concern is when the legislature restricts development by focusing on tax breaks for out-of-state interests instead of spending on projects that make West Virginia a more attractive place for people to live and raise their families.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Matthew Dodrill**

Party **Republican**

No Reply

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **Jim Erlandson**

Party **Republican**

**Biography**

I am a graduate of St. Albans High. After graduation I served as a medic in the US Army. An employment opportunity relocated my family to Wood County in 2013. In April 2014 Erlandson Glass LLC was born. I am very involved in the community through coaching Upward sports. I advocate for children as a foster and adoptive parent.

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

yes. In recent sessions the legislature has focused more on a balanced budget. There is more work needing done. We need less tax burden on working families and small business. I believe you create more revenue by having less regulation and allowing business to aggressively produce in the market place.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

We need industry to be responsible. We also need individuals to be responsible. We do

not need to over regulate to create a safer environment. I am okay with new energy sources, just not at the expense of current jobs.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

The legislature can inspire entrepreneurship by allowing small businesses to start up and grow with less burden. Jobs that are not tax payer funded are vital and really drive the economy. Small business, manufacturing, and natural resources will move WV forward.

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. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

YES. The legislature worked tirelessly during the 2018 session to provide a balanced budget consistent with the needs of our state. The budget contained raises for all teachers, service personnel, troopers, correctional officers, and administrative employees. The budget provided funding to develop industrial sites, and promote tourism, roads, and infrastructure. It was completed and passed within the 60 day session.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

WV has been slow in establishing drug treatment facilities. We must create a system of centers throughout WV that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. These facilities must have programs that go into our schools and train our youth against drug and alcohol usage. Repeat drug dealers must continue to receive the stiffest penalties in the nation.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

WV's growth will be tied to Energy development. Wind and Solar will play a part, but oil and gas development will lead the way. The legislature must move toward developing pipelines and storage facilities. The expansion of these facilities will generate more diversified growth in manufacturing, retail, wholesaling, tourism, and industries. Our legislature must keep in tune with these advancements.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name **J. Morgan Leach**

Party **Democrat**

**Biography**

J. Morgan is a graduate of WVU College of Law with a J.D. in Energy and Sustainable Development.

Morgan has a keen interest in industrial and medical cannabis, sprouting from his interest in local foods and sustainable agriculture. He's the CEO of the WV Farmers Cooperative and practices law as an associate with Jim Leach L.C. [jmorganleach.vote](http://jmorganleach.vote).

**1. Are you satisfied with how the state legislature has addressed developing and balancing the state budget? Please explain.**

Our state has not done a good job at balancing our budget in light of the decline in severance taxes for coal. Raising taxes on the middle class and cutting funding for public employees is not our path to prosperity. We've got to work toward long term solutions for balancing the budget by incentivizing new industries in WV.

**2. What new or additional measures are necessary to create a safe and healthy environment for all West Virginians?**

Battling the drug addiction crisis will improve the health and safety of our people. Last year, legislation was passed to provide funding for additional drug treatment centers in WV that were desperately needed. Now, we need to create new job opportunities to sustain long-term recovery for those who are ready to transition back into the workforce.

**3. What do you think the role of the legislature should be in developing a more diversified economy in the state?**

Our legislature should be focused on two things. First is retaining the value of our natural gas with policies that incentivizes manufacturing of products in the state rather than piping our resources elsewhere. Second is crafting responsible cannabis reform to promote industrial hemp and medical cannabis as cash crops for our farmers to re-invest in sustainable agriculture and local food production.

## **Wood County County Commission Candidate**

Office County Commission

Name **David Blair Couch**

Party **Republican**

Because this candidate is unopposed in the primary election, we asked for a biography and statement to the voters.

**No Reply**

## **Wood County Conservation District Supervisor Candidates**

Office Conservation District Supervisor

Name **Bob Buchanan**

Party Non-Partisan

### **Biography**

Retired Accountant/Financial Consultant, Residing in Wood County with wife Crystle on our 'Back Forty Farm'. Currently serve as board member Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission, Wood County Solid Waste Authority, Blennerhasset Friends of NRA, National Wild Turkey Federation, Fort Boreman Rifle Club Board of Directors, Wood County Juvenile Drug Court, Former Wood County Representative Little Kanawha Conservation District

**1. What is the most important responsibility of the Conservation District Supervisor?**

Conservation Districts were organized and created by federal law in 1937 in response to



devastating soil erosion conditions which existed in the US during the late 1920's and 1930's. They are government entities that provide technical assistance and tools to manage and protect land and water resources in the US. We use those tools to assist problems in West Virginia.

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

I was able to assist the citizens of Wood County and West Virginia in many situations that arose during my term in office, example was the clean-up of the devastation created by the tornado that hit the Belleville area several years ago. I will be able to hit the ground running without a period of orientation to the job.

Office Conservation District Supervisor

Name **Delmas E. Carr**

Party Non-Partisan

**Biography**

I was reared on a farm near Buckhannon, WV and graduated from BUHS. I served in the Army, spending one year in Vietnam. I graduated from WVU in Forestry. I worked for the USDA-SCS now NRCS for 34 years. I worked with Conservation Districts for over 40 years. I have been a Conservation district Supervisor 2014-2018.

**1. What is the most important responsibility of the Conservation District Supervisor?**

Educating landusers in the importance of the wise use and protection of our natural resources for the present and the future, also conservation education for the younger generation.

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

I have 34 years experience in conservation , a Degree in Forestry, 4 years experience as a supervisor and numerous training sessions in conservation and working with landusers..