

Blueprint for a Brighter Future

Create New Jobs in West Virginia

By making it easier to start and expand a business and also attract new employers to our state, we can create new jobs in West Virginia. The results: more jobs for our residents, our children and grandchildren staying in West Virginia to raise their families and an expanded tax base which will benefit our entire state.

- ✓ Encourage private investment
- ✓ Fix our unfair and regressive tax structure
- ✓ Clean up our courts and stop lawsuit abuse
- ✓ Lead our nation toward energy independence by responsible development of our vast resources
- ✓ Provide true leadership that limits job killing policies

Control Government Spending

Increased government spending, coupled with declining tax revenues and long-term obligations, have put our state in a difficult fiscal position. My plan will get control of government spending and reform our system so that West Virginia taxpayers have confidence that every dollar they send to Charleston is being spent properly.

- ✓ Full transparency and documentation of state spending so West Virginians can see where each and every penny of their tax dollars are spent
- ✓ Eliminate wasteful bureaucracies and combine agencies or departments that are working on the same issue
- ✓ Increase oversight of all state agency spending and contracts. Prohibit no-bid contracts and sweetheart deals for insiders and the well-connected

Clean Up Our Government

For too long, West Virginia's image has been tarnished by corruption in our state government. This discourages businesses from bringing jobs to our state and serves as a "hidden tax" on our citizens. My plan is to clean up the mess and give West Virginians the government they deserve.

- ✓ Prohibit elected officials from being involved in any legislation where a conflict of interest exists
- ✓ Ban all public officials from serving as vendors to the state or profiting from public contracts
- ✓ Increase and strengthen public disclosure from legislators and the lobbyists who seek to influence them

Strengthen Our Education System

West Virginia's children deserve nothing less than a first-class education, but we have failed them, and their parents, for years. West Virginia ranks 50th among states in the percentage of the population with a college degree, 48th in the percentage with a high school diploma and 45th in teacher salaries.

We must do better, and my plan addresses these problems directly:

- ✓ Adopt a comprehensive approach to education reform that eliminates any bureaucracy that impedes the path of our children to a better education or diverts money from the classroom
- ✓ Raise teacher salaries as a reward for improved performance
- ✓ Make significant investments in educational resources to ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed

Make West Virginia A Healthier Place to Live

West Virginia lags behind in many health and wellness categories that underscore the fact that focusing on the well-being of our population needs to be a higher priority. It also makes economic sense to lower health care costs by taking advantage of what is West Virginia's biggest asset – our natural beauty.

- ✓ Strengthen the emphasis on outdoor activity, prevention & wellness programs
- ✓ Extend and enhance substance abuse prevention efforts by working with our schools
- ✓ Increase and promote the use of public/private partnerships and faith based initiatives

