



ELECTION

2024

A Special Publication of The Journal



VOTE BLESSING

Jefferson County Commission

Paid for by Blessing for Jefferson

A NOTE TO VOTERS:

The Journal is pleased to once again provide an Election Guide to help educate voters on which candidates are running for which office and to provide some final insight into their platforms as the time draws near for final election selections. To prepare for this publication, our editorial staff reached out using all known contact methods to invite candidates to participate. Many races are uncontested and have single candidates. Those races other than State Delegate races, were not included in the guide as there are sole candidates for those contests. See today's edition for additional candidate information and a look at election issues.

We encourage all registered voters to seek additional information where needed and to prepare accordingly as you head to the polls.

U.S. Senate

JIM JUSTICE

Name: Jim Justice

Party Affiliation: Republican

Office Sought: U.S. Senate

City of Residence: Lewisburg

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Once I go to Washington, D.C., as the next U.S. Senator from West Virginia, one of my greatest challenges will be getting people to work together for our common good. I want to unite regardless of political party and accomplish some big things for Americans, just like I did as Governor of West Virginia.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

Please make no mistake about it: I am proud to be a Republican and believe strongly in my conservative values, but I am going to Washington to get things done for the people of West Virginia and America. Our Republican Party platform is one guiding document among many, but it is not a contract that binds me to any one policy solution or another. I will be a strong conservative Republican, but I want to get things done for West Virginians.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I will continue using the communication style I used as Governor of West Virginia. I travel across the State, speaking with voters about issues, solutions, and needs. During my nearly eight years as your Governor, I have put over one million miles on my vehicle. I will continue to meet, talk with, and see West Virginians as much as I can, even though I will be working in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C.



GLENN ELLIOTT

Name: Glenn Elliott

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Office Sought: U.S. Senate

City of Residence: Wheeling

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

One of my top legislative priorities is putting Social Security and Medicare on paths to financial solvency in the decades ahead. But this cannot and will not happen until Congress fixes the legislative process for budgeting. For too many years, Congress has ignored the legislative framework for budgeted and passed end-of-fiscal-year continuing resolutions that mostly lock into place funding priorities and decisions from years prior. We cannot continue budgeting this way and expect different results, nor can we afford to risk the financial solvency of Social Security and Medicare by refusing to address their long-term funding sources.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

My values inform who I am and how I will vote more than my political affiliation. I am a Democrat because historically the Democratic party has aligned with my general values. The party is at its best when advocating for the working class and standing up for the underdogs in our society. But if and when the Democratic party strays from those values, I can and will stand up to party leaders and vote my conscience. I learned from Senator Robert Byrd while working in his office that a Senator's highest obligation is to his constituency.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication avenues are continually evolving and expanding in the 21st century. As such, for a Senator to reach as many of his or her constituents as possible, he or she must employ an all-of-the-above communication strategy that taps into traditional and non-traditional media vehicles, social media, email and — when necessary — direct mail. It will also be a priority of mine to visit each of West Virginia's 55 counties at least once annually, just as I have done during my present campaign.



DAVID MORAN

Name: David D. Moran

Party Affiliation: Libertarian

Office Sought: U.S. Senate

City of Residence: Eglon

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge that we face is getting our national economy under control. Our national debt is totally out of control due to the immature and self-serving procedures that our national representatives have been following. I will not support any national deficit budget. Inflation is destroying the will and the capability for citizens to have control over their financial futures. National debt and the Federal Reserve and social support franchises are the cause. (Everything that I need to spend money on has increased in the past recent years by 40% to 50% while the national standards indicate single digit percentages. This is caused by the fact that inflation is not computed for the family, the citizen, or the individual but rather for the subsidized national economy.)

The USA is no longer the international peacekeeper. Our influence over intra-national strife is ineffective. We risk our own freedoms in the process of trying to be the "parent" over the international "immature." Conflict is not a solution to any issue; resolution resides in individual and national maturity and the exercise of self-sufficiency rather than international instruction. As a representative of West Virginia in Congress I represent rationality and thoughtfully explicative actions that resolve problems and issues rather than spend national resources, funds or avoidances on personal reputations. I expect to be able to listen and respond as a facilitator of the basic tenants of American citizenry.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The basic principle of the Libertarian Party in the U.S. is to ensure the right to liberty and the exercise of individual choice so long as it does not detrimentally effect any other citizen or cause or standard. This is akin to the Golden Rule of Christianity, or to the principles of the medical rule "to first do no harm." This principle should guide all of our actions and ever represent our true humanity.

Party platforms are designed to reflect some unified and national policy. The whole reason for statehood and the individual representation of our state is to apply reason and practicality to the needs and advancements of our state. National issues should be reflected accordingly as issues that must be reflected in the advancement of our individual citizens in every respect. We are a nation of individuals united under the common causes upon which we agree as members of a democratic system. All of our representatives must adhere to that vision and practice. As Senator from West Virginia, I expect to be judged on and held accountable to that vision.

Congressional District 2

RILEY MOORE

Name: Riley Moore
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: U.S. Congress District

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City of Residence: Harpers Ferry
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

America faces serious challenges right now. Our economy is broken. Our border is open. Our nation is divided. Our world is in chaos. I'll fight every day to enact America First policies and bring West Virginia values to Washington DC. With President Trump at the helm, I'm confident we can meet and overcome every obstacle to making America great again.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The 2024 Republican Platform ar-



ticulates a strong, America First vision for the Republican Party. I share its commitments to making America safe again, strong again, wealthy again, healthy again, and great again, but I also have my own priorities to make West Virginia the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication with constituents is important. It's crucial for a Congressman to know his district and the people he represents. I will be active and present in the district alongside my district staff to listen to the people in our district, share news from the Capitol, and assist constituents with any issues with the federal government.

NOTE: No information received from: Steven Wendelin, Democratic candidate

REELECT REPUBLICAN DELEGATE WAYNE CLARK



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Protecting child privacy online

Making our tourism industry more competitive with neighboring states

Eliminating taxes on social security benefits

ENDORSED BY:

WV Citizens Defense League • West Virginians for Life
WV Hospitality & Travel Association • National Rifle
Association • WV Farm Bureau • WV Coal & Gas Industry

BLESSING

Jefferson County Commission



Preserving Our Rural Character

As a lifelong Jefferson County resident, I will fight for sensible development that protects farmland and prevents corporate exploitation of our resources.

Supporting Local Businesses

I stand for local businesses, not out-of-state interests. By encouraging responsible entrepreneurship, we can keep jobs and economic benefits within our community.

Practical Solutions for Growth

Growth is inevitable, but it must be balanced. I will focus on improving infrastructure, affordable housing, and preserving our quality of life.

Championing Community Voices

I'm here to listen, not push an agenda. I will hold regular town halls to ensure all voices are heard in decision-making.

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W.Va. Governor



ERIKA KOLENICH

Name: Erika Kolenich
Office Sought: Governor
Party Affiliation: Libertarian
City of Residence: Buckhannon
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I believe the greatest challenge I will face will also be my best opportunity. As a libertarian working with a republican led legislature, it will be challenging to collaborate on policy as I am not part of their political machine. However, I also look to that as an opportunity to hold them accountable to their promises to cut taxes, shrink government and expand liberty and freedom.



How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The most important thing will be to represent the voices of the West Virginia voters who elected me. Party platform is important but party politics and polarization are killing our nation and slowly taking over our state. It is the very reason I am running. I believe one hundred percent in my party platform but I would never let it stand in the way of doing what I believe is best for West Virginia.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication and transparency in government is not only important but it is essential. There has been far too much over the past few years that border on outright cover up by the state; from the issue with CPS to the State Police to the situations in our jails. The public has a right to know what is happening and what their tax dollars are funding. I will ensure that full investigations in these situations or issues of public interest are conducted and the results released via a press conference. I will hold regular press conferences where all press will be invited and be free to ask any and all questions to which I will fully respond and make all my team available as well.

CHASE LINKO-LOOPER

Name: Chase Linko-Looper
Party Affiliation: Mountain Party
Office Sought: Governor
City of Residence: Charleston
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The biggest challenge? Tearing down the two-party stranglehold. It's rigged — both sides are bought, serving the same corrupt system. They don't care about us, just their power. The people are fed up, and when I'm elected, we're coming for that system. We'll tear it down and rebuild it for us, the people, not the elites. That's the fight. And we're ready.



How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

It's everything. The platform is a blueprint for real change — for the people, not the rich. I'm not here to play games. I'll fight like hell to make it happen. No compromise.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication's everything. If you're in office and not talking to the people, you're part of the problem. I'll be loud and clear about what's going on. No backroom deals, no hiding behind closed doors. The voters deserve the truth — whether they like it or not. And yeah, it's important. If you can't be honest with the people who put you there, you shouldn't be there at all.

NOTE: No information received from Constitution Party Candidate S. Marshall Wilson

PATRICK MORRISEY

Name: Patrick Morrissey
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Governor
City of Residence: Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge will be tackling the entrenched government inefficiency that has held West Virginia back for years. We need to streamline government, eliminate wasteful spending, and implement policies that will reduce the tax burden on hardworking West Virginians. While we have a lot of potential in our state, breaking through the bureaucracy and creating real change will be no small task, but it's one I'm ready to take on.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

It's very important to me to lead with conservative values, because they are the foundation of creating opportunities for every West Virginian. That means smaller government, lower taxes, supporting job creation, and protecting our rights. At the same time, I will always prioritize West Virginians' needs above all else, ensuring that my policies are focused on the real-world issues our state faces.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication is absolutely crucial. As Governor, I will make sure to keep an open dialogue with West Virginians through town halls, social media and regular updates. I believe that people deserve transparency, so I'll make sure West Virginians know exactly what's being done in their name, whether it's through addressing the media, sending out newsletters, or meeting directly with community members. Staying engaged with the people is a top priority because it's their feedback that will keep our state moving in the right direction.



STEVE WILLIAMS

Name: Steve Williams
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Governor
City of Residence: Huntington
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge for any Chief Executive whether it be a Governor or Mayor is to assure fiscal stability. I learned a long time ago that when you control the budget you control policy. The challenges we have are all fiscal. When we watch our pennies, nickels and dimes we will be able to manage our dollars.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I pay no attention to a party platform. I pay attention to the following principles... Rule of law, Individual freedom, Free markets, Fiscal restraint, Limited governance through local governance. These principles have enabled me to assure fiscal soundness, development of prosperity, infrastructure development, and innovation.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

A leader's responsibility is to establish a vision, build consensus around that vision, and then enable public collaboration to implement that vision.

I will communicate through the press and by holding regional and local opportunities for one on one or group discussions and visits. During my tenure as mayor of Huntington we held "Walks with the Mayor" where I would bring my leadership team to a neighborhood and walk through the neighborhood to see and hear what the concerns of the residents were. We had nearly 100 walks over the years and we were able to address problems, fix roads, demolish buildings, repair sidewalks, fix sewer systems and address flooding. I expect to adopt a schedule of similar visits throughout the state several times a year.





W.Va. Secretary of State



THORNTON COOPER

Name: Thornton Cooper
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Secretary of State
City of Residence: South Charleston, Kanawha County

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The statutory authority of the Secretary of State's Office is controlled by the Legislature. With the Legislature's consent, I want to make it easier for West Virginians to vote by mail, without their first having to submit an excuse to do so. Californian voters have been able to vote by mail without first submitting an excuse to do so since 1978. I believe that my greatest challenge would be to get the West Virginia Legislature to grant similar rights to West Virginian voters.



How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

First, please note that the West Virginia Democratic Party is a "Big Tent" party. We Democrats welcome conservatives, moderates and liberals to join, and participate in, our party. Second, please further note that the West Virginia Democratic Party does not dictate my positions as a candidate. For more information about how I would lead as West Virginia Secretary of State, please visit www.thorntoncooper.com and please

also visit Ballotpedia.org, scroll down to the West Virginia Secretary of State's race, and see my answers to several questions raised by the Ballotpedia staff. If I am elected as the Secretary of State, I would comply with applicable federal and state law.

I would operate the Secretary of State's Office in a professional, nonpartisan manner. Another thing that I would like to do, with the Legislature's consent, would be to place most of the employees in the Secretary of State's Office under Civil Service. If elected, I pledge never to run for a different office, such as Governor, while I am serving as your Secretary of State.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

If elected as your Secretary of State, I would use all appropriate media with respect to what is happening in the Secretary of State's Office. Yes, I DO believe that two-way communication is very important.

I have already worked for 29 years in state government and know how important that it is for public servants to welcome suggestions, comments, and criticisms from the public. Ordinary citizens often have great insights as to how public servants may improve services that a state agency or office provides to members of the public.

Name: Kris Warner
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Secretary of State
City of Residence: Charleston
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

We must maintain the highest level of confidence West Virginians have in their elections. Concerns from the lack of election integrity in other states filter into West Virginia. Examples of concerns include indiscriminate mailing of ballots, such as occurred in Wisconsin, where 2200 duplicate ballots were sent to voters without their asking. Ballots being dropped in unsupervised drop boxes, and the inconsistent curing of ballots in states such as Pennsylvania. States like California are now allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections. None of these occur in West Virginia, but our voters hear about these issues and have concerns about election integrity in general. The Secretary of State's office under my leadership will continue the office's current priorities of educating our citizens about election integrity and working collaboratively with our 55 county clerks and our legislature to keep West Virginia elections safe, secure, honest and fair.



How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The WV Republican party has a well thought out and comprehensive platform. However, much of that platform deals with

KRIS WARNER

issues and policies outside the purview of the Secretary of State. My focus will be to lead on the issues relating to election integrity, business development, streamlining government, and transparency.

We will continue to work with our county clerks to run safe, secure, honest and fair elections. We will communicate effectively with the legislature on eliminating regulations on businesses that are burdensome. We will empower county clerks to help make their elections run more efficient. The Secretary of State's Office will continue to do our part to make West Virginia a place where new businesses want to locate; where current businesses can grow; and where families come to live, work, play and raise their children. I look forward to leading the Secretary of State's office in that direction.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Effective communication and public education are absolutely essential to maintaining voter confidence in our elections. The WV Secretary of State's office has one of the most effective communication strategies in the nation. That strategy includes a close working relationship with local, state, and national media in an effort to keep the public informed about elections, business registration and licensing, and all other aspects and responsibilities of the Secretary of State office.

forums and educational sessions, especially in rural areas, to explain these records and provide the public with tools to hold their local governments accountable.

I am committed to implementing open data initiatives, ensuring that financial information is not only available but also understandable to the average resident. This transparency will help build trust between the government and its citizens, keeping West Virginians informed about how their tax dollars are managed and the financial health of our state. By providing regular updates through digital platforms like social media, newsletters, and town halls, I aim to make government more accessible and accountable to everyone.

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NOTE: No information received from Republican candidate Mark Hunt



W.Va. Auditor



MARY ANN CLAYTOR

Name: Mary Ann Claytor
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Auditor
City of Residence: St. Albans
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge I foresee is ensuring that small, underfunded local governments and entities receive the training and resources necessary to meet the accounting and auditing standards. But as the only candidate with both an accounting degree and extensive auditing experience, I am

uniquely qualified to tackle these challenges head-on. With over 22 years of hands-on experience as a real auditor, I have the skills and knowledge needed to create systems that help every local government, regardless of size, comply with financial requirements, protect taxpayer dollars, and improve transparency.



How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The position of State Auditor shouldn't be based on a party platform. My role is to ensure transparency, accountability, and accuracy in government finances, and that transcends party lines. During my 22 years as a real auditor for the West Virginia State Auditor's office, I never let party affiliation guide my work, and that won't change now. My commitment is to the people of West Virginia, to serve with fairness and integrity, and to hold government accountable regardless of party.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Effective communication is essential for transparency. I plan to enhance digital platforms to provide easy access to government financial records, allowing the public to see exactly how funds are being allocated and spent across all areas. Additionally, I will hold public

State Senate District 15

ANTHONY MURRAY

Name: Anthony Murray
Party: Democrat
Office Sought: State Senate for District 15
City of residence: Capon Bridge
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?
I feel my greatest challenge will be trying to co-sponsor and finding more common ground among my congressional colleagues across the aisle. There are several issues we should be able to be unified on, such as improving infrastructure, improving education, and improving environmental protection for our communities against pollutants that harm our drinking water as well as causing other medical problems.
How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?
I will try to lead via my party's platform



for legislation that will help as many community members as possible including more funding hiring and keeping teachers. We need to also help provide more health centers, especially with a focus on help for mental health issues. We also should focus on helping people with addiction issues get the help they need, rather than criminalizing them. This creates a huge burden on our community with more taxes to pay for keeping people with substance abuse issues locked up.
How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?
I will provide daily updates of each congressional session and continued updates of upcoming bills and votes. I will use social media primarily as well as my website. I think communication with my constituents is vital my our work as civil servants. An informed public can be empowered to directly participate and engage with our democratic process.

NOTE: No information received from Republican Candidate Tom Willis

State Senate District 16

JOHN DOYLE

Name: John Doyle
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: WV State Senate District 16
City of Residence: Shepherdstown
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?
The greatest challenge to the next Legislature will be balancing the budget, since the day of big surpluses is coming to an end.
How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?



It is not important at all. Legislators should follow their consciences, and they should not regard party platforms as dictates. A party platform is a general guideline as to the collective opinion of the party's membership, not a set of instructions.
How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?
Communication is certainly vitally important. If elected, I will hold regular "town hall" style meetings around the district, as I did for the many years that I was in the House of Delegates.

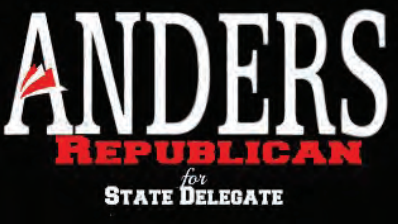




WHICH CANDIDATE FOR THE 97TH DISTRICT SUPPORTS WEST VIRGINIA VALUES?

	 ANDERS	 VALENTINE
S. CHRIS ANDERS GREW UP ON A SMALL FARM AND EMBRACES OUR WEST VIRGINIA HOMEGROWN VALUES, UNLIKE HIS OPPONENT WHO WANTS TO PUSH THE FAR LEFT RADICAL AGENDA.		
SUPPORTS THE 2ND AMENDMENT AND YOUR RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS		
OPPOSES TRANSGENDER INDOCTRINATION IN OUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS		
SUPPORTS PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION AND MEDICAL FREEDOM		
PLEDGED TO WORK TO CRIMINALIZE ILLEGAL ALIENS AND THEIR RECENT CRIME WAVE		
PLEDGED TO FIGHT TO END THE BERKELEY COUNTY RAIN TAX AND THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX IN WEST VIRGINIA		

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State Senate District 16

PATRICIA RUCKER

Name: Patricia Rucker
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: WV
State Senate District 16
City of Residence:
Harpers Ferry



What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Right sizing the size of WV Government and getting state agencies to do their job in an efficient manner.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

My party's platform maximizes indi-

vidual liberty and personal responsibility. It is imperative we have leaders who understand the best form of government is the one that trusts its citizens and works to give them the maximum opportunity to pursue their dreams.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I will continue to make myself available and respond to every constituent's calls/emails/and inquiries. Communication is very important to me which is why I post my personal cell number and email on my website and my literature.

Delegate District 91

RICK THOMSON

Name: Rick Thomson
Party Affiliation: Constitution Party
Office Sought:
Delegate District 91
City of Residence:
Inwood



What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge I see when elected will be officiating my responsibilities as a 3rd party. I hold the Constitution as the standard bearer not the Party Majority leader. I do believe I will find common ground and favor with those in the Republican Party that have the same standard and who are not Republican in name only.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

Leading by the Party platform I hope to restore the hope in the people in the Legislative process and their rights. I hope my constituents will trust my values and standards are the Constitution, not the latest party agenda.

The Constitution Party platform in-

tro: We declare the platform of the Constitution Party to be predicated on the principles of: The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States and The Bill of Rights, according to the original intent of the Founding Fathers. These founding documents are the foundation of our Liberty and the Supreme Law of the Land. The sole purpose of government, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, is to secure our unalienable rights given us by our Creator. When Government grows beyond this scope, it is usurpation, and liberty is compromised. We believe the major issues we face today are best solved by a renewed allegiance to the original intent of these founding documents. <https://constitutionparty.com/principles/platform/>

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I hope to communicate with those who live in District 91 through social media platforms, various town hall meetings, and personal communication.

Delegate District 90

NOTE: No information received from Republican Candidate George Miller

Delegate District 91

JOSEPH DE SOTO

Name: Dr. Joseph de Soto MD, PhD
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought:
Delegate District 91
City of Residence:
Gerrardstown



What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I work well with the leadership of both parties already and will enjoy getting things accomplished for my constituents. The special interests are the greatest challenge as they buy off politicians and slander and defame those that don't go along — as I saw first hand. Remembering that this is a war of good against evil will help me overcome these special interests and God supports

those that remain faithful.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am a life-time Religious Conservative and I agree with the pro-life, pro-gun, anti-woke, pro-parental rights, low -tax platform of my party. I have always been a Republican and Religious Conservative with a protect the elderly and protect the working class mentality.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I will go door to door, write editorials in the newspaper, make phone calls, update my website www.drjosephdesoto.com. and give my cell for my constituents to call me 304-279-4234 as I have always done.

Delegate District 92

MICHAEL HITE

Name: Michael Hite
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought:
Delegate District 92
City of Residence:
Martinsburg



What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

As an elected legislator, I must be able to convince many of the other legislators to vote on issues that may benefit my district but not necessarily theirs. One such issue is locality pay.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I don't think any individual can be

expected to adhere to every issue on a platform, especially when platforms change from year to year. An individual should read a party platform and decide if they agree with the majority of it, but the constitution and their own opinions and integrity should be their ultimate guide.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication is important. It's also important for the citizen to be engaged and seek out information. I regularly appear on WRNR and TV10 to discuss the WV Legislature and my role and opinions from within.

Delegate District 93

MIKE HORNBY

Name: Mike Hornby
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought:
Delegate District 93

City of Residence:
Martinsburg

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I have found since being elected that the biggest challenge has been realizing how slow government moves. Berkeley County has very unique needs and issues which the rest of the state does not. We have been afforded extraordinary growth in the panhandle and unfortunately state government, specifically DOH cannot keep up with the demands and the needs we have. Our county is very different from the rest of West Virginia. Building relationships is extremely important down in the capital, having other delegates understand our needs or issues while understanding theirs is the only way we can make strides on the



issues like locality pay, infrastructure and education.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I do not vote based on any party platform. While I am a proud Republican my vote is always based on what I think is best for the 18,000 constituents in my district and what I believe is for the good of all West Virginians. I have always taken any opportunity I could to reduce regulations, lower fees or taxes and make West Virginia a better place to live.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I usually hold two town hall meetings a year and all constituents are welcome however my cell phone is public 304-851-7461. I am always open to discussion on any issue at any time. I am fortunate through my business to be able to communicate with the public much easier than some.

Delegate District 95

CHARLES "CHUCK" HORST

Name: Charles "Chuck" Horst
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Delegate District 95

City of Residence:
Falling Waters

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

My greatest challenge is protecting our Freedom and Liberties. Here are a couple examples that I am working on: Open Fields Doctrine, which is a Supreme court opinion from 1924 which severely limited your 4th amendment Rights. Your personal information held by third parties.

We now see that corporations often volunteer to turn over private information to authorities without requiring a warrant or subpoena for said information, thus circumventing the 4th Amendment protections, example cell



phone data. Learn more on these issues at charleshorst.com.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am a Republican and support the platform in most cases, so I find it important to support the party agenda to continue moving West Virginia forward, but that support is not absolute. If we do not have a common goal to work towards not much would get accomplished.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I often use Facebook to help inform constituents of legislative issue's, and plan to start using townhall events before and after sessions to discuss what issue's are important to the people.

I try to answer all emails and calls from constituents and some from around the state, especially if they ask for a response.

NOTE: No information received from Democratic candidate Debi Carroll

Delegate District 94

LARRY KUMP

Name: Larry D. Kump
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought:
Delegate District 94

City of Residence:
Falling Waters

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Returning more tax dollars to citizens and reducing government bureaucracy and interference in our lives.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am an independent Republican, and, as such, my values and voting are based on



Christian and liberty minded Constitutional conservatism, regardless of the platform of any political party, including the Republican party.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Open access to me via my home telephone number (304.274.3104 – please, no calls on Sundays), emails, Facebook posts, and a host of meetings with local organizations and individuals.

Not only is communication important, but it also is vital that communication provide an understanding of the issues and how they affect all of us.

Delegate District 96

LISA WHITE

Name: Lisa K. White
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Delegate District 96
City of Residence: Inwood

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Navigating through the bureaucracy. Trying to reduce some regulations and red tape for school choice and small businesses.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

As a conservative, the party platform

provides a great foundation. However, the Constitution is by what we should lead.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office, and do you believe that communication is important?

I plan on holding town hall meetings before and after the legislative session. I plan to find creative ways to get information to the constituents of my district via email and social media because I believe people should have an idea of what their government is working on.



Delegate District 96

ANTIQUA "NIKKI" LOWER

Name: Aniqua "Nikki" Lower

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Office Sought: Delegate District 96

City of Residence: Inwood

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

For several sessions in a row the State Legislature has let numerous important bills die on the last day of session: many of these bills relate to providing much needed help to our Firefighters, EMS, and Childcare workers. My biggest challenge is going to be working in the minority to get these much needed bills across the line. These are not small issues our legislature has repeatedly failed on either: we need over 200 fire tankers and ambulances respectfully, we need to work on ensuring insurance covers all medical and mental services for these brave volunteers, and we need to work on scholarships and supporting childcare centers and providing funding relief for families.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am fortunate to be a member of the Democratic Party's State Executive Committee already (as the state Parliamentar-

ian) and put forward a number of platform policy positions at our state convention this summer that brought a lot of the issues me, and other hard working West Virginians, care about to the front and center of the West Virginia Democratic Party Platform. These issues include more explicit constitutional protections for the right to privacy. We have seen numerous Attorneys General across the country try to use their office to bully and intimidate their way into getting people's private medical records and other information about private citizens without a warrant. That needs to be stopped before it becomes an issue here.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I am already out knocking thousands of doors in my district and have been since July. Going door to door and making myself available, despite working three jobs, is how I am showing my commitment to being transparent before being elected. Doing that now, despite the challenge, showcases how important communicating with voters is to me.

Delegate District 97

LUCIA VALENTINE

Name: Lucia Valentine

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Office Sought: Delegate District 97

City of Residence: Shepherdstown

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I will have to work across the aisle and find common ground with legislators in order pass meaningful legislation. However, I have experience passing legislation in a bipartisan way and look forward to applying my skills to this position.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I have dedicated my life to serving all West Virginians. I have experience advocating at the WV state capitol and Congress, helping to pass policies that protect the health of West Virginia's people and resources. My passion

and determination in this advocacy work have made me known for my ability to collaborate across party lines. I understand the importance of pushing past divisive partisan narratives to connect directly with voters, listen to their concerns, and identify real policy solutions to the common West Virginia values we share.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I believe that we need leaders who will be transparent. I will keep voters informed about developments in the state legislature by sharing on social media, keeping my website updated, releasing monthly newsletters, and holding periodic town hall/listening sessions. It is important for voters to know what legislation their representatives are introducing and sponsoring, and I will work so that this information is more accessible to constituents.



Since 1991, the Eastern Panhandle Business Association has been the premier advocate for small business at the State Capitol in Charleston. Over the years our support for key reforms aimed at improving the economic climate in West Virginia and the candidates to make that happen has been successful. As a result of our efforts, every West Virginia is better off. The EPBA publishes policy papers and monitors the activity in each West Virginia State Legislative Session and tracks the voting record of each legislator in the Eastern Panhandle regarding key policy issues.

**In the Upcoming
Election
We Endorse the
Following Candidates**

State Senate

Tom Willis in the 15th

Patricia Rucker in the 16th

House of Delegates

Joseph de Soto in the 91st

Larry Kump in the 94th

Charles Horst in the 95th

Chris Anders in the 97th

Joe Funkhouser in the 98th

Wayne Clark in the 99th

Bill Ridenour in the 100th

Please Join Us In Supporting These Great Candidates This Election Day - November 5th. Every voting is October 23rd.

Paid for By the Eastern Panhandle Business Association PAC

Delegate District 97

S. CHRIS ANDERS

Name: S. Chris Anders

Party Affiliation: Republican

Office Sought: Delegate District 97

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Too often government, like most organizations, gets stuck in the same rut every year. We are living in difficult times where families cannot afford to pay for groceries or medicines, so continuing the same old politics of the past is not working, and we need to instead work tirelessly to protect individual liberty, both personal and economic. Our God given rights are under attack constantly, whether it be the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Medical Freedom, Educational Freedom or our right to privacy. Our Economic liberty is under attack by the cronyism and corruption that has existed far too long. We must restore the personal freedom of the people of West Virginia the Constitution declares and at the same time reduce the size and scope of government so that we can eliminate the personal income tax, the business income tax, stop the insane Rain Tax and get the people's money back to them so that they can afford to live. We must also push back, under the 10th Amendment, against unconstitutional Federal decrees,



whether it be the flood of criminal illegal aliens, the Federal Government's interference in our Educational System, unfunded mandates or rogue Federal Agencies who scheme to undermine our rights enshrined in the Constitution

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

My first and foremost duty is to the Constitution and the Founding Principles of our great Republic which is defending individual life, individual liberty and private property, which includes the money you earn. As an elected official, that is your primary duty. The Republican Party Platform embraces these truths. We must always strive to defend the great West Virginia Principles and our homegrown values, while working to make West Virginia a shining light for Freedom.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I am an open book. I will never hide anything from those I seek to represent. As such I have built an email list of over 9,000 residents to communicate weekly about the legislative session as well as using social media and hosting citizen town halls before the session, during the session and after it. As public servants we serve the people, and we must be open and accessible at all times to them.

Delegate District 98

JOE FUNKHOUSER

Name: Joe Funkhouser

Party Affiliation: Republican

Office Sought: Delegate District 98

City of Residence: Jefferson County

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

If elected by the good people of Jefferson County's 98th District, the greatest challenge I anticipate will be balancing advocating for the best interests of Jefferson County's 98th District, while working alongside colleagues to advocate and forge consensus for the best interests of all of West Virginia. Jefferson County and the Eastern Panhandle have many distinctive issues such as responsibly managing our population growth and providing more proactive infrastructure solutions, and many other regions of the state have issues unique to them, but building relationships to achieve shared goals of a more prosperous West Virginia and enhancing the quality of life for our people should be a way to bridge the gap and do the work that West Virginians expect from the Legislature.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

Politics is a team sport, whether you like it or not. Party platforms give vot-

ers a sense of what candidates believe in, important issues, and how those issues will be addressed if elected. I am a Republican because of the shared values of promoting constitutional conservative governing principles, faith, family, freedom, and fiscal responsibility. While no party has a monopoly on working families or our Constitution, the values of each party platform help to inform voters of how issues will be addressed throughout the legislative process. **How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?**

I pledge to meet or communicate with all interested citizens of the 98th District to hear their concerns and recommendations. I will utilize email, phone, text, social media, and town halls, as appropriate, to do so. I believe communication with constituents is paramount to doing a good job as Delegate, as the job requires representing all of the approximately 18,000 residents of the district.



Delegate District 98

TROY MILLER

Name: Troy N. Miller

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Office Sought: Delegate District 98

City of Residence: Kearneysville, WV

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I see two categories of challenges when I'm elected. First, I will likely win into a legislature where Democrats are the minority. This is a challenge partly because the majority party has not demonstrated a willingness to work across the aisle over the last decade. The simple fact is that the majority party may completely ignore the needs of my dis-

trict simply because I am a Democrat.

The other category is the actual problems we face: our childcare and elder care crises; our educational deficits; our lack of good jobs and our aging infrastructure for essential services like water and power; our lack of opportunity for young people and how that forces people to leave the state. We face no shortage of pressing policy challenges, but I am confident we can overcome these challenges if we earnestly work together across party lines and work toward goals that go beyond a short-sighted demand for tax cuts.

How important is it to you to lead

via your party platform?

The party platform is what we stand on, it allows voters to know what the party is fighting for. But it does not and should not dictate how candidates or elected officials should govern. I have personally fought for the West Virginia Democratic Party to adopt the 21st-century Economic Bill of Rights and to fight to secure these economic rights for all West Virginians. I have fought for this because I believe that the goals laid out in the 21st-century Economic Bill of Rights are goals we should and must fight for on a bipartisan basis. As of this election, through the 21st-century Economic Bill of Rights, the West Virginia Democratic Party is the only party in West Virginia that is clear about what our state government should be working to do in order "to promote, preserve and perpetuate good government in the State of West Virginia for the common welfare, freedom and security of ourselves and our posterity" as laid out in the Preamble of the West Virginia Constitution.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication with voters and constituents more broadly is critically important. While I am running for office I have chosen to run as a Democrat, but that is an electoral process. If I am elected though I will be elected as a public servant working for every person in District 98, whether they are voters or not, whether they voted for me or not, and whether we agree or disagree. I would vow to hold town halls at least four times a year, and I would strive to hold one a month during my term. Beyond that, voters can reach out to me RIGHT NOW — my inbox is open to any person in District 98 who wants to contact me. Voters and constituents can learn more about my campaign and reach out to me at www.TroyForWV.com or through my personal email at TroyN-MillerWV@gmail.com.

Delegate District 99

WAYNE CLARK

Name: Wayne Clark
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Delegate District 99
City of Residence:

Charles Town

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

This will be the start of my third term in the House of Delegates and as always, the greatest challenge that we as part-time legislators face is the time away from family. I always have faith in my family and think of them whenever I am casting my votes, are they proud of me, are they watching, did I represent them the way they wished for me to do? Regarding legislative issues, I am excited about the opportunity to return to Charleston and work for the people of this great state. I hope to continue working on the committees I have spent the past four years serving on Economic Development and Tourism, Education, and Political Subdivisions. All three of these committees are very important to the 99th District. We need to continue to work on making lasting improvements in Education, attracting new business opportunities for the State of West Virginia and the 99th District. Finally, I want to say that I truly enjoy being the Delegate for the 99th District, it has been my honor to serve my constituents.

How important is it to you to lead via



your party platform?

I have been a registered Republican since my 18th Birthday, and I follow the guidance of the Republican platform in all my voting. When introducing legislation, I always follow these simple rules: 1. What issue are we trying to solve? 2. Does this issue need to have legislation introduced or can a simple call to the cabinet secretary solve the issue with a new rule? If we require an introduction of new legislation what are the consequences of the legislation being introduced, will it cost the taxpayers, and will it inadvertently cause issues in another area? I have had success in my four years in the House of Delegates by getting 58 Bills passed into law, therefore I go through this scenario many times annually.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I consistently post recaps on my Facebook page while in session, normally on Friday afternoon of the accomplishments that we have done in the House and the Senate. I am always available to my constituents via the phone at the Capitol and via my cell phone or email. Communication to voters is essential and accessibility is equally important. I have always kept my door open when people have traveled down to Charleston to visit.

Delegate District 99

OSMUND ANDERSON

Name: Osmund Anderson
Political Affiliation: Democrat Party
Office Sought: Delegate District 99

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Once elected, the greatest challenge I will face is being heard due to the lack of diversity in our political leadership.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

It holds significance if it aligns with



the agenda of the residents in Jefferson County.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office, and do you believe that communication is important?

In my belief, effective communication is crucial for building trust and keeping constituents informed. So, once elected, I will conduct a quarterly town hall meeting, which will be held every three months. Residents will receive updates and let their voices be heard.

Delegate District 100

WILLIAM RIDENOUR

Name: William E. Ridenour, II
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Delegate District 100
City of Residence:

Harpers Ferry

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge is getting delegates and senators to actually follow the platforms they laid out to their voters. Many politicians say one thing and then do another. Because I have a reputation for forthright honesty and fellow delegates know that I am true to my word, I have garnered sincere respect by other delegates. This respect and my willingness to stand up for my values and beliefs helps others who may not initially have sufficient confidence to also stand up, and ensure they vote their conscience and not the party line.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

Our GOP party platform was written



by some of the best minds in West Virginia's recent political history. It is a truly outstanding platform that lays out a high-quality vision for how our state should move forward. I strongly support our platform, and encourage more Republican Party politicians to read and work towards the goals of the platform. I personally encourage other delegates to do so, and will continue to advocate for it at every turn.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I believe direct communication with voters is critical, and I do my best to reach out to voters directly at their homes to inquire about their concerns and issues, or any issues that they believe the legislature should be aware of or focused on. During the past 10 months I have visited over 7500 homes and talked to at least 5,200 people in the district. I talked to almost 4,500 during the 2022 election cycle.

MARIA RUSSO

Name: Maria Russo
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Delegate District 100
City of Residence:

Shenandoah Junction

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

One of the greatest challenges will be finding a way to increase salaries for teachers, public employees, and emergency personnel within the framework created by the Republican majority in Charleston. We are having a difficult time attracting and retaining personnel because our salaries are far lower than the surrounding states. With Virginia and Maryland both bordering District 100, it is critical for us to raise salaries to retain the talented individuals of our community. I will work against the current trends trying to take funding away from our public schools. I will build a strong, regional coalition to pass Locality Pay and I intend to fight hard in Charleston, to fill essential positions and retain our talented staff. My strengths in communication and collaboration will ensure that our Eastern Panhandle perspective is given a seat at the table.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am a candidate who is running to represent the values I believe in, and the issues



that are most important to my constituents. While party platforms can provide important baselines, I believe the divisiveness of political parties has torn us apart for too long. As I have talked to my constituents, we have agreed that there is more that we have in common regarding local issues than what sets us apart. It is my goal to listen to the needs of the people across District 100 and to make decisions that improve the lives of all residents, regardless of party affiliation.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I believe clear communication with all citizens of District 100 is incredibly important. During my campaign, I have had a robust social media presence, updated my website with events and opportunities for engagement, and have published media articles about the events I have hosted and attended. More importantly, I have asked citizens across the District, and across the political spectrum, to inform me about their needs and wishes. If elected, I will continue to communicate openly with the people I serve, so that I can better represent their interests, and they can play an active role in the political process between elections. I can be reached by email, phone, and on my website and I look forward to hearing from my constituents.



Jefferson County Commission



MICHAEL MOOD

Name: Mike Mood
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: County Commission, Middleway District
City of Residence: Leetown
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge I see is bringing business growth to this county to build a tax base. Currently we have plentiful housing growth which is a load on our tax system and a deficit in commercial growth which pays more in taxes than it uses. The expansion of commercial growth in properly zoned areas will build the much needed tax base this county needs to balance out the general tax revenue. This growth will help many residents be able to have good paying jobs here instead of leaving this county to work. Job growth in this county will also improve residents time home with families affording them the abilities to participate in kids activities, church and other civic activities. Building the tax base will also allow this county to focus on providing proper public safety and education which we are greatly behind on. I have a proven track record building business', and working with civic and public safety organizations in Jefferson County where I have worked with others, some with differing views, to build the programs and improve their fiscal stability and sustained growth to improve whatever organization I am working with.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I am a fiscal conservative who believes in their party platform but you do have to hear others with differing views and not just discount them.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I believe that communication is paramount. As an elected official you must be willing to meet with the citizens of this county in way that are inclusive to all wanting to communicate with you. This can be as simple as returning a phone call, email or setting up periodic town hall meetings where people can get together to discuss what is on their mind about county issues.



NATALIE GRANTHAM FRIEND

Name: Natalie Grantham Friend
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Middleway District
City of Residence: Middleway
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I look forward to working with the other commissioners as a team. There are many real and valid concerns within the county. Residents have expressed concerns about water, lack of impact fees and over development, the comprehensive plan, lack of child care, industrial solar plants, along with emergency service response times. It pains me to see our valuable crop land turn into solar farms. If elected I look forward to getting to work and making steady progress in resolving these very real issues.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I entered this race to do right by my community, not a party. That will continue to be my focus. My goal is to listen to residents to understand, then work together to make our community better.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

My goal is to get as many people as possible involved in local government. People feel like they have been misled, and not taken care of by our county government. I would like to have a board of volunteer advisors that meets at least bi-monthly in order to make sure I have a strong understanding of what is going on in the community. Updating our county website and having one place to go for calendars, meeting minutes, agenda packets, and virtual meeting links, as well as email updates. I want to make it easier for more residents to take part in their county government.



JACK HEFESTAY

Name: Jack Hefestay
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Charles Town District
City of Residence: Charles Town
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge of any elected official is staying focused on-the-job -at-hand (Jefferson County Commission Business) and not being distracted by petty politics and "one-issue-selfish-motive" voters. Staying "clean" and away from the one issue special interest types is also key.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The WV GOP platform is clear and is certainly a series of statements that any conservative Republican(s) or common sense constituent could easily embrace. I have zero problems with the current WV GOP platform. It is certainly issue-oriented and constitutional in every aspect. Furthermore, it does not infringe on anyone's personal liberties. I have read the platform many times and endorsement and implementation of it is easy and it is beneficial to West Virginia and Jefferson County.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Belonging to numerous local organizations with a wide variety of members from many backgrounds is an advantage. Continuing to frequent the meetings of those establishments and sharing commission information will help to keep me in tune with the pulse of county issues. Meeting new residents and learning new issue considerations is an essential element of information exchange. Also, a continuing presence on different social media platforms will assist me to stay informed and be responsive. Replies to courteous emails and the fourth estate representatives shall continue. Civil communication exchange is an essential element of local government transparency and it is badly needed in my humble opinion.



JAMES WALCH

Name: James Walch
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Charles Town District
City of Residence: Charles Town
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

When elected, I believe the greatest challenge that lies ahead for all new commissioners will be enacting a major change in culture at the County Commission. A fundamental shift towards civility and a willingness to work together is key. We must focus on the community and residents, not on the divisive happenings of the last year and this needs to start on day

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

Leadership at the county level means doing what is right for all Jefferson County residents. I am here to focus on what is best for the community as a whole. I will work for all parties and their constituents, regardless of political affiliation. We are elected to serve the entire population of Jefferson County, and that is what I intend to do.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication is a vital part of the local government process. It creates transparency and inclusivity for the public and serves as an instrument to make sure the general public does not feel left in the dark on major issues. I have spoken with residents all over Jefferson County who have cited a lack in communication from government offices and officials. Many here feel they only learn about major issues after the fact, leading to a distrust of local government. We need to do better!

I will advocate for multiple levels and forms of communication from local government to include newspaper, social media, text alert system (opt-in), newsletter, and municipal committees at the city level that serve as community "watch dogs" to relay information to county government.





Jefferson County Commission



DAVID TABB

Name: David C. Tabb
Party Affiliation: Mountain Party
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Charles Town District
City of Residence: Harpers Ferry
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The integrity and accountability of the Jefferson County Commission on day-to-day operations and the management of the County's assets. The County Commission is ignoring the resident/taxpayer's rights in making long term decisions, and how the county will look moving forward. It's time to bring Jefferson County back to its grass roots to include a community based on volunteers giving of one's expertise and willingness of one's time and resources.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

The Mountain Party is an environmental platform, the main goals of the Mountain Party are to promote social, economic and environmental justice. All of these matters are important to me and should be to our county. The commercializing of our county is too rapid without any accountability. I feel strong about our environment and natural resources. Sometimes the damage cannot be undone and it will cause scars that cannot be rectified. I believe there is too much emphasizing placed only on party platforms. Platforms are only as useful as the individual's ability to include the needs and wishes of the residents/taxpayers.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

The only way to govern our county is to consider the resident/taxpayer voiced concerns to include the Commission's transparency. I pledge to listen to the public and to inform the resident/taxpayer of any proposed changes and or projects. Especially to our emergency services, tax platforms, view vista and pollution. I plan on leading by reviewing public comments and hearings on the subject matters before making any decisions that may require a resolution. I want to promote transparency and integrity through accountability.



PASHA MAJDI

Name: Pasha Majdi
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Harpers Ferry District
City of Residence: Harpers Ferry
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

Solar is out of control and there are too many housing developments being built too quickly. We need to promote the tourism industry in Jefferson County and shift away from solar and housing. The future of Jefferson County is wineries, breweries, recreation and weekend getaways, not solar and endless housing developments.

The first thing I did on solar when I joined the commission was to send the entire ordinance back to the planning commission for review. The solar ordinance was passed before I joined the commission. I never voted for it or supported it. I also support raising impact fees so developers pay their fair share for growth in the county. Raising impact fees on developers allows us to maintain low taxes for county residents, a top priority for me.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I'm proud to be a Republican. Most of the party platform addresses state issues, but there are two elements of the party platform that I apply every day: low taxes and conservation. I do not support tax increases. I want to prevent the growth and development we've seen in nearby areas like Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland because they create the need for tax increases. Northern Virginia-style development leads to high population density, high demand for services like police and schools, and corresponding tax increases. We need to be smart and responsible about growth to avoid these mistakes.

Be wary of candidates who want to "stop growth" but don't have a plan. Without a plan, the result will be endless housing developments. Every time a housing development comes in, the need to raise taxes to pay for public services increases. My plan is to promote the tourism industry instead of endless housing developments.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

I've met with thousands of residents, I host town hall meetings, and I'll meet anyone for coffee if they'd like to talk about Jefferson County. I want to be the most accessible commissioner in Jefferson County. Give me a call anytime at 304-306-0997. I'd be happy to meet with you. One thing you'll never see me do is insult people on social media or on blogs.



LANAE JOHNSON

Name: Lanae Johnson
Party Affiliation: Democratic
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Harpers Ferry District
City of Residence: Harpers Ferry
What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

One of the greatest challenges I foresee is addressing and reforming policies and procedures that have unintentionally limited or discouraged community involvement. It's crucial that we rebuild trust by fostering transparency and inclusivity in decision-making. Additionally, ensuring that we place qualified, knowledgeable individuals in key positions — based on merit and expertise, not personal connections — will be essential to making meaningful progress for our community. The goal is to create an environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and confident in their local government's ability to serve their best interests.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

While my party platform provides valuable guiding principles, local issues often require solutions that go beyond partisan lines. For me, leadership is about addressing the specific needs of Jefferson County and making decisions that benefit everyone, regardless of political affiliation. It's about building a community-focused agenda that prioritizes what's best for all residents. At the local level, what matters most is understanding the challenges we face and working collaboratively to find the best solutions, not adhering strictly to party politics.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office, and do you believe that communication is important?

If elected, I will make it a priority to keep voters informed and engaged every step of the way. I've established a website where Jefferson County residents can easily reach out with questions, concerns, or feedback — no need to wait for formal meetings or forums. This platform will serve as a direct line of communication, offering timely updates and a space for ongoing dialogue.

In addition, I'll maintain an open-door policy with regular office hours, ensuring that in-person conversations are always welcome. I firmly believe that transparent communication is key to effective leadership.



CARRIE BLESSING

Name: Carrie Blessing
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Shepherdstown District
City of Residence: Shepherdstown

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

One of the greatest challenges will be navigating growth and development in a way that preserves our rural character while providing economic opportunities for residents. Striking a balance between welcoming progress and protecting what makes our community special will require careful listening, thoughtful planning, and a commitment to smart, sustainable decisions. Managing competing interests and making sure all voices are heard, especially those who may not always feel included in the process, is something I'm prepared to take on.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

While I am running as a Democrat, my focus is on serving the people of Jefferson County rather than adhering to party lines. What's most important to me is addressing the needs of our community. I consider myself a fair-minded moderate who wants to solve problems based on the merits of each issue, not through a partisan lens. Listening to all residents, regardless of party affiliation, and working toward solutions that benefit everyone will guide my leadership.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Communication is essential in building trust with voters and ensuring transparency. I plan to keep an open line of communication through regular updates via community meetings, newsletters, and social media, where I'll share what's happening and explain the reasoning behind key decisions. It's vital that voters feel informed and engaged, so they can hold me accountable and be active participants in shaping our community's future.



Jefferson County Commission

CARA KEYS

Name: Cara Keys

Party Affiliation: Republican

Office Sought: Jefferson County Commission Shepherdstown District

City of Residence: Shepherdstown

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

I think the answer to this one is three-fold. Having talked to many people throughout the county it is clear that the primary concerns facing our county government are land use/development, Emergency service gaps and shortfalls, and a general loss of civility and transparency in the way our government operates. That being said, there are clear steps that can be taken to bring these problems back under control.

Land use and development- The main concern here is the rural zoning which allows nearly unrestricted development of Solar farms over land that was previously agricultural within growth boundaries and the ability to have zoning appeal in non-growth boundar-



ies. This land is a finite resource and the people of Jefferson have made it clear that there is no desire for any more of these industrial scale solar farms to be permitted. I have a few ideas for how we can address this, one being an overhaul of our Rural zoning ordinances to remove solar as an allowed use, and possibly make Solar farms be their own separate zoning, closing the door on farms being turned into industrial scale solar. Actions I have already taken on the planning commission is making a clear direction in our 2045 comprehensive plan that at minimum additional buffers, impervious area (topsoil), vegetative buffers, and agrivoltaics be modified and updated in our zoning ordinance following the adoption of our plan.

Emergency service gaps and shortfalls- Our county has seen rapid population growth, but our EMS and Police services have struggled to keep up from both a personnel and budget standpoint. While they cannot be allocated towards salaries, we can leverage the massive demand for homes in this county with increased impact fees that would greatly assist police and EMS budgets with equip-

ment and other property desperately needed in their budgets. I met with Chief Morgan of Shepherdstown, and he shared a lot of his opinions and explained many of their funding comes from various fundraising efforts showing a financial risk and strain on our first responders.

Civility and transparency- The past couple of years our county government has struggled to collaborate effectively to tackle many of the issues I have mentioned. Having spoken with many of the candidates for commission, I am confident that regardless of who is elected, we will work together and tackle these important issues. As far as transparency, time and time again I hear from county residents that they feel like the Commission is not being clear and transparent in their decision-making process. If I am elected, I will make it a priority to ensure people in the community impacted by Commission decisions have a clear understanding of what is being discussed so they have an opportunity to bring forward their concerns and comments, which will then merit consideration and discussion among the commissioners.

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

This is a great question, I believe that both the Republican and Democratic party platforms really are geared towards State and Federal issues, with very little being directly applicable to the types of things that fall under the county Commission's control. For civility and open dialog to really come back to the commission,

I think hot button DC issues must be put aside so we can focus on the very immediate and ultimately nonpartisan needs of the county. However, as a fiscal conservative I do believe that any plans we put forward in the commission should not be funded by additional taxes/levies on current county residents. They should instead be supported by increased impact fees on new developments, as well as meaningful effort put into enticing the kinds of business that will build a solid tax base and be a good complement to our local economy.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

For many years I have been deeply involved in our Jefferson Community through local nonprofits, my church, the Jefferson Chamber of commerce as a business owner, and groups of wonderful volunteers. I think this connection to the community has given me excellent insight into the needs of the county, as well as great relationships with community and municipal leaders. One of the cornerstones of my platform in running for the Commission, is I want to build closer ties between Jefferson municipalities and our county government. There are so many missed opportunities for collaboration and input when town Councils are not fully consulted on Commission decisions which directly impact their communities. I would encourage town halls, forums, and participation in local meetings for increased communication.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN FOR WV
STATE SENATE 15TH

TOM WILLIS

WV SENATE
District 15

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Berkeley Commission

JOHN HARDY

Name: John Hardy
Party Affiliation: Republican
Office Sought: Berkeley County Commission

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The greatest challenge facing Berkeley County is the rapid growth of population and new housing. This is causing upward pressure on all infrastructure throughout our county. Water, sewer, schools and especially roads have been adversely affected. The time of being reactive to our roads is over, we need major growth of and expansion of our road system. New Roads, bypasses, turn lanes and expansion of existing roads. We will also have to find fiscally responsible ways to fund expansion of Fire, Police and Ems services. I am a proven fiscal conservative with a proven record of work to improve Berkeley County. If elected I will use my experience as a legislator, and



relationships made over the past 6 years to serve Berkeley County

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

I have been a life-long Republican! Working on promoting free market capitalism, economic development, right size government and fiscally responsible spending. Protecting the working class taxpayers and rooting out waste, fraud and abuse from government has always been one of my priorities.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Have an open and transparent government is important to building trust with taxpayers. All County Commission meetings are open to the public and streamed live. As an elected official I have always been available and responsible those I represent.

NOTE: No information was received from Republican Candidate HD Boyd

Name: Dirk A. Stansbury, P.E.
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Office Sought: Berkeley County

Commission

City of Residence: Martinsburg

What do you see as your greatest challenge when elected?

The Challenge: To get the various entities or groups (private sector, County, State, Federal, and the public) communicating to find the best solutions to our chronic and coming challenges. The classic "herding cats" scenario, right. But with working to find a mutual benefits answer versus an adversarial stance. This may move the ball, it may not be a touchdown, but I'll take the 3 points. An example of missed opportunity was when a developer offered to acquire land for the Department of Highways and help to fix a bad intersection; DOH was reluctant to take that the opportunity. This reluctance comes from Charleston. I get it: yes, the budget, yes, the other 54 counties, yes, yes. But can we not sit down as a collective and see what we can achieve together instead of overusing the NO word?

A shout out to the good working men and women of the DOH, out at 2 AM pushing snow or cutting fallen trees keeping our County Roads open to Take Me Home-



DIRK STANSBURY

Thanks!

How important is it to you to lead via your party platform?

My Platform is Berkeley County and our neighboring counties along Routes 9 and I-81; north, east, south, & west; that is very important. What is good for Berkeley and the Panhandle is good for the State! Democracy is always local and about its people never a party.

How will you communicate to voters regarding what is happening with your role/office and do you believe that communication is important?

Information and transparency are paramount in all interactions, from one's marriage to the Halls of Congress. I will make myself available for any concerned citizen groups beyond the regular scheduled meeting of the Commission and the other board gatherings. I will maintain office hours at the County for anyone with a concern or a good idea needing exposed. I will welcome the media's search for information.

Keep in mind I will only be 1/5 of the Commission and my answers will be tempered by the group's decisions (that's democracy). My comments and opinion will be part of the discourse among the Commissioners getting that at that "mutual benefits" I've stated above.

PATRICIA RUCKER FOR STATE SENATE

My Special Interest Is You!

Dear Friend - Together we have accomplished a lot.

- ★ Lead Proponent of School Choice in WV
- ★ Local Control of our Public Schools
- ★ Locality Pay
- ★ Tax, Judicial and Regulatory Reform
- ★ Foster Care Reform
- ★ Improved Economic Climate for Small Business

And so much more...

But there is more yet to do...

We are just getting started!

Up Next...

Clean up State Government

- ★ Continue to streamline and reform agencies
- ★ Make the Division of Highways more responsive
- ★ Protect our Children and Support our Families

I am proud of my voting record. I have sponsored legislation to:

- ◆ Protect the Rights of Farmers
- ◆ Strengthen Property Rights
- ◆ Promote Local Tourism

I AM ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE

Paid for by Rucker For WV, Mike Holz, Treasurer



WV Legislative Photography, Photo by Will Price

PROTECT DEMOCRACY VOTE DEMOCRAT

Harris / Walz

Glenn Elliott, US Senate

Steven Wendelin, US Congress

Steve Williams, Governor

Thorton Cooper, Secretary of State

Teresa Toriseva, Attorney General

Mary Ann Claytor, Auditor

Deborah Stiles, Commissioner of Agriculture

Anthony Murray, State Senate District 15

John Doyle, State Senate District 16

Debi Carroll, State Delegate District 95

Nikki Lower, State Delegate District 96

Lucia Valentine, State Delegate District 97

Dirk Stansbury, Berkeley County Commissioner

David Jackson, Berkeley County Sheriff

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