General Assembly Candidate Interview Questions

Bio, Professional Experience, Campaign Platform

➢ Please tell us a little about yourself, your professional experience, and your connection to the district you are running for office.

➢ Thinking about your district, if elected/re-elected, what will be your legislative priorities?

Education & Workforce

➢ Thinking about K-12 education, and addressing the attraction and retention of Public-School teachers, what are some things that can be done through the General Assembly to help localities improve teacher retention and attraction?

➢ What are some things that can be done to improve literacy and math proficiency in your district?

➢ How should the Commonwealth of Virginia invest taxpayer dollars to improve our K-12 educational system, with the goal of creating a well-trained, skilled workforce? What are some creative ideas to improve the K-12 system?

➢ What are some additional ways the Commonwealth of Virginia can improve or enhance STEM programming?

➢ Thinking about post-High School educational and training opportunities, what are some ways to address the affordability of college/workforce readiness programs and ensure all young adults - regardless of income, physical ability, and race - have access to education and job training opportunities?

➢ How can we provide additional support to school counselors and teachers to present all possible pathways (college track AND skilled trades)?

➢ Are there other ways that Career Technical Education (CTE), and other technical programs can be supported so we can rebuild the talent pipeline for an aging workforce?

➢ How important is the Virginia Tuition Assistant Grant (TAG) to your district? As private colleges and universities are economic drivers in this region, how will you support the TAG program going forward?

➢ What are some of the most chronic workforce shortages in your district, and what can be done to build talent pathways for these in-demand jobs?

Military and Veterans Affairs

➢ What are some ways the Commonwealth of Virginia can encourage veterans and military families to stay in Virginia and connect them to education, training, or straight to civilian careers?

➢ In your district, what are some ways the state can improve off-base housing and childcare options?

Housing and Child Care

➢ The rising cost and availability of childcare is impacting the available labor force, leaving many families struggling to find affordable childcare or deciding to leave the workforce to stay home with their children. Do you think the state has a role to play in solving this problem? What are some ways the state can help address this issue in your district?

➢ Thinking of affordable housing in your district – meaning the ability for a person to afford to live in reasonable proximity to where they also work. For example, EMS, teachers, police, etc., who struggle to find affordable homes to buy and rent in the localities they serve. What can be done legislatively to make affordability more accessible in all economic conditions?

➢ Thinking about your district, what are some targeted strategies to lessen disparities in homeownership?

Business Climate

➢ What are some ways to streamline the current infrastructure permitting process to support greater efficiency, while maintaining the existing strong uniform standards?

➢ What are some additional ways the Commonwealth of Virginia can support economic development initiatives that improve the availability of pad ready sites, create jobs, and strengthen trade?

➢ How can the General Assembly target tax reform to better position the state for economic growth and investment?

➢ What are some barriers that impede small business growth and entrepreneurship? How can these barriers be removed or minimized?

➢ What are some ways the state can support investments that improve our supply chains and international trade?

➢ What can the General Assembly do to secure the Commonwealth of Virginia as a top competitor to do business with the United States, while attracting international business activity?