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Office Governor
Name Shelby Jean Fitzhugh
Party Republican
County of Residence

No Reply

Office Governor
Name Michael Folk
Party Republican
County of Residence

No Reply

Office Governor
Name Douglas Hughes
Party Democrat
County of Residence

No Reply

Office Governor
Name Jim Justice
Party Republican
County of Residence Greenbrier

Biography

Jim Justice currently serves as the 36th Governor of West Virginia. A native of Raleigh County, he obtained an undergraduate and graduate degree from Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Before being elected Governor, Jim Justice was a job creator serving as the president and CEO of 102 different companies and employing thousands of West Virginians. www.justiceforwv.com

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

Our energy resources produced affordable, dependable energy for our people and stable, high-paying jobs for our state. During my term, West Virginia welcomed job growth from companies like Toyota, Facebook, Pietro Fiorentini, Northrup Grumman, Proctor & Gamble, Pratt and Whitney, Hyperloop One, to name a few. I work every day to attract a diversity of jobs to West Virginia.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

West Virginia's energy policy must balance environmental protection with economic growth in order to encourage innovation, discovery, and prosperity. As Governor, I have shown a commitment to ensuring that we are good stewards of our environment while supporting prosperity and growth for West Virginians.

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

As your governor, I work every day to attract more people, more jobs, and more opportunities to West Virginia. West Virginia is growing as we've never seen before, things are beginning to turn around, this is just the beginning, and I recognize we have more work to do. I am committed to getting the job done.

Office Governor

Name Brooke Lunsford
Party Republican
County of Residence Cabell

Biography

Brooke Lunsford was born in Huntington, Wv in Cabell County. In 1989 Lunsford graduated from WVIT at Montgomery, Wv with a B.S. in Accounting. Foster care got Lunsford in to the race. With two decades of experience in insurance and broadband construction, Lunsford brings unique insight to the issues we face today. Lunsford4Governor.com

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

The quickest way to boost our economy is tourism. We have water on the left border of our stand and mountains on the right border, with nice rivers running through the middle, and very little development. I have a company willing to help me start "Dollywood North." We use cabins on private property or state parks, we use that tourism

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

Weakening EPA regulations for air and water quality would not be my intention, but there must be a give and take in this situation. Even a spring water bottling company filters it's water, before it is sold. I was amazed to find that out, I thought that was the point of spring water, for the vitamins and minerals. We all

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

To stop population loss, we have to go someplace worse and say look at us! To me, that's the traffic in Atlanta. It's the cost of living in Washington, D.C.. It's the violence in Chicago. Some states are even paying people to move to their states. We can do that. I propose cabins for a second home, for cabins to

Office Governor
Name Jody Murphy
Party Democrat
County of Residence Wood

Biography

Jody Murphy is a former Pleasants County economic development and chamber executive, and a long-time Parkersburg and Beckley newspaper reporter. A Fayette County native, Murphy resides in Parkersburg with his wife, 3 sons and five cats (that's 4 cats too many). He is a Democratic candidate for governor. To learn more visit Murphy4WV.com or his Murphy4WV Facebook page.

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

Give away land for manufacturing growth. Provide better infrastructure (roads, water, electric, sewer, internet) to our cities, towns and county industrial parks to promote and develop entrepreneurship. Work with existing in-state businesses on their growth and development. 85% of growth is not from new business, but existing, in-state business expansion.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

NO. I live at the epicenter of C8 and the "Mid-Ohio Valley Crud" an annual sinus infection due to poor air quality. The EPA should Not be business friendly. But we need balance to grow and diversify our economy. Our businesses must be good neighbors, that includes paying its fair share in taxes and taking care of their surrounding environment.

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

Hand-in-Hand with local governments. The state can and will lead, but areas of the state that want to grow, MUST get on board and pitch in and that means change. State government will lead and provide a hand up to help, but not a hand out. The state can't carry the burden alone. This must be a joint effort.

Office Governor
Name Ben Salango
Party Democrat
County of Residence

Biography

Ben Salango currently serves on the Kanawha County Commission and has a record of getting things done. He's an attorney who has spent his career fighting for the little guy. As Kanawha County commissioner, Ben implemented 12 weeks of paid family leave, built the Shawnee Sports Complex which is bringing in millions of dollars to the Kanawha Valley, and created

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

I started a program in Kanawha County that turns the unemployed into entrepreneurs with small business loans, I want to do the same all over West Virginia. I will strengthen our workforce by expanding vocational and technical skills training for in-demand fields. I will also expand access to broadband to help new businesses thrive.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

We don't have to choose between jobs and safe water and clean air. I want all West Virginians to have clean drinking water and preserve our pristine wilderness for tourism. I believe that we must strike a balance between economic development and protecting our way of life.

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

We must create opportunities for our young people to stay here and build careers. I will do that through improving vocational and technical training and expanding access to broadband. I support student loan forgiveness initiatives and a first-time homebuyer tax credit to incentivize people to stay.

Office Governor
Name Charles R Sheedy Sr.
Party Republican
County of Residence

No Reply

Office Governor
Name Doug Six
Party Republican
County of Residence

No Reply

Office Governor
Name Stephen Smith
Party Democrat
County of Residence Kanawha

Biography

Stephen Smith is with WV Can't Wait, an effort that's recruited 92 candidates who pledge never to hide from a debate or take corporate cash. He is the only candidate for governor with a union staff, the only one who's held 188+ Town Halls, and the only one with a detailed platform and how to pay for it (wvcantwait.com).

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

With the creation of a Public Bank of West Virginia, and by shifting out-of-state corporate tax breaks to local farmers and entrepreneurs, our state can become the best place in America for small business. And when we raise the severance tax on fossil fuels, we can afford to make our state a clean energy leader for generations to come.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

We oppose the weakening of EPA regulations. Our plan calls for stronger regulations, an increase in fines and fees for polluters, and the creation of a Corporate Crime and Political Corruption division in the state police. My 8 year-old cleans up after himself; so should out-of-state corporations. You can find details on all these plans at <https://wvcantwait.com/platform-plans/>.

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

West Virginia can be the best place to live, work, and raise a family - but only if we stop letting ourselves get robbed. Our plans for a New Homestead Act, loan forgiveness, a New Deal-style Mountaineer Job Corps, and Broadband for All provide a realistic, detailed, and pragmatic way toward keeping our wealth, and our people, here.

Office Governor

Name Ron Stollings MD

Party Democrat

County of Residence Boone

Biography

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

Repair and expand our economy after the pandemic by bringing manufacturing jobs back to the US. Use post-mine land sites and other areas that can be repurposed. Invest in broadband and improve our secondary roads, work with businesses and union shops to provide a pathway for graduates and those recovering from substance use. Rare Earth Elements can transform our economy.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

I would oppose weakening air and water standards. WV is blessed with many rivers and we have learned that we must protect them. Many people are using our rivers for recreation, tourism and physical fitness. I see many people now kayaking and fishing. We all remember the water crisis four years ago. We don't want to see that happen again.

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

We need to develop a curriculum for middle school students geared toward career prep in non-college bound students. Support entrepreneurialism and small business and university-based research that can result in manufacturing industries. Tweak our tax laws to attract retirees with good income. We have a unique location and great outdoor activities, but we must enhance broadband!

Office Governor

Name H. Wood "Woody" Thrasher

Party Republican

County of Residence Harrison

Biography

I'm a lifelong West Virginian, I hate seeing my state suffering, and we need leadership to turn things around. We're losing population at an alarming rate, and our roads need fixed. We need broadband access and school choice, along with more and better jobs. Most importantly, we need a full-time governor. I'm a conservative who will always protect our values.

1. With the decline in the extraction industries in West Virginia, what do you think should be done to diversify the state's economy?

We need to look at each region's unique strengths and work with what we already have started, along with paying attention to trends. Broadband is a must. When I saw how many IT grads West Virginia exports, I got to work as Commerce Secretary recruiting tech companies.

2. Do you support recent weakening of EPA regulations concerning air and water quality? Why or why not?

We should always eliminate unnecessary regulations and make West Virginia an attractive place to do business. But that must be balanced with conservation efforts to keep West Virginia an attractive place to make a living,

3. What role do you see for state government in reversing West Virginia's population decline?

I've seen firsthand when West Virginians have better opportunities, most of them will stay here to make a living. We need more and better jobs, and state government can absolutely help facilitate that through lower taxes, fewer regulations, incentives for existing small businesses, continuing workforce development and support for creative economic opportunities.