



# PATH TO PROSPERITY 2020

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Despite steps in the right direction, Mountaineers still live in a two-tiered society between the “haves” and “have nots.” West Virginians still face significant internal and external barriers to opportunity that limit them and their families from reaching their potential. For every barrier there is a special interest that benefits, and they fight to keep these barriers in place at the expense of West Virginians and their future. Mountaineers deserve better.

We know what works. Free market economic policies have lifted billions of people around the world out of poverty—one of the greatest humanitarian achievements in history. Using these proven resources, we have a plan to quickly improve our state through this Path to Prosperity. Free people are capable of extraordinary things.

**RED TAPE REDUCTION & REGULATORY REFORM | TAX, BUDGET & SPENDING REFORM**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM | OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM**  
**EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM EXPANSION | WORKPLACE FREEDOM REFORM**

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## **RED TAPE REDUCTION & REGULATORY REFORM**

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- Create a Legislative Office of Fiscal and Regulatory Affairs that will be statutorily charged with conducting economic analysis of all rules and regulations promulgated by agencies prior to legislative review, among other duties.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of all government occupational licenses and related regulations through the lens of least restrictive means/best practices.
- Remove regulatory barriers to expanding telemedicine by allowing licensed physicians from other states to serve WV patients and eliminating prohibitions on individuals receiving telemedicine services anywhere they so choose.
- Help enhance free speech by protecting non-profit donor disclosure with the Protect Our Right to Unite Act.
- Create an Intermediate Court of Appeals in order to ensure that West Virginians have a more complete justice system that is predictable, fair, and conclusive.
- Conduct a study of all state regulatory “requiring” language.
- Eliminate all Certificate of Need policies.
- Continued tort reforms, including enacting anti-strategic lawsuits against public participation (or anti-SLAPP) laws, which act as “tort reform for free speech,” protecting people from frivolous suits that chill speech.

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## **TAX, BUDGET AND SPENDING REFORM**

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- Continue to make government live within its means (No tax hikes, no spending increases beyond population plus inflation, no budget gimmicks).
- Enact a performance-based budgeting requirement, helping to focus state government and modernize West Virginia’s budgeting process.
- Get government out of the business of picking economic winners and losers by eliminating crony corporate welfare schemes like greyhound racing subsidies and keeping film tax credits off the books.
- Comprehensively eliminate carve outs and loopholes that benefit politically connected special interests in order to significantly lower tax rates for everyone.
- Enact bold, comprehensive tax reform that will make West Virginia competitive, from a tax structure perspective, with any state in the nation.
- Adopt a Taxpayer Bill of Rights constitutional amendment.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

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- Enact mandatory reporting for all civil forfeitures.
  - Enact a West Virginia First Step Criminal Justice Reform Act, the framework for which should include, as appropriate:
    - Meaningful bail reforms that allow for pre-trial release on recognizance of some defendants.
    - Driver license restoration/Ending of suspensions for failure to pay fees or fines.
    - Expanded expungement eligibility for those found not guilty or with dropped or no charges after arrest.
    - An end the inability to accrue earned discharge credits for unpaid fines/fees.
    - An increase of the felony-theft threshold.
    - Probation reforms (using a system of graduated sanctions in response to violations of conditions of probation instead of sending someone straight back to prison).
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## OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM

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- Pass the Occupational Licensing Consumer Choice Act, allowing individuals to obtain meaningful employment in certain professions by eliminating the need for unnecessary government licensure if their consumers formally agree to patronize a non-licensed business.
  - Enact statutory sunrise and sunset provisions and institute a statutory requirement of least restrictive means for all occupational regulations.
  - Enact universal recognition legislation that allows working professionals in other states to immediately begin using their skills to grow West Virginia's economy and expand access to more affordable services that West Virginian families rely on.
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## EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM EXPANSION

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- Ensure implementation and expand Guaranteed Public School Open Enrollment.
  - Enact Universal Education Savings Accounts.
  - Eliminate restrictive caps on charter schools.
  - Enact Public University Campus Free Speech Act (FORUM).
  - Eliminate top-heavy bureaucracy so that more money goes to classrooms.
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## WORKPLACE FREEDOM REFORM

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- Protect workers' freedom of speech through enacting Paycheck Protection legislation.

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites West Virginians behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org)