



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**
WEST VIRGINIA

Pathway to Prosperity 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda Update

PART I | ECONOMIC PROGRESS

A) Taxes, Spending and Budget Reform

- Enact Transformational Personal Income Tax Reform by significantly reducing current rates and adopting realistic triggers to phase the income tax out over time
- Continue making government spending live within its means and advance a culture of fiscal stewardship within government
- Institute additional budget transparency reform and alter the budgeting process to further safeguard taxpayers, including added scrutiny for spending units within state government
- Quantify the ROI for all tax credits and other so-called “incentives” and eliminate those which are not operating as expected; return that money to taxpayers

B) Regulations

- Enact the [Universal Recognition of Licensure Act](#)
- Utilize SB 472’s provisions (2021 Regular Session) to conduct a comprehensive review through the lens of least restrictive means for all state occupational licensing, to ensure that following best practices are not placing undue burdens on citizens simply seeking employment
- Continue to utilize the 2016 Regulatory Reform Act to remove additional unnecessary red tape holding back West Virginians from thriving economically

C) Technology and Innovation

- Enact [all-inclusive regulatory sandbox](#) legislation
- Modernize our Autonomous Vehicles regulation (See HB 2813 from Arizona’s 2021 Regular Session)

D) Energy

- Ensure state lawmakers must approve any greenhouse gas emission standards from the federal Environmental Protection Agency
- Adopt a state-level preemption of local bans on natural gas infrastructure in new construction

E) Entitlements

- Adopt comprehensive unemployment reform
- Lawmakers should prioritize identifying the policy changes necessary to thoughtfully and comprehensively reform state entitlement programs

PART II | HEALTH CARE

- Continue to educate lawmakers about the staggering detriment created by the state's archaic Certificate of Need laws and how they hold us back from creating more quality, affordable health care in West Virginia
- Remove scope of practice barriers for Certified Nurse Anesthetists
- Enact drug importation and include language for imports from additional countries if FDA allows

PART III | FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION

- Ensure that the Hope Scholarship program is implemented optimally and that the program retains its long-term viability
- Adopt No More Lines legislation so that students may attend any public school in West Virginia regardless of their so-called "attendance zone"
- Begin a comprehensive effort to deregulate public schools, untying the hands of educators to ensure each child has an individualized education that best suits their unique needs

PART IV | FREE SPEECH

- Adopt [New Voices](#) legislation
- Enact an Anti-SLAPP law (Anti-Strategic lawsuits against public participation)

PART V | CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Identify a plan to create justice system data transparency, including modernizing and digitizing of court records
- Further reform the state's expungement laws by making [non-conviction records](#) automatically expunged
- [Restore voting rights](#) for the formerly incarcerated who are on parole or community supervision
- Enact legislation resulting in West Virginia setting the gold standard for reentry practices in the U.S. ([Page 6](#))
- Ensuring that the mandatory reporting system for all civil asset forfeitures is working as intended, and if not take corrective action legislatively
- Adequately fund the following priorities: public defenders, transitional housing, and mental health/addiction treatment
- Institute a Default Mens Reas standard
- Increase the felony theft threshold
- Remove the mandatory jail time for third offense shoplifting
- Make fines proportionate to one's ability to pay, create or expand payment plans, waivers, and alternatives to payment such as programming, treatment, and community service
- Legalize recreational marijuana