

An Unabashed Plea For Support of Six Ideas For a Better West Virginia

Many of you have already renewed your WV-CAG membership, and some have even sent us a generous “bonus” for our legislative work. **We thank you all so much!**

The session is an intense time for us and its expense, including the weekly publication of *Capital Eye*, is rapidly draining our meager coffers. Scan through our “6 Ideas for a Better West Virginia” and seriously consider contributing something extra to our efforts. We’ve based the suggested amounts on a daily support during the 60-day session. By choosing to support a particular “better idea” you let us know which issues are the most important to you. This request comes directly from the WV-CAG Board of Directors telling Norm “WE NEED MORE MONEY!”

1. Having trouble getting auto, renters or home insurance? Insurance cancelled through no fault of your own? Are your rates skyrocketing faster than the Bush budget deficit? Wonder who is watching out for you, the consumer? Well, it certainly isn't state government! **Solution: Create an office of consumer advocate within the industry-dominated WV Insurance Commission.** This Advocate office would challenge rate increases, expose excess profits and stop unfair cancellation practices. The Office would represent you, the consumer, and hold insurance companies to fair and ethical practices.

2. Sick of all the money in politics? Turned off because it seems that only the wealthy or those that have sold their souls to special interests can afford to run for office? Hate the way powerful interests can almost literally pay to have favorable (to them) laws passed at your expense? **Solution: Pass the Public Campaign Financing Act.** Similar laws have been passed in six other states. This bill would allow anyone who agrees not to accept private campaign donations (other than 100, \$5 qualifying donations) to receive enough public funding to run his or her campaign. The concept has worked in other states and has increased voter turnout and greatly reduced the number of uncontested races.

3. Think 900% (APR) interest is a little too much to charge down and out folks for a short-term loan? Think legalized loan sharking isn't be the best way to help the working poor? **Solution: Make “payday lending” illegal in West Virginia.** We need to close the loopholes that currently allow out-of-state banks to circumvent our interest laws. We need to outlaw predatory lending once and for all.

(over)

4. Want to reduce abortions and the birth of unwanted children at the same time? Think it is unfair that prescription drug plans pay for Viagra but not women's contraceptives? Think it's unfair to discriminate against childbearing age women?
Solution: Pass the WV Prescription Fairness Act. This law would require health care plans to pay for prescription contraceptives.

5. Wondering who will own West Virginia's water fifty years from now? Think maybe we, the citizens of the state, should? Think it might be a good idea to figure out just how much available water we have? Want to prevent international companies from piping our water to anywhere they damn well choose? Think we owe it to our grandkids to lay claim to this increasingly valuable resource?
Solution: Pass the WV Water Quantity Preservation Act. Don't let King Coal morph into King Water.

6. Want to decrease roadside litter by up to 60%? Want to increase recycling rates from 20% to 80% on single use containers? Want to raise a cool \$25 million by "taxing" slobs and litterbugs? Want to see less mining, air pollution from plastic plants, save water and conserve energy? **Solution: Pass the WV Beverage Container Deposit Law.** If you want to see how it works come to the Capitol on E-Day, Tuesday, February 17th and WV-CAG will give you a dime for each single use beverage container (water, beer, soda, etc.) you bring. To those of you who were around to watch the original Leave it to Beaver shows - you already know how it works!

Please check off your favorite issue and donate at whatever level you can!

Issue	\$30 50 cents/day	\$60 \$1/day	\$120 \$2/day	\$240 \$4/day	Other \$_____
Insurance Advocate					
Public Campaign Financing					
Payday Lending					
Prescription Fairness					
Water Quantity Preservation					
Bottle Bill					
All of the Above!					

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please clip and return to: WV-CAG, 1500 Dixie Street, Charleston, WV 25311 **Thank You!**