



APPALACHIAN ORACLE

SPECIAL EDITION



CANDIDATE, PROGRESSIVE

All the News That's FIT TO HOLLER

CAIRO, WV

WHY I'M RUNNING

By Lissa Lucas

From both sides of the aisle, politicians are representing their own interests. Data shows that the rich and powerful have nearly complete influence over public policy, while average people have virtually zero impact. Has this country become an oligarchy? There is some debate.

However you would characterize it, it's clear there are some serious problems, and that those problems have to do with the fact that money buys power.

Well, I'm just fed up with that. In fact, I'm so mad I'm running for office.

If elected, I'll represent taxpaying WEST VIRGINIANS, not just special interests. I want to make sure our government is putting THE PEOPLE first.

Here's what I'm focused on:

❶ PRIORITIES: Because we want good jobs, good roads, good I-net, good schools.

❷ COMMON SENSE: Because we can't keep paying for more than we get.

❸ PROPERTY RIGHTS: Because we want good neighbors, not corporate invaders.

❹ MONEY OUT OF POLITICS: Because working hard shouldn't make you second class.

I'll represent YOU—and not just when your needs happen to coincide with the needs of these special interest groups. Essentially, that's why I've decided to run: They're not hearing us. We want jobs—AND we also want clean water and air. We want our property

We'll have a choice to have our voices heard this time, to *"Holler from the Hollers!"* Let's do our best to make sure all the money on the other side doesn't drown us out.



COMMON SENSE

AND WV'S PRIORITY PROBLEM

No one campaigned on robbing the poor to pay the rich. But this year in budget negotiations, Senate Republicans and the Democratic Governor were pressing HARD to eliminate the income tax, a move that would force working people to hand over their hard-earned dollars to give big breaks to millionaires.

Luckily, no one in the House—Republican or Democrat—was having it.

We ended up with something no one is happy with, but at least it doesn't tax the poor to pay the rich. It is a budget balanced on the backs of young people, though. Not only that: it also kicks the can down the road. Our budget problem will be even worse next year.

That's the short version of the expensive special session we taxpayers just had to pay for.

The bottom line: we have a serious PRIORITY PROBLEM here in WV.

Our priorities are among the four things we need to focus on to achieve good government. And it's not just budgetary priorities, either. As

There's legislation we can go on without, like raw milk shares. And there are things we should fight to protect, like property rights. But common sense tells us we can't go on without a budget.

So why don't we prioritize with that in mind?

What makes this WV priority problem worse is that the money we spend on the special sessions could also be far better used for other things. In total, the special session in 2016 lasted 17 days. At about \$35K per day, the total we spent then was more than a half million dollars. And in 2017, the special session was 20 days, which is likely to cost nearly three quarters of a million dollars.

And even beyond the accounting cost of the legislative session, there is economic opportunity cost, too. Our legislative time could have been spent better.

Think of all the other things we could have spent time on that would have been worthwhile... and possibly unanimous.

WE COULD remove the loophole that allows rapists to sue for child custody in WV.

WE COULD require Family Law judges to have experience in family law.

WE COULD fight animal abuse and pass Marley's Law.

WE COULD require extraction companies to compensate people for damage to property values, and businesses and communities for negative impacts on tourism.

WE COULD eliminate self-bonding.

WE COULD make it illegal for companies to use bankruptcy to defraud workers of their pension benefits, and then pay execs million-dollar bonuses for "saving" that money.

WE COULD require companies to pay royalty owners what they're owed.

And on and on.

Our government needs to prioritize its time focusing on legislation that would help our citizens *and* provide the most return to our citizens, so we can we get out of this budget hole, and fix things in the long term. That is common sense.

We can't keep making deals with the devil. We can't sell our souls for short-term gain. We need to invest in projects like good roads, good schools, and good internet. Infrastructure investment is attractive to all businesses. THAT MEANS JOBS!

Sean O'Leary, Senior Policy Analyst for the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, explains:

"Maintaining our roads and bridges supports businesses and provides immediate job opportunities for West Virginians, while creating lasting benefits that will make the state's future economy stronger."

When we don't use common sense and prioritize the right things in both short and

"Our communities and our people must matter more than corporate profit."

rights protected, AND we want a better future for our kids.

And you know what? Those things are not mutually exclusive; we don't have to choose between them.

So let's *Holler from the Hollers* about it!

I won't be taking money from SuperPACs and other corporate interests. I don't care if I offend the people who are working for those interests by telling them, "No, I'm not abandoning my neighbors just so you can line your pockets." And I don't care if I offend party elites by saying, "No, I'm not putting this party over the interests of the people."

Let's get beyond the partisanship, and focus on our SHARED VISION for West Virginia; let's focus on issues that will actually help people.

West Virginians, we should be concerned when the priorities of our legislators are so skewed that we're forced to pay for a special session because legislators were so busy in the regular session considering forced pooling or raw milk that they just didn't get around to doing the budget.

This is just not sensible time management. And the blame falls squarely on the shoulders of legislative leadership. They set the agenda. They decide whether we'll be debating revenue bills and the budget... or whether they want to instead try to pass CANCER CREEK, with ZERO promise of any benefit for citizens. They decide whether to spend time on the "Right to Trespass" bill, co-sponsored by Delegate Harshbarger, a direct attack on our property rights—or to spend time on things that will improve our lives and preserve our constitutional rights.

long term, our state budget—and our people—will continue to suffer.



THE NEW HIGH LAND CLEARANCES: THE ASSAULT ON WV PROPERTY VALUES

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson knows how important property values are. He was so concerned with the inevitable property value loss that would result from a fracking project impacting his Texas home, that he SUED to avert it.

He fracked near other people's property... but Not HIS backyard, by gum!

Look. It's not news that a house is far more valuable with a view of a mountain or holler than it is with a view of a factory or crater. It's more valuable with a creek of fresh water and fish than it is filled with coal ash and oil. A barbecue is more enjoyable with the birds chirping and the scent of honeysuckle than it is with engine noise, compressor stations, diesel fumes, and methane. Even for just a night or two, you're going to pay more for an ocean view room than you will for the exact same room facing the street.



Holler from the Hollers
LISSA LUCAS

WV House of Delegates

2018

Paid for by Team Lissa

So why do our WV legislators seem to work so hard so corporations can forcibly devalue rural WV? I wish I had a better answer than "money." There are good folks from both parties fighting to protect property rights... and then there are those who've been PURCHASED.

Truth is, West Virginians are an inconvenient infestation in the hills and hollers as far as Resource Barons are concerned.... so, since our politicians work primarily for them, these New Clearances are being enshrined in law.

THE THREE PART ASSAULT ON WV PROPERTY VALUES:

The war fought by the wealthy against the poor in 2017 takes the form of FORCED POOLING, the CANCER CREEK bill, the RIGHT-TO-TRESPASS Bill and the MORE SPILLS BILL among others here in WV.

Resource Barons destroy our property values in three ways:

- ❶ THE FORCED LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE by loss of property rights and eminent domain for private gain (right-to-trespass and pipelines).
- ❷ THE FORCED LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE by legalized theft (forced pooling).
- ❸ THE FORCED LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE by industrial encroachment (removing protections from nuisance noise, lights, sights—this was done by WVDEP rule).

Property rights and property values are important. Without them...

When the Highland Clearances occurred in rural Scotland, in the space of about 50 years, the population simply disappeared from the highlands. Scotland's rural areas were suddenly among the most sparsely populated areas of Europe. Essentially, the moneyed class in Scotland determined that they could make

WV was settled by Scots... and if you're of Scottish descent, well it's happening to us again, folks. They're coming for us. In fact, they've come already.

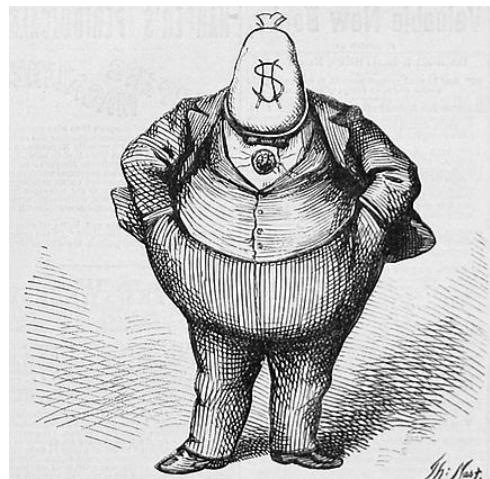
The call is coming from inside the statehouse!

HOW THE ASSAULT ON WV PROPERTY VALUES DESTROYS OUR STATE

For most who live here, our homes and farms may be our only real asset, so the attack on our property values is *deadly serious*. Forced pooling, for example, is an attempt to LEGALLY FORCE you to take their low-ball offer. Forcing you to accept their price pervers the free market and lowers the so-called "fair" market price for every neighbor within 10 country miles. This is how they are LITERALLY STEALING from our

"Both parties have been complicit in selling West Virginia off to the highest corporate bidder."

money grazing sheep because the price of wool was so high. How inconvenient that the land they wanted to profit from was inhabited by families who had lived there for generations! Luckily for the greedy, the English system of law they wanted to operate under was quite different than the Scottish system of law that gave those people the right to live there.



So, the people were brutally driven away—and worse. Those who didn't have the money to move were unceremoniously evicted, with their homes burned or knocked over and their property utterly destroyed. John Gordon of Cluny, for instance, called his tenants to mandatory meetings to "discuss fair rents," but then simply clapped them in irons and tossed them all—men, women, and children—onto boats headed to North America, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. They were sold into indentured servitude. Some were simply killed.

These were "improvements" to the land.

"Perfect!" thought the aggressors, wiping their blood-stained clubs off in the furrowed fields. "Now this'll be a great place for sheep!"

communities: the loss of property values is a huge part of the Extraction Debt they owe us.

EXTRACTION DEBT is a financial bomb. Our communities are forcibly stripped of property values, and those values are destroyed for future generations. But it's not just money. We even pay in YEARS FROM OUR LIVES. You can look at the maps of health impacts from fracking and mining operations—maps showing how mining and fracking communities have reduced life expectancies—and see the smoking craters where those financial bombs are going off.

These companies are perfectly able to offer a price to buyers that would make it worthwhile for them to sell. That's *genuine* market price, when buyer and seller both have the power to say no. But these wealthy CEOs don't want the property owners to have the right to decline. It's reasonable to say "Gee, I'm going to say no, because \$2500 just isn't worth it to me, given that I'd potentially lose \$25K in property values."

These assaults on our constitutional rights shift any profit we might make, any value we might leave to our kids, into the hands of corporations.

IT IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE. It's just us fighting for our lives, our futures, and the futures of our children.

Republican or Democrat, all of us want our constitutional property rights to be protected.



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