Over 500 Already Registered - Rooms Going Fast!

Over 500 people have taken advantage of Early Bird Registration Rates for the West Virginia Chamber's 83rd Annual Meeting and Business Summit, which is still over two months away! This year's meeting will take place Wednesday, August 28 - Friday, August 30 at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. Early Bird Registration is still available for 18 more days and allows you to attend the largest event in West Virginia's business community at a reduced cost. Rooms at The Greenbrier are going fast, so if you have
not yet done so, register today and make your hotel reservation for the business event of the year!

**To reserve your room at The Greenbrier, you must first register for the meeting.** In your confirmation e-mail you will receive a code to provide to The Greenbrier staff when booking your room. To make your hotel reservation after registering for the meeting, please call Jessica Dowdy at 1-855-453-4858, option 2, and ask for the West Virginia Chamber Room Block. Rooms at The Greenbrier sell out during this event, so don’t delay!  **Register now!**

For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Pasdon at apasdon@wvchamber.com. We look forward to seeing you at The Greenbrier!

**Register Now!**

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New survey finds roads, education top issues West Virginians most concerned about

**WV MetroNews** - A recent poll sponsored by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is providing insight on the issues most concerning West Virginians. According to the survey released last week, 37% of respondents say the top issue in the state is improving West Virginia’s roads and highways, followed by improving public education (31%), creating and protecting jobs (26%), stopping the state’s drug abuse problem (26%) and fixing health care in the state (25%). Respondents were allowed to name up to two issues they consider the most important.  **Continue...**

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Senate passes education bill; Gov. Justice plans to sign it

**WV News** - After fighting over the issue for nearly six months, lawmakers have finally passed a bill to legalize charter schools in West Virginia. Senators voted, 18-16, Monday night to approve House Bill 206, which delegates passed last week. The measure would allow charter schools and give teachers another 5 percent pay raise. It also would provide increased funding for school support services, allow for open enrollment and create incentives to fill teaching positions for which there is a shortage of qualified applicants.  **Continue...**
Chamber touts strong economic expansion

The Register~Herald - Citing data from Workforce WV, the West Virginia Chamber said the state's economy is continuing to show strong growth. "The numbers released (recently) are truly jaw-dropping in how good they are for our state's economic outlook," Chamber President Steve Roberts said in the release. "We haven't seen a May jobs report that is this positive since May 2009, a full decade ago." Workforce WV data shows private sector employment in West Virginia increased 13,500 from May 2018 to May 2019.

Carmichael confident charter schools will be authorized

WV MetroNews - Following the Senate's passage of the omnibus education bill, Senate President Mitch Carmichael is confident a county board of education will take the next step to authorize the establishment of West Virginia's first charter school. The West Virginia Senate approved HB 206 18-16, along a party-line vote Monday night. Like previous versions, the bill includes a variety of proposed changes to the education system, including pay raises, charter schools, increased support personnel for schools, open enrollment, incentives to fill in-demand positions and financial support for small or struggling counties. It also includes the phase-in of charter schools in the Mountain State for the first time.

West Virginia and U.S. Chambers file amicus briefs in WV right-to-work lawsuit

WV News - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce weighed into the debate over the legality of West Virginia's right-to-work law this month, arguing in an amicus brief that the law should not be overturned. Elbert Lin, the state's former Solicitor General, filed the brief last week on behalf of the national Chamber of Commerce. "In sum, a right-to-work law can be highly beneficial to state economies, providing the West Virginia Legislature more than a reasonable basis for passing the Act and its ban on compulsory agency fees," the brief reads. "The Circuit Court's holding that the Act is an 'arbitrary' law that lacks any rational basis fails even the slightest scrutiny."

National News

Supreme Court Declines to Set Limits on Political Gerrymandering
Wall Street Journal - Federal judges have no authority to correct partisan gerrymandering, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday in a 5-to-4 decision that allows politicians to keep drawing electoral districts that entrench their power unless state law or Congress prevents them from doing so. The decision by the court's conservative majority overruled lower courts and rejected two constitutional challenges to partisan district mapmaking, one brought by Democrats in North Carolina and another by Republicans in Maryland. Continue...

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Attempt to Add Citizenship Question to 2020 Census

MSN - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that President Donald Trump's administration did not give an adequate explanation for its plan to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, delivering a victory to New York state and others challenging the proposal. The justices partly upheld a federal judge's decision barring the question in a win for a group of states and immigrant rights organizations that challenged the plan. The mixed ruling does not definitively decide whether the question could be added at some point. Continue...

Editorials / Op-Eds

Mark Sadd: West Virginia making progress on ideas for improvement

Charleston Gazette-Mail

Six months after we published 35 ideas that West Virginia should adopt in 2019, and then 35 more, it is time for a status report. Are we making progress? Or are we abject failures in innovation? I am delighted to affirm that No. 5 is about to become a reality, if Gov. Jim Justice signs a piece of paper in the next few days. No. 5 on our list called for the authorization of three public charter schools, one each in Charleston, Clarksburg and Martinsburg. Despite what you might have heard from its opponents, a charter school is not the fulfillment of a diabolical plot against our democratic republic. Rather, a charter school is a public school that is run independently, free to choose its own curriculum, staff, calendar and budget. Continue...

Jeanne Allen: Anti-charter groups should stay out of debate

Charleston Gazette-Mail
Monday night, the West Virginia Legislature passed a bill allowing for the very limited operation of charter schools. It won't be enough in a state struggling to pass most of its students. But just the other week, New York-based union president Randi Weingarten was in Charleston, pounding her chest about how great West Virginia public education was doing and how little support charter schools had in the state. Really Randi? As John Adams said, everyone's entitled to their own opinion, but not to their own facts. The state's education system is rated second to last, and for good reason.  

Continue...

Upcoming West Virginia Chamber Events

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Annual Meeting & Business Summit

August 28-30, 2019

Register Now!

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Women's Leadership Summit

December 4-5, 2019