

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jim Justice for U.S. Senate

RE: What West Virginia Primary Voters Need to Know

DATE: November 9, 2023

In the Republican Primary for U.S. Senate in West Virginia, there is a clear choice and a stark contrast between [Trump-endorsed Governor Jim Justice](#) – a can-do businessman and political outsider with a strong record of cutting taxes, balancing budgets, creating jobs and defending West Virginia values, and Alex Mooney—an all-talk-no-action career politician [who is backed by Trump-hating out of state special interests](#). Mooney puts himself first and doesn't share West Virginia values. Mooney has voted to hurt seniors, service members and veterans, teachers, workers, and coal miners, all while rewarding illegal immigrants.

What Voters Need to Know About Alex Mooney

First, Alex Mooney is a do-nothing career politician who has never had a job outside of politics. Mooney's been running for political offices for over 30 years, including three terms in the Maryland State Senate.ⁱ **Mooney moved to West Virginia in 2013 with the sole purpose of running for Congress.ⁱⁱ He's been called Maryland Mooney, and West Virginia newspapers have called Mooney "absentee Alex" and said he is "completely invisible" and does nothing for his district, unless there is an upcoming election.ⁱⁱⁱ** During his 8 years in Congress, Mooney's never had a bill become law.^{iv} Alex Mooney is out for himself. He doesn't share our West Virginia values.

Second, career politician Alex Mooney has a disturbing history of ripping off taxpayers and rewarding himself. When he was a Maryland state senator, Mooney plead guilty to violating campaign finance laws.^v **Now as a congressman, Mooney is the subject of an ongoing federal ethics investigation for using campaign funds for personal expenses.^{vi} Federal investigators concluded Mooney likely broke the law by accepting a luxury vacation to Aruba and pressuring his Congressional staffers to do personal errands.^{vii}** Alex Mooney lives large and looks out for himself. He doesn't share our West Virginia values.

Third, career politician Alex Mooney is the worst of Washington. **One day after Alex Mooney's district was hit with a once-in-a-generation flood in 2016 that claimed the lives of 23 West Virginians and displaced thousands of others, Mooney left the state for a taxpayer funded \$25,000 trip to the Middle East.^{viii}** Two years later when West Virginia was again hit with a destructive flood, he visited a luxury resort in his home state of Maryland instead of staying and helping West Virginians through the crisis.^{ix} Alex Mooney lived large at our expense and failed West Virginia.

After voters know the details of Mooney's scandals, ethical baggage, and lack of character, they need to know about Alex Mooney's liberal voting record that includes **putting illegal immigrants before West Virginians, turning his back on our troops and veterans and putting West Virginia families at risk with soft on crime policies.**

Additionally, [the Trump-hating Club for Growth has stated they plan to target Governor Justice with \\$13 million in attacks](#) similar to the failed smear campaign they've waged against Trump. **Once the Club for Growth attacks Justice, West Virginia voters need to know what President Trump has said about the Club for Growth [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).**

What Voters Need to Know About Jim Justice

- **Endorsed by President Trump^x, [Governor Jim Justice is a strong ally](#) will be an America First conservative in the U.S. Senate:**
 - Fight reckless spending that created inflation to bring costs down.
 - Secure the border and stopping deadly flow of fentanyl and opioids into West Virginia.
 - Stand up for West Virginia workers and energy jobs.
- **A can-do businessman and political outsider, Governor Jim Justice:**
 - Turned a \$500 million deficit into a surplus.
 - Delivered the largest tax cut in state history while creating jobs and investing in roads and infrastructure.
- **A strong conservative, Governor Jim Justice:**
 - Appointed a rock solid conservative Supreme Court.
 - Signed a law eliminating nearly all abortions in West Virginia.

- Defended West Virginia's Second Amendment freedoms.

Where Voters Get Their Information

Republicans in Charleston-Huntington, Beckley-Bluefield, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling markets need broadcast tv, Fox News, satellite, OTT, conservative talk radio and direct mail.

Republicans in Washington, DC need WDM-Hagerstown news. Republicans in Washington, DC and Pittsburgh markets need heavy conservative cable, OTT, radio, and direct mail.

Elements

Justice footage: <https://youtu.be/6005nr1L210>

Justice public use photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/govjustice/albums>

ⁱ Mooney has been running for elected office since 1992 when George H.W. Bush was president. During that time, he has run for office in three different states. (Charleston Gazette, 5/18/14)

ⁱⁱ "In West Virginia's 2nd District, Republican Alex Mooney is emerging as [a] serious candidate in the race to replace GOP Rep. Shelley Moore Capito. Mooney previously served in the Maryland state Senate and was chairman of the Maryland Republican Party until February when he resigned. With scant congressional opportunities in Maryland, Mooney relocated to West Virginia for the open-seat opportunity." (Nathan L. Gonzales, "For Some Candidates, Home Is Where The Opportunity Is," [Roll Call](#), 11/7/13)

ⁱⁱⁱ West Virginia editorial boards and critics have called Mooney "absentee Alex" as he is "completely invisible" and does nothing for his district, unless there is an upcoming election. (Charleston Gazette-Mail, 10/17/16; The Associated Press, 5/11/16; Charleston Gazette-Mail, 10/26/16; Charleston Gazette-Mail, 10/24/19)

^{iv} During his time in Congress, Mooney has not sponsored a single bill that has become law. ([Congress.gov](#), Accessed 5/31/23)

^v In 2006, Mooney pleaded guilty and was fined nearly \$4,000 for violating Maryland campaign finance laws via an illegal transfer of campaign finance funds. (The Frederick News-Post, 2/1/06; [District Court For Anne Arundel County](#), Filed 1/18/06)

^{vi} Mooney is the subject of an ongoing ethics investigation for using campaign funds for personal expenses, accepting a family trip to Aruba that was all but paid for by a campaign vendor, accepting free lodging in D.C. from a campaign vendor, and pressuring Congressional staffers to do personal errands. While under investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE), Mooney voted to weaken the office. ([The Associated Press](#), 11/15/22; Charleston Gazette-Mail, 1/12/23, [The Associated Press](#), 5/23/22)

^{vii} A 2022 OCE report found that Mooney likely violated federal laws by accepting an impermissible family trip to Aruba from a campaign vendor. Mooney also pressured his taxpayer-funded Congressional staff to plan the trip and tend to his family's personal needs. ([The Washington Post](#), 5/23/22)

^{viii} One day after Mooney's district was hit with once-in-a-generation flooding in 2016 that claimed the lives of 23 West Virginians and displaced thousands of others, he decided to go on a taxpayer-funded \$25,000 trip to the Middle East. (Charleston Gazette-Mail, 6/29/16; [U.S. House Clerk](#), 11/14/16; [The New York Times](#), 6/24/16)

^{ix} In the immediate aftermath of 2018 flooding in West Virginia, Mooney's campaign reported a disbursement for food and beverage at the Gaylord National Resort Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. (Congressional Documents And Publications, 7/2/18; FEC, [Disbursements Database](#), Accessed 7/5/23; [MetroNews](#), 6/4/18)