

From: Breslin John <jfbres@yahoo.com>
To: Tori Beth Blacktoribethblack@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 6/23/2017 2:58:14 PM
Subject: Re: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Thanks, Tori Beth, saved my life, and pass on thanks to the Lt. Gov.

John

From: Tori Beth Black
To: 'Breslin John'
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 1:51 PM
Subject: RE: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Hi John,

I have copied the answers below. Thank you so much!

Tori Beth

What does he see as the biggest two or three priorities facing the SC business community right now?

1. Education for both the workforce and for the development of new small business
2. Tax Reform
3. Reducing complex and burdensome laws and regulations. Both state and federal agencies often have difficulty understanding the laws themselves, let alone answering questions or giving guidance to the small businessman or entrepreneur that has to follow them.

The legislature recently enacted, over the governor's veto, an increase in the state gas tax. Lt. Gov. Bryant opposed that gas tax, while many in the business community supported it. Now that it's become a reality - where do we go from here in terms of making sure we have quality roads, and how can we make sure that, in the long-term, we don't have to go through another road funding battle like the one we just had in the state?

The gas tax won't fix our roads. The problem is that the SCDOT is like a football team with three head coaches and nine quarterbacks--no one can be held accountable when they lose. Instead, South Carolinians also lose. The roads won't get fixed until DOT is a cabinet agency with one figure of accountability to the taxpayer and voter--the governor.

How does being a small business owner effect his approach to his job as Lt. Gov?

Being a small business owner has shown me time and again that burdensome taxes and regulation kill small businesses and eliminate jobs. I want to use my position as a statewide official to advocate for small business and the reforms they need in order to thrive.

What's the biggest difference he's seen between serving as State Sen. and now serving as Lt. Gov.

As senator, I was honored to serve Anderson County but now as Lt. Gov., I suddenly represent the entire state. Clearly, my constituent base has changed and it is an honor to serve the approximate 5 million individuals who call South Carolina home. I recognize this shift, and I will diligently work to give everyone a voice. Similarly, my job in the Senate chamber has also transformed from speaking for my own district, sometimes creating chaos in the process, to now being solely responsible for keeping order and ensuring equal debate and discussion.

What are some ways the Lt. Gov. can impact the state's business climate?

As a small business owner, I understand, first hand, the struggle there is with over regulation and burdensome laws that restrict small businesses and economic growth. It is my personal goal to finally give small businesses the voice they deserve. It is time they have their spot at the table and by providing that support, I know South Carolina's small businesses will not only endure, but thrive.

The state is facing a big hole when it comes to our pension liabilities. The Gov. recently signed a pension bill into law. What does the Lt. Gov think of that law? Will it help? If not, what's the solution?

I was proud to serve as co-chair of the joint legislative committee, until I became Lt. Gov., that crafted the bill. The bill will help, because it addresses the immediate funding need of the system and made improvements to the governance of the pension fund. However, the bill does not completely solve the problem. I am pleased that the joint committee has embarked on phase two of reforming the pension system to modernize the benefits package. I believe that more of a 401k style plan offers the best long-term solution.

One business issue that doesn't get as much attention as others is the lawsuit climate in our state. SC has long had a reputation as a state that is more friendly to plaintiffs' lawyers than to business. Gov. Haley signed some legal reforms into law several years ago, but there are some additional proposals pending that would go further, such as a bill to require more transparency in the asbestos lawsuit system. Where does the Lt. Gov. stand on these issues - and what does he think is the solution for breaking the considerable clout of the plaintiffs' bar in the legislature?

I enthusiastically support continuing tort reform, workers comp reform, and the curtailing of frivolous lawsuits. These actions help all our businesses, especially our small businesses who cannot afford to fight the plaintiff's bar.

From: Breslin John [mailto:jfbres@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Tori Beth Black
Subject: Re: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Tori Beth

That would work, thanks, any time today at his convenience.

John

From: Tori Beth Black <toribethblack@scstatehouse.gov>
To: 'Breslin John' <jfbres@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:28 AM
Subject: RE: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Hi John,

I apologize the LG wasn't able to contact you last night. He is working all day today in the Pharmacy - would it be possible for him to respond to you by email?

Thank you!
Tori Beth

From: Breslin John [mailto:jfbres@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Tori Beth Black <toribethblack@scstatehouse.gov>
Subject: Re: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Tori Beth

Sorry did not get back earlier, but these below are the sort of questions wanted to ask.

Regards

John Breslin
847 769 2819

- What does he see as the biggest two or three priorities facing the SC business community right now?
- The legislature recently enacted, over the governor's veto, an increase in the state gas tax. Lt. Gov. Bryan opposed that gas tax, while many in the business community supported it. Now that it's become a reality - where do we go from here in terms of making sure we have quality roads, and how can we make sure that, in the long-term, we don't have to go through another road funding battle like the one we just had in the state?
- How does being a small business owner effect his approach to his job as Lt. Gov?
- What's the biggest difference he's seen between serving as State Sen. and now serving as Lt. Gov.
- What are some ways the Lt. Gov. can impact the state's business climate?
- The state is facing a big hole when it comes to our pension liabilities. The Gov. recently signed a pension bill into law. What does the Lt. Gov think of that law? Will it help? If not, what's the solution?
- One business issue that doesn't get as much attention as others is the lawsuit climate in our state. SC has long had a reputation as a state that is more friendly to plaintiffs' lawyers than to business. Gov. Haley signed some legal reforms into law several years ago, but there are some additional proposals pending that would go further, such as a bill to require more transparency in the asbestos lawsuit system. Where does the Lt. Gov. stand on these issues - and what does he think is the solution for breaking the considerable clout of the plaintiffs' bar in the legislature?

From: Tori Beth Black <toribethblack@scstatehouse.gov>

To: 'Breslin John' <jfbres@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 2:36 PM

Subject: RE: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Hi John,

Thank you so much for reaching out. Would you mind sending over a list of your questions? I would love to get the Lt. Gov. to call you later today as he will be in the Pharmacy all day tomorrow, but he does have a couple more meetings so it would probably be after 5:00pm.

Thanks!

Tori Beth

From: Breslin John [<mailto:jfbres@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 12:50 PM

To: Tori Beth Black <toribethblack@scstatehouse.gov>

Subject: from john breslin/palmetto business daily

Tori Beth

I am a reporter and do some work for the above publication, palmettobusinessdaily.com

We are hoping to get an interview with Lt. Gov. Bryant to talk about his first few months in office, and his about the business climate, taxes and pensions?

I can send a list of questions but was hoping to get some time with him. I have a hard deadline of 4pm tomorrow. Any help would be much appreciated. I will take up too much time.

My telephone number is 847 769 2819.

Regards

John Breslin