

**WEST VIRGINIA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**2026 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
Embassy Suites, Charleston, West Virginia
January 20-21, 2026**

Final AGENDA

Tuesday, January 20

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	WVEDC Board of Directors Meeting – (<i>Embassy Suites</i>)
12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.	WVEDC Board Luncheon – (<i>Embassy Suites</i>)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Break/Travel to Charleston Convention Center
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting – (<i>Chas. Convention Center</i>)
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Welcome – (<i>Chas. Convention Center</i>)
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Todd Johnston – Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff (<i>Chas. Convention Center</i>)
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Christine Davies – Deputy Secretary of Commerce (<i>Chas. Convention Center</i>)
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Legislative Reception – (<i>Embassy Suites</i>)

Wednesday, January 21 – (*Embassy Suites*)

8:30 – 8:35 a.m.	Welcome Mayor Amy Goodwin (<i>Embassy Suites</i>)
8:35 – 9:00 a.m.	WV Senate and WV House Leadership Perspectives <i>Randy Smith – President, WV Senate</i> <i>Roger Hanshaw – Speaker, WV House of Delegates</i>
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Local Economic Development Funding Panel <i>Moderator – Valerie Piko, RED</i> <i>Veronica Lewis, Jackson Co. EDA</i> <i>Ruthana Beezley, Greenbrier Valley EDC</i> <i>Eric Peters, Tyler Co. Development Authority</i>
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Economic Development Committee Chairs <i>Moderator – James Bailey, Spilman Thomas & Battle</i> <i>Senator Glenn Jefferies – WV Senate</i> <i>Delegate Gary Howell – WV House of Delegates</i>
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Break



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- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **The Data Economy in West Virginia**
Chris Morris, Dir. Data Economy Office
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Broadband Deployment Progress Update**
Kelly Workman – Director Office of Broadband
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. **Bridging the Gap Between Childcare and Community & Economic Development**
Terrell Ellis, President & CEO, Advantage Valley
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **WVEDC Conference Luncheon**
Honorary Life Membership Presentations
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Member EDO Project Spotlight**
Amazon “Last Mile” Delivery Warehouse Projects
Moderator – Heather Vanater, Appalachian Power
Lindsey Piersol, Wood Co. Development Authority
Jina Belcher, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. **Success Story: The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System**
Jeffrey Lusk, Executive Director
Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreation Authority
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **WV Department of Commerce Update**
Dr. Matthew Herridge – Secretary of Commerce
- 3:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

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