

"The real estate market in Hampshire county has been a strong market, for buyers coming from Northern Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and even farther away, and is exceptionally busy, given the COVID-19 crisis.

The question I often get, when buyers are looking in our area, is about our school system and the employment opportunities. Unfortunately, the statistics are not positive for either. However, the majority of our clients are looking for second homes, weekend retreats, or just land to hunt, fish, hike and enjoy our beautiful county. Most properties are unrestricted, which is even more valuable, to out-of-state buyers. Our gun laws have become a paramount issue for many, who are coming here even more than ever.

As a former board member for the Hampshire County Chamber of Commerce, we struggled with getting new businesses to come into our area, leading to even less opportunities and revenue to help support stronger educational opportunities, better schools, and stronger work force, with diverse educational backgrounds.

We have an opportunity, with the new Bond Levy, on the ballot, for which I've already voted, in hopes to better improve our county in many ways. We need controlled growth, we need improved and new schools. We need employment opportunities, to give our students something to look forward to. This, in conjunction with protecting our valuable farming communities, could vastly change the future for many of our citizens, while still attracting strong buyers from outside of Hampshire county, who love owning and enjoying this wonderful part of WV."

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