

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Andrew Dixon

Running For: PA House

District: 29

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Charitable nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, religious institutions, hospitals, museums, libraries, child care centers, and many more. What has been your personal experience with nonprofits (ex: as a board member, employee, volunteer, or donor)? How do these experiences shape your policy positions?

I have been involved with various nonprofits since I was a teenager, as a donor as well as a volunteer. It is my strong belief that charitable nonprofits are an integral part of our communities, and that our society cannot function successfully without them. They are essential to the social fabric of our society, important examples of the personal fulfillment that comes with doing the right thing, not for profit but because it is the right thing to do for others.

What is your position on the following tax issues that affect charitable nonprofits:

Do you support preserving state and local sales and real-estate tax exemptions for charitable nonprofits?

Yes, I support preserving the tax exemptions.

Do you believe that nonprofits should be required to provide Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) or Services in Lieu of Taxes (SILOTS)?

No, I do not think they should be required to do so - if they were required, they would be taxes. However, as with any individual or organization that is solicited for what amounts to a charitable donation, I think not-for-profits are certainly aware of the not-for-profit mission of the government and should be, where possible, sympathetic to such requests

Would you support additional state tax revenues dedicated to fund nonprofits providing contracted government health and human services?

It's a bedrock principle of a healthy market economy that if you get a service, you need to pay for it. So yes I think that if a nonprofit is providing health and human services on behalf of the government, then we need to find the funds to cover these costs.

Additional comments about tax policies that affect nonprofits:

Nonprofits provide more than 720,000 jobs in Pennsylvania (15% of the state's workforce). What policies would you propose to promote continued job growth for private employers, including both nonprofit and for-profit business?

An important priority is making investments in our education system at all levels. In order to attract businesses and employers to PA we need to offer an attractive labor pool, one that is educated and qualified for the jobs of the 21st century. This is a fundamental element in expanding economic opportunity and creating new jobs. Also, we need to continue to provide incentives to businesses to invest and expand in PA.

Would you favor legislation that would reduce the likelihood of a budget impasse in future years? If so, what type of legislation?

Budget impasses are more a question of politics than policy, and I am concerned that legislation to require a particular budget by a particular date would just become a cudgel for the majority - of whichever party happens to hold it - to use to get their way in every budget year. So it would really depend on the type of legislation and how it would be enforced.

Would you support regulatory changes that increase efficiencies and nonprofit-government partnerships. (Proposed regulatory changes could include reducing redundancies across state agencies - e.g. common pre-award processes, budget templates, use of a single audit, reporting template and central depository vault)?

I think it is always imperative to look for and reduce redundancies, to find opportunities to save money, and to grease the wheels of innovation. We need to be open to look at everything, but at the same time we need to be thoughtful and careful. Regulations, for the most part, were put in place to address a past problem. We need to be careful not to exacerbate the problem by not understanding the history and the reasoning behind an existing regulation.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities?

1. Working with our state representatives to bring the governor a fair budget that can be signed on time. Part of this is demanding that corporate citizens pay their fair share to help the citizens of PA -- for example, by taxing Marcellus shale.
2. Making sure that the PA Environment Protection Agency and nonprofits working in the environment field are in the best position to regulate and ensure clean air and drinking water for our citizens.
3. Establishing a fair funding formula for schools that keeps them fully funded at the state level and reduces the burden on local boards of education.