



2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Bryon Timmins

Running For: Representative in the General Assembly

District: Pennsylvania's 48th House District

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?

My family is of humble origins. In my spare time, I have regularly volunteered as a youth athletic coach and with local charitable organizations. The reality is that too much of the burden for social services is passed to nonprofits under the hope that individuals will pick up the slack to fund them. We know that is not the reality. Nonprofit organizations are tremendous additions to our safety net, but they should not be expected to shoulder the entirety of the load. It is shameful that governments, from the local level to the national level, fail to support and amplify their work.

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?

Absolutely in favor. While room for reform exists for mega-organizations claiming nonprofit status while paying their executives multi-million dollar salaries, the vast majority of nonprofits are small organizations looking to do big things. Their funds should go to service delivery, and I will fight at every opportunity to ensure those resources are not threatened.

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

This is a complicated question, and one that deserves deliberation. Some nonprofits are behemoths that avoid their fair share by virtue of their size; most are good people looking to good things, and absolutely deserve the tax credit. We need the flexibility to evaluate cases on an individual basis, and ensure our communities are best served by the balance of intentions and impact.

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

The extent to which we rely on nonprofits to deliver basic services is shameful. On the whole, however, their efficacy – both in cost and deliverables – is undeniable. Pennsylvanians should welcome the wisdom and knowledge provided by nonprofit leaders, but we should also acknowledge the savings provided when experts are supported.

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?

We fight. The burden laid upon Pennsylvania's nonprofits is far too large. Many of their services are ones that should be provided by the Commonwealth. However, many of the subject matter experts function outside the government. We need a mutually beneficial solution, one where the people who know best are empowered to do their best.

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

A staple of my platform is No Budget, No Pay. If workers fail to perform their duties, they are at best not paid, at worst terminated. That we don't hold our legislators to the same standard is abhorrent. The job of a state legislator is to keep the Commonwealth running and do so in a way that benefits all of us. If we fail to perform that basic, essential duty, we should not be rewarded.

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)?

My principal goal would be to share and prioritize governmental and nonprofit priorities. The role of a state legislator is to serve their District, but also improve the Commonwealth. We can and must be partners, but we must do so in a way that balances nonprofit funding versus governmental resources. Pennsylvania can choose: keep supporting special interests, or support our people.

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

1. Ensuring responsive, receptive representation
2. Promoting opportunity, whether it be college or vocational education
3. Not just hearing, but also listening to constituents.