



2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Chrissy Houlahan

Running For: U.S House

District: Pennsylvania 6th Congressional District

Party Affiliation: Democrat

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?

Over the course of more than two decades, my family and I have founded, led and been involved in many local charitable nonprofits. I served as President/COO/CFO of Springboard Collaborative, a national literacy nonprofit that has helped thousands of school kids in underserved communities improve their reading skills. I also helped found the non-profit B Lab, the birthplace of the Benefits Corporation movement that allows companies to incorporate themselves to consider employee, environmental and community impact in their management decisions. My children founded a non-profit honey company focused on curing cancer called Hives for Lives. I know and have personally advanced the important work these organizations do to sustain our communities and local economies.

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?

I support such exemptions for charitable nonprofits but would not support similar exemptions for so-called non-profit organizations that engage largely or exclusively in political advocacy.

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

I believe this is a decision best left to state and local governments.

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

While I generally support public investments that advance community health and development, I believe this specific question is a decision best left to state and local governments.

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?

I would be open to a number of policies that fit this description, the most notable being a public option for health coverage that would remove a significant burden from small business and local non-profit employers while opening the door for many more Pennsylvanians to gain access to quality, affordable healthcare.

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

I would be open to supporting legislative proposals to help Congress clean up the mess that is our current budget process. I would also support longer-term budget deals that avoid the ongoing risk of shutdown we face now.

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)?

While these appear to be state-level proposals, I would be open to reviewing similar efforts at the federal level.

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

If elected I will work to increase access to affordable healthcare, create good jobs with good benefits, and work to fund great schools for our kids. These are all items that have been lacking under this Administration and this Congress.