

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Emily Best

Running For: PA Senate

District: 30

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?

I have interacted with nonprofits throughout my young adult and professional life. I am currently a board member of a food access and farm education nonprofit in Washington DC, FRESHFARM Market. I have also interned for an international development nonprofit in Graduate School. As a teen, I worked at a YMCA, and volunteered at the local hospital. These various positions have given me windows into peoples' lives and allowed me to learn more about my community. They have helped me form a strong sense of empathy.

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?

In general, I support preserving these tax exemptions although I believe they should be reviewed to look at predatory practices and to make sure that certain types of nonprofits are not overstepping their bounds. In particular, I'm concerned about the reach of certain hospital organizations.

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

I would want to look at this on case-by-case, or location-by-location, basis.

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

I support necessary services being done. If the nonprofit community can do the work more efficiently and effectively than government employees, then I support that effort, and it needs to be funded appropriately.

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?

In my district, I will be working hard to improve rural broadband and cell phone service so that more communities can be connected and serviced by these types of organizations. I will also be promoting policies to increase health care accessibility in our communities, which will help to create good local jobs. Additionally, I want to maintain and improve our infrastructure, and there's much work to be done in that area.

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

I believe that with a new generation of legislators who are more focused on results than playing politics, we will not see the same times of budget impasses as in the past!

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)?

Yes, I am all in favor of increased efficiencies and modernization of systems.

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

1. End of the influence of big money and corporate donors on our politicians
2. Make sure that all Pennsylvanians have access to affordable and accessible healthcare
3. Work to ensure that all students in PA have access to good quality public education and make sure that no student is left out because of their zip code.