

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Gregory Michalek

Running For: PA House

District: 9

Party Affiliation: Republican

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 worked for a non-profit organization, I donate to several and also do volunteer work for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. I prefer to support programs that train people or require some type of beneficiary involvement to receive benefits.

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 sales tax exemptions, as there is for businesses, for recognized nonprofit organizations. I do believe that there should be some type of compensation to communities where these facilities are located. Full property tax rates would usually break the budget but living in a city where approximately 30% of the land is completely tax exempt, places an undue burden on taxpaying citizens. Some thought that may be close to workable, would be a flat fee based on square footage of road frontage, or possible assessment as clean and green properties.

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

For local real-estate taxes, these programs, could serve as reasonable alternatives for tax assessments. In addition to sales taxes, fuels bought for tax exempt organizations should be tax exempt.

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

I do not have enough information on what is provided by State Funding at this time, to make a reasonable statement on this matter.

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 fight mandates, requiring employers to provide employees healthcare. I would encourage regulatory changes that allow pooling of buyers who want to purchase healthcare, so that, if desired, better coverage can be afforded by buying as a group; such as through a chamber of commerce or other recognized business or trade organization.

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

I would not support legislation that would reduce the likelihood of budget impasse. The negotiation process is an integral part of the political system established by our representative republic. I would support the elimination of automatic spending increases. I would support the requirement for a balanced budget.

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)?

In theory, Yes, I would support these regulatory changes. I would need to see the entire bill before a final decision. Reducing government interference is always a good thing.

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

These are in alphabetical order.

1. Economic policy reform; including reducing regulatory hurdles, streamlining application processes and eliminating as much as possible, government involvement in private industry.
2. Education reform; Eliminate Common Core and standardized testing. Restructuring spending on post-secondary education systems run by the State. Adjust priorities in secondary education that would allow local flexibility to offer programs that prepare students for the economic opportunities and job market need of the local economy.
3. Government transparency. Full, accurate and public accounting for all tax dollars received and expended. This would include taxpayer funded grants.