



2016 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Kate McGraw

Running For: State Representative

District: 92

Party Affiliation: Independent

Charitable nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, religious institutions, hospitals, museums, libraries and child care centers. 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?

As an artist, I have volunteered and worked with many nonprofit and charitable organizations in various capacities. When I lived and worked in Washington, DC, I showed my artwork widely with arts organizations with nonprofit status, and was awarded a number of grants to fund large scale community art projects.

I later worked in the Development Office on a year-long contract at Vermont Studio Center (VSC) which is one of the largest artist residency programs in the world. At VSC, I learned the inner workings of keeping a nonprofit afloat through extensive fundraising efforts and outreach.

For eight months, I also worked as Studio Manager at Green Mountain Access Television (GMATV,) a cable access network dedicated to covering community events and local politics. GMATV was housed in the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, where I mentored high school level vocational and technical students interested in television and video production.

I most recently lived in Brooklyn, NY and was active in a number of arts organizations throughout the country. I understand the substantial impact nonprofits have on our communities, and the cultural enrichment that is gained from nonprofit enterprise.

What is your position on these tax issues that affect charitable nonprofits?

Do you support preserving state and local tax exemptions for charitable nonprofits? Strongly Support

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

Would you support additional state revenue (taxes) to fund nonprofits? Strongly Support

Nonprofits provide more than 700,000 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 have spoken to many nonprofit employees and volunteers who have explained how debilitating the state budget impasse has been. According to PennLive in April, 2012 there were 16,000 people on the waiting list for services at The Arc, including 3,500 in dire need of assisted living and full-time care. Because elderly parents were no longer capable of caring for their adult children with physical and intellectual disabilities, these 3500 people were left without care. My recent conversations with The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties revealed those numbers from 2012 are virtually the same, if not worse today.

I will be a strong advocate for nonprofits, such as CPARC, who provide vital healthcare services to populations in the greatest need. As a legislator, I will prioritize the funding of vital healthcare services, and support initiatives to bring new sources of revenue to Pennsylvania to cover the growing cost of this specialized type of care. For example, I will support the introduction and appropriate taxation of industrial hemp operations in Pennsylvania to help cover these costs.

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

Yes, I support measures to suspend compensation for all negotiating parties including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet Officers and the General Assembly. If partisan politics are going to bring our government to a standstill, then partisan politicians are to blame and should be held accountable.

It is imperative that we hold our government officials to the highest standard and if they do not put in the time, discipline and hard work to reach a timely agreement, the people of Pennsylvania should not suffer the consequences alone.

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

- 1) Make certain that all people have access to vital healthcare services including care for specific conditions, effective drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, and increased mental health care.
- 2) Ensure that our public school system is in good health for our children to have the quality education they deserve.
- 3) Preserve our farmland so that future generations of farmers can continue to protect this irreplaceable asset to our local agricultural economy.