

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Mary Auker-Endres

Running For: PA House

District: 98

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 served every community I've ever lived in, almost exclusively in the nonprofit world. I've worked with folks who are housing insecure or homeless, those needing heating assistance, and with an organization dedicated to preventing hunger in children and older adults. In my current community, I am a dedicated volunteer, working with the organization ECHOS which provides a variety of services for folks struggling with homelessness in my community and region. I am a strong supporter of the nonprofit world and the vitally important work they do. I will be a fierce advocate for their work in the PA legislature.

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 preserving this real estate tax exemption. I know firsthand the sacrifices that staff make in serving their communities and support keeping as much funding as possible going to programs that better our community.

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 support asking some larger nonprofits to pay PILOTS or provide SILOTS, but would be more than willing to exempt smaller ones whose funds are more tenuous.

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

Yes, providing that they do not discriminate in providing services to those who need them.

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 will support policies that lower the burden of health costs on employers and entrepreneurs such as a state-run public option. This is an urgent need that will be one of my top priorities.

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

I have publicly supported a no-budget, no-pay rule for the legislature. Too often, legislators have sacrificed the services that are desperately needed by so many Pennsylvanians while continuing to draw their own pay and failing to do their jobs.

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)?

I would be open to these regulatory changes providing that they improve the delivery of services to those in need.

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

My top three priorities will be to support public education while shifting the property tax burden on families to the state; to create affordable health care options for all Pennsylvanians; and to push for ethical reforms in state government such as reduced perks for legislators and a more open electoral process.