

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Melissa Shusterman

Running For: PA House

District: 157

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 volunteered for Good Samaritan Homeless Shelter in Phoenixville. I have cooked multiple meals including one for over 20 people for the day after Christmas. Amplifying everyone's voices is the backbone of my campaign. I plan to be a tireless advocate for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable.

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?

Yes

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

No, I do not support PILOTS or SILOTS because these policies take away the money and time of the nonprofit organization would otherwise spend in service of the community which is why they are exempted from taxes.

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

Yes, I do support dedicating more tax revenue toward nonprofits that provide health and human services because these organizations provide a vital service to the community. We must ensure these organizations have the support they need to continue serving their communities.

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 want to propose more infrastructure development programs that will provide both new jobs and opportunities for current businesses.

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

I strongly support a No Budget No Pay legislations that would mean state legislators would not get their salaries until they pass the budget. This would be a strong way to ensure that the state legislators pass a 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)?

Yes, I support any policies that would increase the efficiency of our state government so that we can deliver services to the people of PA as quickly as possible.

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

My top three priorities as a state legislator would be to ensure that our public schools are fully and equally funded so every child can have a quality education. Also, I will try to pass a No Budget No Pay bill to make sure our representatives are being held accountable when they don't do their jobs. Finally, I want to make sure our environment is kept clean and safe for future generations by preventing drilling in the Delaware River Basin and our state parks.