



2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Sherwood McGinnis

Running For: Representative to the General Assembly

District: 199th

Party Affiliation: Democratic

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?

A: I am currently a member of the Board of Directors of Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle; a member of the Parish Council of Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Community in Carlisle; former Board Member of Carson Long Military Academy in New Bloomfield; and an active member of Cumberland Valley Rising and the Carlisle-Sunrise Rotary Club. I have held positions of leadership as well as membership, engaging in decision making and numerous activities. I believe that we are placed on this earth to live a good life, to love and to serve. In each of these positions and in my life I have tried to follow those precepts in working to making our community, state and nation a better place for all, especially those in need.

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?

A: I support retaining current tax exemptions for charitable non-profit organizations.

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

A: I believe that nonprofits provide many benefits but must be responsive to the needs of their communities. In some cases, it may be appropriate that nonprofits commit to payments in lieu of taxes or for community services they rely upon. These should be negotiated between the nonprofit and the communities based on their size and location.

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

A: I support increasing the share of state revenue that is directed to providing health and human services. Nonprofits are excellent providers of these services and should receive reimbursement for services rendered under agreements with the state or Federal Government. I believe it is critical that we respect the separation of church and state, so payments must only be made for services required/specified by the State and not for activities that directly advantage religious organizations.

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?

A: As a member of the Carlisle Area Workforce Development Task force composed of Dickinson College faculty and nonprofits as well as employers and the Chamber of Commerce, I have worked with public and private sector leaders to develop better ways for linking potential workers and employers and developing skills needed for good jobs. This effort aims to equip people looking for work with marketable skills in the public and private sector, with the goal of providing good jobs and fair wages, ensuring a purposeful and fulfilling quality of life.

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

A: The budget impasses of the past few years show the failure of leadership in the General Assembly and the unwillingness to work toward a common goal and compromise. My background as a Foreign Service Officer (diplomat) and negotiator provides years of experience in finding common ground. Any new legislation would require reaching accords that are acceptable to all parties. Discussion, understanding and political will are needed to bring the parties together and serve the interests of the people of Pennsylvania. Specific legislation will then emerge.

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)?

A: I would support changes in law and regulation to streamline rules and procedures and breakdown the silos that now separate state agencies. That could include use of common forms, contracts, procedures and access points for nonprofits. I would also work for greater transparency and simplification of procedures so that nonprofits and agencies could better understand responsibilities and be able to work more closely together.

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

- Creation of good jobs with a livable wage
- Expanded access for all to high quality public education
- Ensure an excellent quality of life for all Pennsylvanians, including access to affordable health care, affordable housing, conservation of our environment and a sense of security for all