



2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Wayne Fontana

Running For: PA Senate

District: 42

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?

As a past and present board member and officer of several non-profit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, I know firsthand the countless hours and personal resources spent on projects by the tireless staff and volunteers. In addition to realizing the tremendous dedication it takes by non-profits to make their endeavors a success, I'm also very much aware of the many challenges including struggling budgets that many of these organizations face. With that said, this enables me to genuinely consider those obstacles at times when requests are made of me in my capacity as state Senator to assist in securing state grant and loan assistance or in helping cut through bureaucratic red tape.

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 the continuation of tax exemptions for traditional, charitable non-profits. I do support taking a look at the real estate value of large corporations who create charitable arms. Many corporations and companies across our state are making record profits and because they form an entity under the Purely Public Charity Act, they become exempt. These special cases deserve to be studied.

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

Realizing that a fundamental function of non-profit organizations is to lessen the burden on some governmental agencies and programs, I think a broad perspective on PILOTS is difficult. It would depend on the specific situation, geographical location, and use of the programs.

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

Yes, understanding that the more we can rely on non-profits to fill a need in a community, the less reliant the state budget would need to be on a certain program or agency in which the non-profit program can complement.

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 believe the most effective way to improve job growth and put people to work is to establish and promote effective job training initiatives for those already in the workforce who need retraining for new or changing industries and for career and technical programs in our schools to work with the private sector to structure curriculum targeted toward sectors where jobs are available and in need of trained workers.

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 any measure introduced that would end budget impasses. I myself sponsored legislation that would outline dates certain in which steps toward a final budget resolution would need to be met in the event the constitutional deadline of June 30 is not met.

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.

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

If re-elected, my priorities would be job creation, education and healthcare.