

2018 Pennsylvania CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Wendi Thomas

Running For: PA House District 178

District: 178th

Party Affiliation: Republican

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?

David Rocchino Family Scholarship - Board Member

CREF - Board Member

Red Cross - donor

Various Colleges and Religious institutions - Volunteer/donor

Charitable organization provide vital programs to our society.

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?

Support.

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 believe nonprofits should pay PILOTS or SILOTS.

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

Yes, within the fiscal constraints of the Commonwealth.

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 am a strong believer in pro-economic growth policies including tax, legal and regulatory reforms that provide all employers a climate to operate within that is affordable, predictable and fair. I will also support legislation that encourages for-profit companies to invest in non-profits by providing increased tax credits for donations.

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

There are two ideas I believe would help with this situation. The first is a true “no budget, no pay” measure which would end salary payments to legislators for the duration of any impasse; importantly, legislators would not receive this pay at the end of any impasse as with most proposals today. The second measure is to implement the former fiscal year’s budget at the budget deadline if a new budget is not passed. By doing so, we can ensure the continued payments so vital to our school’s social services and non-profits.

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 would support such changes.

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

1. Improving the state’s education system and school safety.
2. Economic and job growth.
3. Addressing the public safety issues surrounding gun violence and the opioid epidemic.