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**Q1**

Candidate name

Bob Hollister

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**Q2**

Office running for (U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress)

Congress

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**Q3**

District

PA-11

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**Q4**

Party affiliation

Democrat

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**Q5**

How have you or someone close to you benefited from nonprofit services?\*\*\*Nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, religious institutions, museums, libraries, childcare centers.

My children have taken huge advantage of local libraries and some YMCA programs. My wife currently volunteers at a non-profit and I have served on numerous non-profit boards

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**Q6**

Nonprofits not only provide mandated services on behalf of state and federal government, but they positively contribute to the Commonwealth (providing 15% or 807,000 jobs), and by bringing in revenue from outside the state. What policies do you propose to promote continued job growth for nonprofit employers so they can continue addressing community needs?

Some proposed policies that federally could bring in more money is increased funding for already existing relationships through agencies like HUD, HHS, FEMA and other federal agencies.

There can also be increased funding through federal grant programs that already exist and through increased funding from new allocated money in the federal budget. Increasing funds through Block grants that allow states and municipalities to allocate federal funds with more of an ability to assess locally specific needs.

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**Q7**

Individual giving was flat in 2021. Given current inflation and a looming recession, this type of revenue is not providing a sustainable revenue source for those providing services. Americans give because they care; they give more when they have an incentive to do so. Do you support or oppose a universal charitable deduction, allowing ALL Americans to deduct their gifts? Why or why not?

Yes, an increase in the universal charitable deduction limits would increase charitable giving from stagnant levels. I would be supportive of review of current levels at \$300 and \$600 on taxes in order to increase allowing Americans to deduct gifts to causes that they are supportive of. Especially with the increase of inflation and CPI needs to be reflective in the tax code and how Congress views donations to these groups.

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**Q8**

Many nonprofits were created to address inequities in policy and procedures.\* If elected, how would you go about identifying and addressing those inequities?\*Examples: Food banks exist to serve those who live in food deserts or have other limited access to food. Federally qualified health clinics exist to serve those who have limited access to health care.

I believe in more congressional review in existing committees and subcommittees in order to identify needs. Congress can use current discretionary funding to allocate as needed.

There are some areas, given current and ongoing issues such as food insecurity, rise in housing costs, and healthcare access that need additional funding through the federal government. This needs to be addressed with general funding through existing federal agencies and increased grant funding to organizations that are looking to address these issues. I support additional investigative committees as needed for increasingly dramatic issues such as lack of housing and drops in healthcare through issues like the Dobbs v Jackson decision affecting women's healthcare issues.

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**Q9**

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

1. At the core of our democracy is this fundamental principle: one person equals one vote.

Rather than trying to strip away this sacred right, our leaders should work to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Elections should be about who has the better ideas and vision, not about who has received the most donations from corporate special interests.

I support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 and in Congress, I will fight to ensure that:

Every vote counts and every citizen gets a vote.

Our voting process is secure and transparent with strong safeguards to prevent abuse and penalties to punish fraud.

Our polling places are easily accessible, safe, and efficient.

Mail-in voting and ballot dropboxes are readily available so our election process is accessible to all.

2. Education and School Funding

I'm a lifelong public school educator and I believe that education is the bedrock of our democracy. The quality of a child's education should never be determined by their zip code or their family's income.

As a child, my family chose to enroll me in private Catholic schools and they paid those tuition fees from their own pockets—not with tax dollars. I feel strongly that private schools should be paid for by private citizens and public funding should go only to public schools. We must:

Eliminate high-pressure standardized tests as a one-size-fits-all method for measuring student success and potential.

Increase public school funding and ensure that resources are distributed in an equitable way for all students, regardless of zip code.

Support teachers and incentivize them to stay in communities where we need their vital talents the most as they face increased pressures at school.

Support a strategic national effort to recruit and retain high-quality public school teachers.

Broaden the definition of post-secondary education to again include vocational training, union apprenticeships, and credentialing options. These traditional "blue collar" career paths are essential to our country's prosperity and to reestablishing the middle class.

3. Healthcare and Mental Health

Everyone should have access to quality and affordable healthcare. The Coronavirus pandemic highlighted the deep inequalities in our current system and these inequalities are a threat to our collective health and safety, our national security, and our economy.

We can't wait until the next national health crisis to address the faults in our current healthcare system. Congress must act to decrease the cost of healthcare and life-saving prescriptions and expand access to mental health services. This includes solidifying programs like Medicare and Medicaid that help the most vulnerable in our society. I believe that:

Health insurance costs have skyrocketed and to level the playing field and make insurance affordable, we need a public option.

## 2022 PA Congressional Candidates Questionnaire

Healthcare workers need to be better supported with abundant access to PPE, mental health resources, and competitive pay.

Lack of access to healthcare, including mental healthcare, is linked to poverty, crime, the ongoing addiction crisis, and a host of other societal problems.

Lack of mental health support means that many people are less able to seek preventative care or early treatment for medical conditions, placing strain on our healthcare system when they become serious.

Skyrocketing drug costs must be addressed and we must empower Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate drug prices.

Fight any attempt by federal or state governments to interfere with or restrict private healthcare decisions, including reproductive decisions and access to contraception.

Work to reduce the gender pay gap.

Expand employment protections for women and parents so those who choose to have children and expand their families are not punished for it in the workplace.

Pursue options to make childcare more affordable and support federally mandated paid parental leave—something nearly every other country in the world has already done.

Expand and strengthen laws and programs that both prevent and punish gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

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