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Q1

Candidate name

Chris Rodkey

Q2

Office running for (governor, PA House, PA Senate)

State Representative

Q3

District

93

Q4

Party affiliation

Democratic

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.

Most of my career has been employed and engaged with nonprofit organizations. In addition to working with religious nonprofits and substantial employment in private higher education, I sit on a number of boards in the community and leadership roles in organizations. These organizations range from prisoner release employment aid, additions issues, academic associations, a school CTC (Communities that Care), educational foundations, and scouting groups. In general, everyone benefits from nonprofit organizations whether they realize it or not; I am fortunate to have worked predominately in this field for over 20 years.

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?

First, I support policy which mandates timely payment of services to nonprofits (and, similarly, educational institutions) who provide essential services. This may require some public awareness and is a reasonable proposal.

Second, the state ought to take measure to ensure that nonprofits who provide essential services continue to be paid during a government budget impasse or shut-down. In 2015 this severely impacted many nonprofits in Pennsylvania and, as a result, negatively impacted the recipients of those services.

Third, I oppose efforts to limit tax deductions for donations to nonprofit organizations and efforts to make the establishment or maintenance of nonprofit organizations more difficult. I believe in appropriate accountability, not gate-keeping.

Fourth, I believe the state should partner with nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and other businesses to promote experimental and creative thinking in nonprofit business, and foster leadership skills for young people who might consider going into the world of nonprofit business, in the same way we have seen similar partnerships support entrepreneurship in the state.

Q7

Would you support increases in reimbursement rates* for nonprofits providing contracted government health and human services? If not, please explain why.*Some rates have not been increased for over a decade.

Yes, unequivocally.

Q8

87% of nonprofits were negatively impacted by the pandemic - and continued to provide services to those most vulnerable. The state has yet to designate funding to support our work. Given the likelihood of a looming recession, what policies do you support to ensure financial support to these nonprofits so critical to your work?

The pandemic has severely affected the religious nonprofit who employs me. State leaders need to work together to make sure that the fate and status of essential nonprofits be considered in every committee and in multiple government settings because of the vast diversity of areas of life which nonprofits serve.

Q9

Many nonprofits were created to address inequities in policy or programs.* If elected, how would you go about identifying and addressing these inequities?*Examples: Food banks exist to serve those who live in food deserts or have other limited access to food. Suicide hotlines exist to serve those who have no where else to turn when life no longer seems worth living.

I believe in data-driven approaches to problems of all varieties. Addressing and identifying iniquities would require listening on the ground of one's district and being able and willing to work with others to approach the problem, including identifying existing organizations and also helping start ones that are needed. One issue, for example, I have been speaking professionally about with colleagues is in regard to the opioid/fentanyl crisis, how can clergy and structures owned by religious organizations work with existing organizations or organize themselves creatively to help?

Q10

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

1. Education, including universal pre-K.
 2. Property tax relief.
 3. Civil rights and liberties, including voter rights.
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