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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

Candidate name

Denise Maris

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**Q2**

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

PA House

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**Q3**

District

76th District

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**Q4**

Party affiliation

Democratic

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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.

Not only have I benefited from nonprofit services but my family has as well. Living in a rural community we frequently depend on the services provided by them. Accordingly, my youngest son had a speech delay and if wasn't for our local Infant Development program, I don't think he would be where he is today. Additionally, I have also had a love for public libraries in that during my time at the university was I an AmeriCorp volunteer and helped them with several of their programs which helped seniors and students alike.

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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?

Studies have shown that increasing wages to a living wage, i.e. \$15 stimulus job growth. By providing nonprofit employees with a living wage it will help stimulate job growth and provide the necessary workforce to better meet the needs that our struggling community so depend on. I would not only support these policies but I would also sponsor bills that would accomplish this.

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**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.

I would support an increase to the reimbursement rates for nonprofit because they are often the ones with direct contact with those most in need.

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**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?

I would not only support the policies currently presented by PANO but also support adjusting the budget to increase funding to support community nonprofits that will likely be called upon to provide the most needed assistance for our most vulnerable populations.

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**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 would work with established organization and schools in our district to help identify and address the inequities currently within our community. Moreover, being as the "go to place" for information to help provide outreach and/or be a source for services in our community.

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**Q10**

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

If elected my first three top policy priorities would be education, healthcare and voting rights.

Education is the foundation for success for all within our community. It helps to lift our people which in turn would help support many of our nonprofits in our area because they understand the value nonprofits provide in our community.

Health care is also a policy priority specifically affordable quality healthcare. This is vital to a healthy society which contribute to the overall prosperity of our commonwealth.

Voting rights is another policy priority in that we need to ensure that everyone has a voice in free and fair elections. Without them no other rights can be guaranteed.

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