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Q1

Candidate name

Diane Smith

Q2

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

PA House

Q3

District

29th

Q4

Party affiliation

Republican

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.

Every single day, there is a person that benefits from the work of nonprofits in one way or another, whether they realize it or not. In addition, with 10+ years of legislative experience as a District Manager for two other state representatives, I know first hand how much non-profits can do to ease a burden that many face.

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?

It is too early for me to speak to specific policies that I would promote however, because nonprofits are so valuable and necessary within our community we need to find options to continue job growth. Maybe we consider promoting more options for affordable child care which in turn would help the employees financially. Consider additional grant options and contracts with nonprofit service providers. Surely something I would want to sit down and discuss further when I am elected as State Rep.

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, I would consider supporting an increase in your reimbursement rates however, I would need to see the full bill and its final language when it comes to the house floor for a vote.

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?

We need to continue to work to keep our non profits up and running because they help so many people on a daily basis. We may need to work together to enact measures that would deliver more economic relief to our non profits. Additional we need to assist our non profits with finding support at the local level as well.

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.

Well, I do personally believe that Bucks County is one of the top areas that is already successful in identifying and addressing those food inequities you speak of but I will assure you that once elected I will continue to help the non profits within the 29th succeed, flourish and be appreciated for all they do.

Q10

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

I am passionate, dedicated, and enthusiastic about representing the "new" 29th District. I am committed to using my 10+ years of legislative knowledge and experience to represent you. Being your voice in Harrisburg is a responsibility I will take very seriously.

Growing up here and having raised my own family here in Central Bucks, I value the unique character of our community. I will work each and every day on behalf of every one of our residents to protect what makes it so special. Therefore, I believe the top issue facing this office is providing our community with the support it needs to help combat this rising inflation, high gas prices, cost of food (or lack thereof). Getting this economy back on track is a top priority. I will also support small businesses, non-profits, resources for schools and students, access to healthcare, including mental healthcare. And provide effective, consistent constituent services to the district.
