Q1
Candidate name
Napoleon Nelson

Q2
Office running for (governor, PA House, PA Senate)
PA House

Q3
District
154

Q4
Party affiliation
Democrat

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.

Of course! From being regular church-goers to having our children cared for in non-profit organizations, to assisting others in homelessness, non-profits have been an integral part of my life for all of my life.
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?

We need to support our non-profits with broader student-loan forgiveness programs, home-buyer grants, and continued state funding. I also advocate for a broader mission for our community college programming to not only strategically pursue corporate and industry training needs, but also consider community and non-profit organizations in their program development.

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. A living wage with livable benefits!!!

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 will continue calling on my colleagues to allocate the funds needed to support our non-profit organizations struggling with executing their vital community missions. We supported small businesses and large businesses. We supported our educational institutions and first responders. Instead of supporting the rest of our non-profits and cultural institutions, my colleagues from across the aisle chose to put over $4B under their mattress for a rainy day.

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 am fighting HARD to find solutions to homelessness. We currently rely on non-profits for these services, but housing should be a right for all and should be a government service. I am currently one of two PA lawmakers serving on a national cohort of state legislators seeking solutions to youth homelessness in PA and the nation.

Q10
If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities?

I continue to advocate for equitable, adequately funded public education systems, financial supports for our seniors and those needing our help, and for justice reforms for those who are trying to obtain fair and equitable outcomes from our legal system.