

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, September 16, 2022 5:06:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:04:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:57:47
IP Address: 24.154.74.237

Page 1

Q1

Candidate name

Sydney Hovis

Q2

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

PA Senate

Q3

District

32

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.

Throughout my professional career, I have worked for nonprofit organizations including the Community Legal Aid as an intern during my undergraduate studies, a local museum as a Sales Manager, and a Compliance Specialist for our Redevelopment Authority. I have never worked for a large for-profit company as I believe in the value and culture of community-based nonprofits. Currently, my Dad is serving as a DEI specialist at our local Food Bank, working to address food insecurity in underserved communities. He taught me the value and importance of placing people over profit, personal or otherwise. I have had the privilege and integrity to be able to make that choice with every staffing position I have taken.

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?

As a Senator, I would work to make grants available to nonprofits that make new positions available and integrate nonprofit-specific training into technical schools to incentivize the growth of the nonprofit sector. Additionally, there should be greater advocacy for benefits for those who work in nonprofits including student loan forgiveness, tax credits, and improved healthcare plans. Too often, nonprofit employees are underpaid and under appreciated, which leads to many leaving the nonprofit sector.

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

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?

Initially, I would immediately seek to direct any remaining ARP funds to those organizations that assist the community. For example, the levels of depression, anxiety and abuse are higher during periods of economic downturn. By expanding mental health programs and access, we could assist not only those who are in crisis, but the providers who would benefit from taking on new patients. This is similar in the Feeding America system which would not only support those who are food insecure, but also Pennsylvania farmers and growers.

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.

This is a multi-faceted process which depends on strategic analysis and implementation of a long term plan. The first step is to address immediate need, but such is not sufficient. Once the immediate need is addressed, advocacy for meeting the underlying need must begin. In order to do this, we must not only communicate, but listen to those who are affected by inequity from boards of directors, c-suite executives, employees, and clients.

Q10

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

There are many policies I would champion. However, I believe in protecting the rights granted to us in the Constitution, investing in redevelopment and expanding on programs designed to revitalize my region. At the heart of this, I believe that we must promote a more hospitable culture of equity, dignity, access, and inclusion of all members of society.
