# #20

## COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

**Started:** Monday, March 21, 2022 10:59:38 AM **Last Modified:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:26:27 AM

**Time Spent:** 00:26:49 **IP Address:** 71.75.200.43

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### Q1

**About Candidates** 

Candidate Name Jonathan Simpson

District 14

Party Affiliation Republican

Campaign Website jonathansimpson.org

#### Q2

Q1. Please tell us about your personal experiences with nonprofits. These may include experiences with any organizations that have served you and/or fellow residents of your community, or specific nonprofits for which you've served as a board member, staff person, volunteer, or donor. How do these experiences shape your policy positions? (Limit: 300 words)

My wife and I met volunteering at our church. We have both served in various capacities there and have come to greatly appreciate the role that nonprofits play in their communities because of it. We have also worked with adoption agencies working in the foster care system, so we have seen first hand how government and the nonprofit sector work together. Through that experience, I have seen just how much room for improvement there is in that relationship. Government must do a better job supporting the nonprofits that are in the trenches, not burden them with beaurocracy.

#### Q3

Q2. If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities? (Limit: 250 words)

Education reform is critically important. We must break up the government education monopoly and introduce real choice and competition into the school system. Every parent deserves a private option for their children.

Health care reform is also extremely important. Our system is fractured and far too expensive. We need a single, unified system that is market-based, leverages market forces, and is affordable for, and accessible to, every American, regardless of their income.

Welfare reform is important as well. We have a system that traps people in poverty and pushes out organizations that could really make a difference. Nonprofits should be empowered to play a much bigger role in our welfare systems.

#### Q4

The Center advocates on public policy issues that affect North Carolina's nonprofit sector and works with the NC General Assembly and North Carolina's members of Congress to develop laws and policies that save nonprofits time and money, help nonprofits operate more effectively, and preserve the public's trust in North Carolina's nonprofit sector. Our policy agenda includes: Ensuring that all 501(c)(3) nonprofits are fully exempt from federal, state, and local taxes. Promoting new and expanded tax deductions and credits that encourage individuals and businesses to give generously to support their communities through the work of charitable nonprofits. Supporting policy solutions that will address the nonprofit workforce shortage, including increased funding to support jobs in the nonprofit sector and investment in accessible and affordable child care. Seeking solutions to long-standing challenges that nonprofits face when they provide public services through government grants and contracts, including late contracts, late payments, overly complicated application and reporting requirements, and underpayment for indirect costs. Promoting laws that will help nonprofits and businesses alike to provide affordable and high-quality health care and other benefits to their employees.Q3. If elected, which of these policy goals would you support most enthusiastically, and why? (Limit: 250 words)

I know it isn't a fair answer, but I believe all of the above are extremely important. An expanding government welfare state has really encroached on a lot of the valuable work that nonprofits do. We need to realize that nonprofits are just better equipped and better suited than a government beaurocracy to accomplish certain goals and work with certain people. We need to make every effort we can to support them and expand their capabilities.