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Page 1: With responses published for community leaders throughout your district

## Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	<b>Barbara D. Gaskins</b>
District	<b>NC-03</b>
Party Affiliation	<b>Democrat</b>
Campaign Website	<b><a href="http://www.barbara4congress.com">www.barbara4congress.com</a></b>

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## 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)

I am currently a founder of NC Community Outreach & Wellness Center Inc. a 501c3 public nonprofit that addresses challenges faced by those returning from incarceration and other disenfranchised individuals by providing positive interventions that give an opportunity to change the narrative.. A majority of the work that we completed ranged from health fairs, community town halls, food giveaways, community feedings, free trainings, and criminal justice reentry efforts. In addition, I have worked with several nonprofits within the state and I currently serve as vice president of North Carolina families United and District 2 president of the American Legion Auxilliary. I have seen on a firsthand basis how important non profits are, how hard it is to secure funding, and how hard it is to find volunteers. But, I believe that nonprofit are needed to assist communities and are the backbone for their specific communities. I also fully support investing in and providing nonprofits with the resources they need in order to help the people they serve.

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### Q3

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

#### Education

Our youth is the future of North Carolina, and education is the foundation of that future. Our buildings, our teachers, and our students should be given every resource and opportunity they need to succeed in the 21st century. Every child should have access to quality education regardless of status and we need to invest in their education for the benefit of them, their families, and our communities

#### Criminal Justice Reform

As someone with a personal experience with the criminal justice system, as well as someone who works day in and day out with current and formerly institutionalized individuals, I know that our criminal justice system can do better. Reforming the criminal justice and policing systems in North Carolina is not a one size fits all solution. We must work together to make reform that is fair, effective, and durable.

#### Rebuilding Our Community

Eastern North Carolina has been falling behind on our infrastructure. With the loss of jobs, the standstill economy, and a lack of leadership we haven't been able to prioritize our crumbling infrastructure. Infrastructure to me, includes a broad range of topics. Including roads, bridges, canal systems, and clean drinking water to broadband, affordable housing, storm infrastructure, and our environment. Our affordable housing is decreasing as the years pass. As the economy declines, our rental and buying prices have gone up. In ENC, our rural broadband is not up to standard. With our environment changing our flooding systems, canals, and buildings can't keep up. And as we forget to clean up and invest in our parks, beautiful beaches, and rivers our pristine landscapes are being damaged

### 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 support all of these policy goals as listed. As a non profit founder, I know that in order to even open a non profit you must have a mission and vision to help or better serve your community. This alone deserves policies that ensure all non profits are fully exempt in order to be efficient with their missions. Non profits are the back bones to the community and often go above and beyond services that state/government provides, so there should be more investments in ensuring non profits have funding and support to build a workforce, are offered full tax deductions and credits, and grants/contracts should be more accessible and fairly distributed without complication.