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

Q1

About Candidates

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| Candidate Name | Dee Watson |
| District | NC Senate 16 |
| Party Affiliation | Libertarian |
| Campaign Website | https://electdeewatson.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)

At various times I have been a Girl Scout leader, cookie mom, childcare volunteer, room mom, school volunteer as well as volunteering in a secondhand thrift charity store. I have worked with Churches, Libertarians and Schools for food drives, clothing drives, Christmas Angles, and much needed toiletry drives. I have also been a donor to all of these, but additionally, I have been a donor of UNICEF and the Red Cross for overseas activities since I am unable to help overseas due to family commitments.

One of my favorite charities is Donors Choose, where any public-school teacher can make a request, and anyone can fill it. It is a fantastic way to get goods into schools when school administration gives teachers the run around. I found out about it when my local school raised more than \$40K for playground equipment, and then did not purchase any and instead kept the funds in a rainy day account. One of the teachers at the school created a Donors Choose and within the month the kids got the equipment. My husband and I soon became Angels and have been donating across the country.

I have a friend who is trying to start a non-profit but is daunted by the paper work. There are too many regulations and restrictions placed on people who are trying to help others. I have been protesting in Gastonia where Faith Hope and Love has been closed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFe096qOn8c> Fifteen homeless people have died in Gastonia since the church was closed and one of them died on the doorsteps of the shuttered church. This is a horrific example of how regulations and zoning can result in death because a non-profit was shut down.

Q3

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

1. Simplify the paperwork to become a non-profit.
 2. Free non-profits from zoning restrictions. If they own land in a community, they should be able to do with it as they see fit. In Gastonia the Church Faith Hope Love was closed for sheltering the homeless. This should never happen to anyone let alone a church.
 3. Reduce regulatory burden such as paper work, but also make it easier for people to help each other. I went to cook meals for a non-profit, and even though I eat the food myself, was not able to donate due to commercial kitchen requirements.
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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)

If elected, I will look forward to working with non-profits on legislation that will ensure

1. They are fully exempt from all taxes.
2. Any individuals and businesses who contribute will be able to write off contributions against taxes owed, and individuals who owe no tax should be able to roll over the contribution for up to 5 years.
3. Reducing paperwork and fines in all government interactions.

I look forward to helping all non-profits operate in a more efficient way.
