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

Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Graig Meyer
District	NC Senate 23
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	www.graigmeyer.com

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 have supported a wide range of non-profits over the years in different capacities: I have worked with non profits as a board member, an employee and as a volunteer. I have donated and raised money for nonprofits. In my political role, I have given advice about how (and whether) to organize and set up nonprofits, I have given existing nonprofits advice about how to organize and how to best influence lawmakers and make change. I fully understand how non-profits weave together the fabric of our community and play a central and unparalleled role in caring for the vulnerable, championing equity, enriching our lives with art and culture, guide our faith lives and much more. I will continue to advocate for policies which support non profits, including funding for non-profits, incentives for financial commitments for non-profits, and supports for volunteers.

Q3

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

Climate - If left unaddressed the climate crisis will impact every aspect of our lives. We have already seen the deeply inequitable impact of the crisis in North Carolina- and its disproportionate impact on those populations that are already vulnerable. At the same time, climate change can be a tremendous opportunity for our State if we embrace the opportunity to become leaders in clean energy and to build connected vibrant communities with clean transportation options for all.

Education-

My passion for education policy was the single issue that drove me to seek my House seat in 2013. In the legislature, I have focused my advocacy on improving public schools so that they will better serve students who are most likely to struggle. I have been a fierce advocate for fully funding our schools to meet our constitutional obligation to provide every child with a sound, basic, education. And I have introduced groundbreaking legislation that would provide students in our lowest performing schools the chance to have an extended school year so that they can catch up to where they should be.

Equity - A commitment to equity runs through everything that I work on. Racial justice has been a cornerstone of my work throughout my career. It drives my work in the education space. It is a central principle behind the voting rights proposals I have championed. In addition to my focus on racial equity I have also been a steadfast advocate for the rights of women, and our LGBTQ community.

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)

While I understand that all of those are important issues for non-profits, I would support the policy solutions about workforce shortage first. I hear about the acute need for workforce supports from a wide range of non-profits, and from the families that depend on them. Most specifically, we have severe shortages of workers who provide direct support to people with disability or behavioral health needs. I believe that low rates of pay are a primary cause of these shortages, and there is no way to solve that challenge without government support. If we do increase pay, we are helping the non-profits, their clients, and the workers - a policy solution that is a win for everyone. The same range of benefits is true for increasing support for affordable child care.
