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**COMPLETE**

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

## Q1

### About Candidates

Candidate Name	<b>Karen Burnette McCracken</b>
District	<b>50</b>
Party Affiliation	<b>Democrat</b>
Campaign Website	<b><a href="https://www.facebook.com/karen.burnette/">https://www.facebook.com/karen.burnette/</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)

The presence of supportive adults in a young person's life correlates with a reduction in destructive behaviors. Non-profits are great resources for providing supportive adults to youth and mentors for young adults. They also help with life skill and leadership development. Throughout my life, nonprofits have provided me with meaningful relationships which have guided my path for who I am today.

Since birth, I've attended church, and my first leadership position was when I was around 8 years old. Over the years, I've held leadership positions (volunteer & paid). Each church has given me opportunities to serve and be served. The adults showed me how to care for others with action.

Since preschool, I've been involved with WMU, and my first leadership position was as a NC Acteens Panelist when I was a teenager. WMU developed in me a heart for the left-out and taught me leadership skills to mobilize people for positive community action. I've served two terms on the WMU NC Executive Board.

I joined SWARM in 1998 with the intent of volunteering for a day, but I ended up volunteering all summer, followed by many more summers. At times, I've served on the Board, including a term as Board President. The elder volunteers cast for me a vision for living on mission through the end of my days. They challenged me to step out of my comfort zone to interact with others and develop new skills.

My higher education degrees came from Gardner-Webb and Campbell Universities. They taught me that education is not just for a degree to get a job, but it has a greater purpose: to honor God and help others. My French teacher taught me how to drive a stick shift, and that's but one example of how the professors and staff invested in the students.

Over the years, I've volunteered with Habitat, participated in food distributions, and donated to many organizations with the goal of living a life that matters.

How do these experiences affect policy positions? I am in favor of policies which facilitate opportunities for people to improve their lives. Policies need to enable positive behavior.

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**Q3**

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

Education/Job Training  
Healthcare-including addressing Drug Addiction  
Environmental-Economic Partnership

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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)

Stream-lining the process of receiving grants would be helpful. There are many grants available, but many organizations are intimidated by the process. Thus, they don't apply. I've known several workers who basically disappear for months because they are squamped in applying for a grant. Time which could be spent helping people or being with family is lost because they are consumed with the grant. Plus, the stress wears on them. Then, the reviewers have to pour over the applications. Stream-lining would be better for everyone.

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