

# #42

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

## Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	<b>Mary Bethel</b>
District	<b>State House District 37</b>
Party Affiliation	<b>Democrat</b>
Campaign Website	<b><a href="http://www.MaryBethelForNC.com">www.MaryBethelForNC.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 have worked for a national non-profit that has an office in North Carolina and helped to get a North Carolina state level non-profit started and served as its first Executive Director. I currently volunteer at several local community non-profits and have been Board chair for a local non-profit faith based assistance program. I am a Board member and officer of several state level non-profits now including serving as chair of the Board of one organization, the NC Coalition on Aging.

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## Q3

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

- 1) Ensuring access to health care and addressing the shortage of health care workers, particularly direct care workers.
  - 2) Investing in all levels of education from pre-K through higher education to ensure children in our state can receive a sound basic education.
  - 3) Strengthening our communities by increasing accessible and affordable housing and transportation options and supporting measures to keep our environment healthy.
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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)

Many non-profits, particularly grass roots organizations that reach people on a one-on-one basis, need more revenue to achieve their purposes. This revenue may be needed to pay staff, to recruit and support volunteers, and to cover other essential program costs. Revenue for non-profits has declined during COVID-19 and other challenges such as the 2018 federal tax law changes have resulted in less money going to non-profits at the same time many non-profits have seen an increase in the demand for their services. I would enthusiastically support 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 non-profits. I would push for an examination of the 2018 federal tax law changes. At the same time, I would also promote efforts to boost on-going pandemic relief and financial support to non-profits as we hopefully begin to emerge from COVID-19 where the critical role played by non-profits was as on display. In promoting these efforts, I believe there needs to be added focus on telling the story about the important role that non-profits play in our state and in our communities. In addition, I believe these needs to be focus on identify ways to support the good on-going work of the NC Center for Nonprofits to educate and inform state legislators, members of Congress and other decision makers about the need for legislation to strengthen and financially support the work of non-profits.

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