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

## Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	<b>Matt Hughes</b>
District	<b>NC House District 50</b>
Party Affiliation	<b>Democrat</b>
Campaign Website	<b><a href="http://www.matthughesnc.com">www.matthughesnc.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 non-profits as a board member, staff person, and volunteer. In many of those capacities, I have had to work with the bureaucratic issues non-profits encounter to carry out their missions in community. Two examples come to mind.

Recently the General Assembly changed North Carolina's sales tax laws and there is concern among non-profits if tickets to fundraising events should come with a sales tax. Many nonprofits don't regularly make sales as part of their fundraising and maybe unequipped to work with the NC Department of Revenue to make these payments on a regularly basis, or otherwise complete the quarterly reporting when no sales tax has been collected.

Additionally, 501(c)3 agencies have to petition the Department of Revenue regularly to receive a refund of sales taxes they were charged. When I worked in state government, agencies received these sales taxes waived at point of sale. However, many non-profits find it too much of a burden to go through the refund process and therefore end up paying taxes they otherwise should be absolved of.

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### Q3

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

Education- Our district has two school districts with pressing capital needs as well as an inability to recruit and retain teachers due to burnout, the pandemic, salaries, and more. I will work within the NCGA to pass a statewide bond referendum for school capital projects, raise teacher pay to the national average, and provide additional salary support for rural counties and those with low property values to invest in teachers.

Broadband- This issue has been an issue in my district since the mid-2000s. ARPA and additional support from the General Assembly goes a long way to implement broadband, especially rural broadband. I want to take it a step further and ensure that the internet is treated as a utility and that equitable access to broadband is an economic justice issue and an economic driver.

Medicaid Expansion- So much of my district does not have access to health insurance nor do they have access to healthcare providers, especially in the more rural areas. As a legislator, I will fight for and support Medicaid expansion in the House and work to send the legislation to Governor Cooper for his signature.

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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)

I believe all of these policy goals are worthy of my support and would support them in the General Assembly. The ones I would most enthusiastically support are making sure 501(c)3 organizations are fully exempt; expanding tax deductions and credits; and supporting policy solutions to address the nonprofit workforce shortage. Above I addressed the issues of sales taxes and how tax exempt organizations have to go through greater lengths to pay no sales taxes. This needs to change. As someone who has donated funds to local non-profits, it is hard to realize the tax benefits without donating a significant amount of one's salary. The current system assists high wealth individuals reduce their tax responsibility. However, if we had a system that encouraged middle class earners to donate with realized tax benefits, then I know from personal experience others will donate. And finally, the workforce shortage is real and one I've encountered in finance and human resources roles. We work in an industry that historically has low wages for a litany of reasons (reducing overhead, low fundraising, etc.). Our General Assembly should change laws that incentivize paying employees well and providing good benefits without being penalized in grant funding or government contracts.

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