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

Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Patrick Buffkin
District	Senate District 13
Party Affiliation	Democratic
Campaign Website	www.patrickfornc.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 been a part of and interacted with many nonprofits as a volunteer, supporter, and as a member of the Raleigh City Council. Habitat for Humanity, the Triangle Y, faith based nonprofits, arts organizations, William Peace University, animal rescues, and the United Way are among the organizations that I have volunteered for or supported in various ways. As a member of the Raleigh City Council, I serve as liaison to the Arts Commission and have been proud to support our local arts nonprofits through that public service work. Also, as a member of the City Council I am aware of the significant and impactful way that our local nonprofits support the community through affordable housing, drug and alcohol addition services, and promoting and supporting businesses in our community. These experiences shape my policy positions by giving me the awareness of this work and natural inclination to make use of our nonprofits to do good work that the government is unable to accomplish.

Q3

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

1. Adequately fund education, including increasing teacher salaries, addressing student learning loss resulting from the pandemic, and meeting the funding mandate for low wealth schools under Leandro.
 2. Expanding Medicaid and increasing access to safe and affordable health care.
 3. Investing in our aging infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, stormwater, water and sewer, and expanding the availability of high-speed internet.
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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 support all of these policy goals, based on my view that nonprofits do good work, more efficiently than government agencies. I recognize that tax exempt status is a key part of gaining financial support for nonprofits. I believe that new and expanded tax deductions and credits effectively incentivize giving to nonprofits. I appreciate the importance of workforce shortages and acknowledge that child care is a key challenge for workers today, and I am looking at this challenge in my own life as an expecting father. I want to fix problems and make government work better for everyone, and I am concerned to hear that nonprofits are facing problems with grants and contracts. Expanding access to affordable and high-quality health care and other benefits for workers is one of my top policy priorities.
