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Q1 About Candidates

Candidate Name	DD (Denise Darcell) Adams
District	North Carolina 5th Congressional District
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	http://ddadamsforcongress.com/

Q2 What has been your personal experience with nonprofits as a board member, employee, volunteer, or donor? How do these experiences shape your policy positions? (Limit: 300 words)

I have had the privilege of being a member of numerous nonprofits organizations dealing with social issues, improving the environment, creating opportunity, health and wellness and the arts. With each organization, I have learned how valuable they are to the community in which they are located, to those they serve and their employees. These organizations are seen as the little brother to the business and governmental sectors. But I see non-profits as societal glue. Nonprofits are often the first to see a problem or opportunity and are the first to act. They fill the gaps not seen by business or government.

My experience with nonprofits has taught me their value and shaped my thinking on how to address needs. Serving on the Boards of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, the Urban League, and Step One and East Winston Community Development Corporation has shown me that these organizations understand their community and have greater influence than most governmental agencies. I listen to nonprofit leaders for advice.

I currently sit on the National League of Cities Board of Directors; Member of the First Tee of the Triad; Forsyth County Community Garden Advisory Board; Women's Leadership Council; Member of the University Area Neighborhood Association; Life Member of Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, Urban League, Step One and East Winston Community Development Corporation.

As a lifelong Democrat, most of my volunteer activities are in the political arena because I believe government can help improve the quality of life for citizens. I have a great appreciation for public and not-profit partnerships. Government can smooth the way for nonprofits to operate in a community and often provide funding.

Four Questions for Candidates for Office in 2018

Q3 If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities? (Limit: 250 words)

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. It is necessary to a quality life. Ultimately, we need to move to a single-payer system. This must be a thoughtful process, because our national healthcare industry (insurance and providers) represents a sixth of the economy. Healthcare employs almost 500,000 people and comprises \$2.5 trillion of the U.S. economy. We have the ability to provide healthcare for all while protecting current jobs

Education: We need safe schools, resources for students from pre-K through 12th grade, and better-paid teachers. Smaller class sizes and improved opportunities for those with learning differences are also essential. To have an educated workforce and electorate, then tuition for at least two years of public university, community college or trades school must be free.

Employment: New businesses are responsible for nearly all net job creation in America. And businesses less than one year old have created an average of 1.5 million jobs per year for the last three decades. Start-ups also drive innovation. Freeing up capital for new businesses will speed the rate of job creation. A fair and equitable tax code is a powerful tool for addressing economic inequality.

Q4 What is your position on these tax issues that affect charitable nonprofits?

Preserving or expanding tax exemption for charitable nonprofits

5 (strongly support)

Encouraging individuals and businesses to give generously to nonprofits serving their communities

5 (strongly support)

Please add any comments about tax policies that affect nonprofits. (Limit: 250 words):

Donors, at all levels, contribute because of the cause they are supporting, not solely for the tax savings, making it difficult to predict how individuals and corporations will adjust their contributions based on tax changes. However, the recent tax bill presents many challenges to nonprofit organizations. Individuals will continue to allow an itemized deduction for charitable contributions, but because of other changes in the tax law, fewer people are likely to itemize. The Tax Policy Center projects a drop in those itemizing from 26% to 11%. It is hard to predict the impact of fewer donors itemizing, and therefore fewer with a direct federal tax benefit for charitable giving. Several national organizations have attempted to estimate how the reduction in the number of taxpayers itemizing their deductions will reduce contributions. Some overall estimates project about a 5% reduction in individual charitable contributions. This is an issue which deserves careful monitoring with an eye on changing the tax code should donations drop precipitously. Reduction in the corporate income tax from 35 percent to 21 percent reduces the tax incentives for corporate charitable giving. The incentive to make major charitable bequests will be reduced as a result of the Federal Estate Tax threshold doubling. This, too, could lead to a major drop in large donations which should be monitored. All these issues require continuous monitoring with an eye to revisiting the tax bill to encourage donations.

Four Questions for Candidates for Office in 2018

Q5 What policies would you propose to promote continued job growth for private employers, including both nonprofit and for-profit business employers? (Limit: 250 words)

Promote economic growth through innovation and start-ups. They are the ultimate job creators who start with ingenious ideas, take risks and create value for the American consumer. Develop public-private partnerships to create jobs

Strategic immigration reform. Quit making it hard for foreign entrepreneurs to come to and stay in America. We should grant automatic green cards to STEM graduate students from U.S. universities and pass the Dream Act to allow law-abiding people brought to the U.S. as children to become citizens. The US also needs immigration to fill the jobs in agriculture.

Free, Public College Education: The United States spends about \$800 billion on defense annually. If we spent \$70 billion to give each college-bound student in the U.S. at least 2 years of free college education at a public college/university, it would provide long-term stimulus to the economy by providing the future workforce with the skills necessary for the global economy.

Spending on Infrastructure: Finally, the best way to boost U.S. GDP growth would be a classic one: by investment in infrastructure, education, research and health care. Thousands of bridges need to be repaired, thousands of miles of highways/roads must be reconstructed, the electric grid must be made "smart," and most grade/secondary schools and many hospitals need to be modernized. A comprehensive investment in healthcare/energy/research would create thousands of new jobs and give the most complex and sophisticated economy the infrastructure and support systems it needs to perform at maximum output in the 21st century.
