



Three Questions for Candidates for Office in 2022

With responses published for community leaders throughout your district

Please respond to these three questions at www.ncnonprofits.org/questionnaire-2022 or send responses to David Heinen at dheinen@ncnonprofits.org or 919-877-8111 (fax). Thank you.

Candidate Name Ben Massey
 District NC House 93 Party Affiliation Democrat
 Campaign website ben@benmasseyjr.com

1. Charitable nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, community health centers, churches, synagogues, hospices, crisis assistance agencies, school mentoring programs, hospitals, United Ways, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, domestic violence agencies, medical research organizations, Meals on Wheels, and child care centers.

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)

My career began by practicing as a physical therapist in a non-profit hospital and ended by working as the Manager for the Watauga County Farmers' Market, and serving as President of the Ashe County Farmers Market, both non-profits. In-between, non-profits have always been an integral part of my life, from raising monies for scholarships and charitable organizations, and volunteering my time for various causes. I served in leadership positions on Boards, and as an officer in numerous volunteer organizations. From 2000 to 2006, I was President of the Physical Therapy Fund (now the Foundation for Physical Therapy a 501(c) (3)) a national non-profit Foundation that has funded over \$20 million for research, scholarships, and fellowships in physical therapy. More locally, I have supported the NC Physical Therapy Scholarship and Loan Committee by helping with fundraisers. In 2016, the NC Physical Therapy Scholarship and Loan Fund established a scholarship in my honor. I served as the co-leader for my hospital's fundraising efforts for United Way, breaking their previous records for the amount we raised that year. I also served as an organizer and leader of field events for Special Olympics. As Manager and President of farmers' markets, I worked closely with other non-profit organizations, frugally managed modest budgets, and sought out additional funding from other community and governmental agencies to support our work. Today, I routinely volunteer at the food pantry in Ashe County. On September 10, 2016, Governor McCrory presented me with "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine", a most prestigious award presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. These experiences have made me realize that communities absolutely cannot function without volunteer organizations and the State needs to do everything in its power to support legitimate non-profits.

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

My policy priorities relate to the essential role of affordable and equitable quality public education; affordable access to Healthcare for all; the incentives needed for wise and measured economic development including consideration of access to education and job training, the housing crisis, and availability of childcare and elder care and other family support systems affecting the availability and stability of the workforce; the needs of farmers and agricultural infrastructure as an essential component of our future sustainability; and the need to manage climate change and protect our precious environmental resources, all of which impact the quality of life for the people of North Carolina and my district in the High Country. Non-profits have a key role to play in all of these issues and it is to the advantage of all our constituents to have policies that create a favorable environment for non-profits to be able to accomplish their mission.

For more information regarding my policy priorities, I invite you to visit my website: www.benmasseyjr.com.

3. 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.

If elected, which of these policy goals would you support most enthusiastically, and why?

(Limit: 250 words)

First and foremost, I support and agree with your policy agenda and want you to know that you can count on me to work with the Summit Support Services of Ashe, Inc. and NC Center of Non-Profits as we share many common interests. Many of the issues identified above are interdependent and not unique to the non-profit sector of our economy and workforce. I will engage interested stakeholders from a variety of perspectives in an effort to inform my understanding of the issues related to these topics or to specific legislation under consideration and the likely impact for the people I represent and serve.

Thank you!

For more information about North Carolina's nonprofit sector or policy issues that affect nonprofits, please contact David Heinen, dheinen@ncnonprofits.org.