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Q1 About Candidates

Candidate Name	Amanda Bregel
District	NC, 87
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	amandaforncouse.org

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)

My past and present nonprofit experiences certainly shape my personal worldview and policy positions. I have been personally invested in nonprofits for decades as a volunteer and servant leader. I served as president of UNC-Greensboro Circle K, led dozens of relief trips to hurricane-ravaged areas, and worked as a missionary and educator with an international nonprofit for two years. I currently serve with a rural food pantry in my county and have been an active participant in faith communities since birth. As a teacher I organize service projects for all eighty-five of my students and teach them the value of nonprofits and giving back. I am familiar with the nonprofit world and would attribute my experiences as a driving force to ever seeking office.

I believe the leaders in our nonprofit organizations know the pulse of the community and elected officials can learn from them. Every person in political office needs to be on the ground in their local nonprofits. Through my experiences I have learned to care for people and the value of working together. My policies are centered on improving services that help individuals and ultimately better us all, a lesson I learned from volunteering. We are stronger when we care for each other over self or just the most successful members of our community. These basic worldviews shape my priorities and will shape my votes as a representative in Raleigh. I am running for office to be a voice for teachers, a voice for women, and a voice for others who don't have representation. I want to improve government policies and find solutions for those in our community who need a helping hand.

Four Questions for Candidates for Office in 2018

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

My top three priorities include providing an equitable education for all, empowering our rural communities, and fighting for transparency in government. I am a public schoolteacher at the high school level and the daughter of an elementary school career educator. I know an investment in education is the best investment in the future of our state and believe we must provide our students with resources to help them prepare for the future workplace and the staff capacity in every school to support the whole child. I represent a rural community in Western NC; the majority of North Carolina counties are rural. I would protect programs that offer support to our rural communities and bring attention to policies that favor urban areas. We need to link our rural and urban centers to bring all of North Carolina prosperity and update infrastructure across the state. Transparency in our state and local governments means a wider variety of representatives from all backgrounds and professions. We are a bipartisan state, so our leadership should be an example for the rest of the United States with representation from both parties who work together. I believe that a General Assembly with voices that reflect our population will have more incentive to consult others and be more open about policy decisions. The government should be easy to access by the people. My desire to give others a voice and fight for my community is the reason why I am running for office.

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):

I would support policies that encourage growth for our nonprofits and make donating to nonprofits simple. I believe in the work our nonprofits do. However, I also believe that nonprofit organizations must be transparent with funding and decisions. Nonprofits must be accountable and ethical so they keep the public and leadership's trust.

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)

At the public school level I believe in fostering apprenticeship programs, which could incorporate the for-profit business and nonprofit employers. We need to help create a new generation of dependable, knowledgeable employees and give them a path to a career. I would propose policies to invest in infrastructure across our state to encourage business growth, connections, and create jobs. I would also support policies that invest in our lower and middle class. These are the people in our jobs and they need a steady paycheck. Continually losing jobs does nothing to create job growth. I support raising wages for employees because better employee conditions and less turnover has shown to support businesses overall. I believe supporting our rural communities with economic growth programs and providing expertise to those communities will help one-industry communities diversify and create jobs. If people in our North Carolina town are feeling secure in their job, knowledgeable, and confident, the whole economy of North Carolina will benefit. Our nonprofits will also benefit because they will hopefully be under less strain and people will have more resources to give to our nonprofits. Hopefully a financially secure state will also be able to treat nonprofits as they should in the budget and keep funding to our vital programs.
