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

Q1

About Candidates

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|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Candidate Name | Jonah Garson |
| District | House District 56 |
| Party Affiliation | Democrat |
| Campaign Website | jonahgarson.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)

As an attorney, I am proud to have a pro bono practice focused on organizing nonprofits committed to racial justice and equity work here in North Carolina. Recent clients include the E3 Camp in Chapel Hill/Carrboro, which provides enrichment activities in the arts and S.T.E.M. fields to middle school students of color in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and surrounding districts. I also recently worked on the initial organizational documents for the New North Carolina Project and New North Carolina Project Foundation.

Social justice-focused nonprofit board service has also been a large part of my civic identity for the past decade. I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, the International Advisory Board of Carolina Performing Arts, and the Pro Bono Committee of the Litigation Section Council of the North Carolina Bar Association. I recently stepped back from serving as the Chair of the Board of the New North Carolina Project Foundation, which works to make politics represent the needs of North Carolinians by investing in communities of color, expanding the engaged electorate, and creating lifelong voters.

So much of my policy orientation is informed by my nonprofit work— both as an attorney and board member— in particular, the racial justice and equity grounding which I believe must be bedrock for any good, progressive policymaking. My work on the Executive Committee of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, in particular, specifically informs my policy positions on criminal legal reform, policing, and environmental justice.

Q3

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

Democracy Reform: For the past decade—since I served as a legislative staffer in 2010—North Carolina has been ground zero for voter suppression, map-rigging, and for attacks on American democracy generally. We need to flip that script and lead as a state in America's democratic revival. This includes working to finally enact redistricting reform to prevent racial and partisan gerrymandering and to ensure meaningful political representation for every community.

Championing Public Education: We deserve great public schools that serve all students equitably and where teachers are properly valued and empowered. This means fully funding our public schools; raising educator and staff pay dramatically; introducing and fully-funding universal pre-K; creating new, state-funded programs to recruit and retain Black teachers and other teachers of color; championing greater funding for school social workers, psychologists, and counselors; introducing universal nutrition programs; and ensuring that all of our public colleges and universities can operate in the best interests of students, free from destructive political interference.

Climate Action and Environmental Justice. I will do everything I can to move NC toward 100% renewable electricity generation as soon as possible, while fighting to ensure that the costs of the transition to clean energy are borne by Duke Energy, not rate-payers. Our clean energy transition must be equitable. I will also work to build NC's EV infrastructure; to increase access to weatherization programs to reduce energy consumption and lower power bills; and to fight for clean air and water for all, and hold polluters—including our utility monopolies—accountable.

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 the items comprising the Center's policy agenda. Of those items, I would be most enthusiastic about supporting policy solutions addressing the nonprofit workforce shortage, including increased funding to support jobs in the nonprofit sector and investment in accessible and affordable child care, because it speaks directly to two of my education policy priorities: universal, public early-childhood education, and robust state-level tuition forgiveness programs for students pursuing public interest work, including nonprofit leadership work.