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Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Sam Searcy
District	13th Congressional District
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	www.samsearcy.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)

American nonprofits perform an unbelievable array of tasks and provide essential services that impact the lives of millions. I have personally benefited from this work, growing up in western North Carolina. When I was a boy, my father lost his job and our family lost our home. It took a long time for my family to claw its way back into what I would describe as the lower middle class. We were helped by so many charitable nonprofits during that time. After being elected to the North Carolina Senate, I was able to partner with and learn from the nonprofit community in brand new ways, and to work with the community to support the work in Wake County. These experiences have shown me that as policy is proposed and legislated upon, it is important to remember that there are often additional important stakeholders to keep in mind, and that the work and needs of the nonprofit community should be respected and woven into those policies. The work of millions of staff, volunteers, and donors to address myriad challenges, from poverty to hunger to homelessness, are a big part of the collective effort to mitigate and resolve these challenges. Government should be a partner, not an obstacle, to this charitable work.

Q3

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

1. Protecting voting rights and opposing voter suppression. Our democratic institutions and the right to vote are under attack. I will support legislation, like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, to protect everyone's right to vote, to prohibit voter suppression laws, and to end gerrymandering.
 2. Expanding access to quality affordable health care. I support allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, working around states which have not expanded Medicaid (like North Carolina) so that everyone can get the benefits of the ACA, and lowering the eligibility age of Medicare to drive down insurance costs.
 3. Protecting a woman's right to choose. I support codifying the right of every woman to make their own healthcare decisions, so that this important right cannot be overturned by the Supreme Court or undermined by punitive state laws.
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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 will support them all, but the promotion of affordable high-quality health care, and addressing the workforce shortage go hand-in-hand with my policy priorities more broadly. I have consistently fought for universal Pre-K and affordable child care, and will continue to do so in Congress. I am passionate about skills training and matching our workforce to jobs--it is a major reason why I accepted an appointment to the North Carolina Board of Community Colleges. In Congress, I will fight to expand access to health care for all of our people, in ways which will be good for patients, but also for nonprofits and businesses, by reducing prescription drug costs and lowering the Medicare eligibility age.
