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Q1 About Candidates

Candidate Name	Terry Van Duyn
District	Senate 49
Party Affiliation	Democratic
Campaign Website	votevanduyn.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 privileged to have more than 20 years of non-profit board experience with organizations that support the needs of low income children, elderly, and adults. Two organizations that have significantly influenced my service in the North Carolina legislature are Pisgah Legal Services and The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

What I learned from my service at Pisgah Legal Services, is that low-income people struggle not only to provide the basics, like food, housing, and medical care for their families, they are also vulnerable to exploitation by predatory landlords, unscrupulous lenders, abusive domestic partners and others. Because they don't have the resources to defend themselves, they are easy prey.

Pisgah also gave me the opportunity to train and work as an ACA navigator, where I saw, first hand, the relationship between access to healthcare and the ability to work.

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, on the other hand, gave me broader exposure into nonprofits whose mission included arts, culture, and the environment. As chair of the Distributions Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with so many passionate advocates for preserving cultural and natural resources that are unique to North Carolina, and integral to our heritage.

Although I have resigned from active board work, I continue to support these non-profits and learn valuable lessons from the important work they do.

Four Questions for Candidates for Office in 2018

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

Because a strong North Carolina economy, one that works for all our citizens, begins with education, that would be my first priority. That means improving access to early childhood development, making sure every child that needs it can access Pre-K, and that every family that qualifies has access to excellent childcare.

It means that K-12 teachers have the resources they need to do their jobs, that the pay they receive means they feel respected and valued. We need to get education funding back to pre-recession levels and pay teachers at least the national average.

It means making investments so our Community Colleges, the bridge to the good jobs of the future, are state-of-the-art and affordable.

And finally, it means making investments so our universities remain first class. They are the economic driver for state, developing the talent that draws highway businesses to our state.

My second priority would be to expand Medicaid. This would not only provide access to much needed healthcare for almost half a million North Carolinians, it would give us more resources to deal with the opioid epidemic and other mental health issues plaguing our state.

Finally, clean air and clean water need to be protected by reinvesting in the Department of Environmental Quality.

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):

Although I vigorously support advocacy by non-profits, and worked with my local organizations to develop their ability to advocate, I also believe the Johnson Amendment is important to keeping our nonprofits from becoming over-politicized.

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)

When I talk to employers, workforce development is frequently their greatest need. I believe strong collaboration between businesses and our schools, from K-12 to our universities, so that we can continue to produce a well-trained and capable workforce, is key.
