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

Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Charles Smith
District	North Carolina House of Representatives, District 44
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	http://charlessmithfornc.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)

Professionally, I have worked closely with charitable nonprofit organizations at different stages of my legal career. As an Assistant District Attorney in Cumberland County, I primarily prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse cases. During that time, I regularly spoke with advocates from the Phoenix Center and reviewed interview footage from the Child Advocacy Center at 222 Rowan St., Fayetteville, NC. Since transitioning into private practice, one of my main clients has been the Hoke County Department of Social Services, including the Child Welfare Unit. As such, I have continued to work closely with different child advocacy groups and centers. Through my professional experience, I have been able to observe the crucially important services that charitable nonprofit organizations, namely child advocacy centers, provide to children that have experience trauma. By creating nurturing environments and bringing together collaborating advocates, child advocacy centers are able to effectively respond to child abuse and help alleviate effects of experienced trauma. More practically, by facilitating interviews in a centralized location, I have noted that child advocacy centers can reduce the number of interviews for child abuse victims, which reduces the need for the abused child to "relive" a traumatic incident.

Outside of work, my wife, Mary Kelly, and I have participated in days of service put on by Fayetteville Urban Ministry, and we have routinely donated food and clothing. In my experience, charitable nonprofit organizations foster civic engagement and strengthen communities. They provide a way for members of the community to work together for a common good, and they feed, shelter, and nurture people of every age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status. Similarly, many of my policy positions seek to create more equitable communities and improve the quality of life of all North Carolinians.

Q3

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

- (1) Lowering healthcare and energy costs;
 - (2) Fully funding our public schools/recruiting and retaining quality educators; and
 - 3) Ensuring livable wages for working class individuals.
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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)

If elected, I will most enthusiastically fight to promote laws that will help nonprofit organizations and businesses to be able to provide affordable, high-quality healthcare and other benefits to their employees. Without a quality workforce, nonprofit organizations would be unable to transform their hopes and good intentions into action. To this end, in order to recruit and retain quality employees, nonprofit organizations have to be able to offer competitive benefits. Otherwise, employment with a nonprofit organization will not be a viable option for many people entering the workforce.
