About the Center for Non-Profits

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Candidates’ Responses to the 2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

The Center for Non-Profits, a nonpartisan, charitable 501(c)(3) umbrella organization serving New Jersey’s charitable non-profit community, conducted an online questionnaire open to all general election candidates for New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly, in order to gain insights into the candidates’ policy priorities and their thoughts about the non-profit community.

An initial communication and one reminder inviting candidates to complete the questionnaire were sent to the candidates’ email addresses as posted on the New Jersey Division of Elections’ website.

The list of candidates that submitted responses by October 17, 2019, appears on the next page. The candidates’ responses appear on the following pages, unedited from their original submissions.
Candidates’ Responses to the 2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

All General Assembly seats are up for election in 2019. In the State Senate, only one seat, a special election in District 1, is being contested this year. To find which municipalities are in each district, see www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/districtnumbers.asp or www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp. To find a district using a specific address, see https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/. The candidates listed below submitted responses on or before October 17, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Candidate for:</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<td>Bob Andrzejczak</td>
<td>State Senate</td>
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<td>Cynthia Plucinski</td>
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<td>Joann Downey</td>
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<td>Gordon M. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Valerie Vainieri Hurtle</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
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Candidate Information:

Bob Andrzejczak  
PO Box 941  
CMCH, NJ 08210

Running for: State Senate
Legislative District: 1
Party: Democrat

Website: www.teamsouthjersey.com
Email: info@teamsouthjersey.com
Phone: 301-254-7533

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have volunteered with a number of veterans organizations, the Cub Scouts, and Farmers Against Hunger. Many of the good work being done in our communities are done at the non-profit level, and we must do all that we can to support these selfless volunteers.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Restoring funding levels to our schools
2. Lessening the property tax burden on residents, particularly our seniors
3. Working to ensure that our veterans are given all the support they need upon returning home

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits are often well suited to fill the voids left by government in providing support and services to those most in need in our communities.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

For starters, proper funding for our non-profits is essential for them to do their work. We must give our community organizations the resources and support they need to be successful.

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Board member volunteer donor. I am wholeheartedly in favor of non-profits

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Support
2. Encouragement
3. Publicity

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Leadership

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Not sure. Need more information

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1999 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Kathleen Cooley
8 Pinewald Lane
Burlington, NJ 08016

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 7
Party: Independent

Website: NA
Email: CooleyForNJAssembly@gmail.com
Phone: 2672546667

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have worked as a volunteer at events created to benefit a food bank, and also with a cat spay/neuter foundation. I was drawn to these events since I was already passionate about the issues, and thrilled with such big accomplishments from lots of "tiny" efforts!

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Repealing the 2013 legislation that expanded the tax incentives program in NJ, revamping the program
2. Finding new sources of sustainable revenue
3. Funding and stabilizing the public worker pension systems

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits can dig in to communities in ways that government cannot, providing much-needed services to these communities, filling in the gaps between employment and public assistance.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I don't know enough about this aspect to answer

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Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Carol Murphy
975 NJ-73 N
Suite E
Marlton, NJ 08054

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 7
Party: Democrat

Website: https://votecarolmurphy.com/
Email: murphy4assembly@gmail.com
Phone: 8566492272

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As a board member for the Alice Paul Institute, as well as the state director for the National Federation for Women Legislators, I know first-hand the monumental changes and effects that non-profits can have in people’s lives. Seeing and experiencing the focus that people have for the causes they care about the most inspires me to do my best to not only fight for the causes I believe in, but also to enable others to continue their own fights. My own personal causes that I focus on are women’s rights and uplifting women into the political world. I was inspired by the story of the women’s suffragist Alice Paul from Mount Laurel, and that’s why I wrote legislation honoring her with a day dedicated to her honor, as well as legislation that would put a statue of Alice Paul in the Capitol building in Washington DC. As a legislator, I cannot focus solely on my own personal fights and causes, which is why I’m also a primary sponsor on A5464, a bill that would allow for tax deductions for contributions to state-based charities. Ensuring that people receive the credit they deserve for contributing to causes they believe in is a no-brainer to me, and I will continue to make it easier for people in New Jersey to donate their time and money to charitable organizations.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. The costs of living in New Jersey are rising, and the reduction in SALT deductions on the federal level has only exacerbated the situation. That is why I am focused on making the state more affordable for everyone. We must make it a priority to reduce the
2. For too long, a focus has been placed on North Jersey with regards to public transportation while South Jersey communities are left to the wayside. Many of my constituents rely on the River Line to get to work, only for the train to be delayed due to tech

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3. As the daughter of an Army Bronze Star recipient, the needs and concerns of our veterans is an issue that is near and dear to my heart. With Joint Base McGuire–Dix–Lakehurst located so close to my district, it’s also an area that is a concern for my const

**What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

Charitable and non-profit organizations play an essential role of the legislative process, by directly connecting the concerns of the average person to legislators in a way that would otherwise be difficult to do. With an organization behind an issue there’s real weight behind the efforts to get legislation passed, which is invaluable in a time when there’s more emphasis placed on legislator’s personal projects, as opposed to the projects that would address the needs and concerns of their constituents. I will continue to work in tandem with the advocates of the various non-profits in our state to ensure that I am collecting the most information I possibly can, in order to achieve the vision that I have for my constituents and New Jersey.

**What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

I believe that ensuring an open line of communication on all fronts, from the members of the community to the non-profits themselves, up to the legislators that represent the communities involved, is vital to meeting the needs and concerns of those communities. Without hearing about the issues that the members of our communities have, it’s difficult for legislators to address a problem. However, with a policy of communication and cooperation, action can be taken by those who have the ability to do so. The better equipped a non-profit is to convey the concerns of the communities they’re working with, the more they’ll be able to make a difference with meeting those concerns.
Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I'm appreciative of so much of the work done by nonprofits; I have contributed to environmental organizations and public radio, vital institutions that offer much-needed services and advocacy, particularly in the challenging times we face. I will always advocate for progressive ideals like affordable housing and a clean environment, and as Assemblyman, I will stand by the organizations pursuing those ideals as well.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. A statewide Green New Deal
2. Public banking
3. Reforming the EDA tax incentive program

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I see non-profits as allies, made up of individuals working hard each and every day to provide services to their communities. Together, non-profits generate justice, safety, and knowledge among their communities.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)
I appreciate the FY2020 budget that accounted for minimum wage increases by subsidizing industries like non-profit child care. I would advocate for similar policies as the minimum wage continues to increase incrementally to $15/hour.
Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Vincent R Barrella
116 Niblick Street
Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey 08742

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 10
Party: Independent

Website: barrella2019.com
Email: barrellaforassembly@gmail.com
Phone: 7323307910

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I am a college professor and Chair of the Department of Legal Studies & Taxation at Pace University in New York. As such, I am familiar with the issues confronting non-profits especially since the 2017 tax act which has generally negatively impacted the deductibility of charitable contributions by eliminating many itemized deductions. I have also been involved, with local organizations like Little League as a member of the board of directors and Scouting as a member and then Chair of the Jersey Shore Council Golf outing. We need to find a way to fund our non-profits here in New Jersey and to rededicate that portion of the Hotel/Motel Tax intended to do so.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Reducing the State’s reliance on property taxes to fund municipal and school services
2. Funding public education in a fairer and more equitable fashion
3. Election and campaign reform to begin to eliminate many of the practices, which though technically not corrupt, adversely affect the relationship between elected officials and those they have been elected to serve.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As the State is constantly in a state of budgetary chaos, many of the social, educational and health goals that we should be focused on are not being adequately funded and non-profits are essential in filling that void.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

We need to reconfigure how we allocate funds at the State level so that non-profits that are engaged in important work are not in the position of having to constantly struggle to fund their operations.

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Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Ian Holmes
1425 Davidson ave.
Brick, New Jersey 08724

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 10
Party: Independent/Unaffiliated

Website: https://holmesforassembly.wixsite.com/holmesforassembly
Email: HouseHolmes.20@gmail.com
Phone: 7325972920

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I served as a volunteer for various non-profits in my youth and my experiences working for certain causes have helped shape my understanding of community outreach and involvement. Regarding what describes charitable non-profits in point 6 I would say that I have a favorable view of them, though I do sometimes question the status of hospitals as non-profits though that also related to healthcare concerns.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Voting Reform
2. Sustainability & Infrastructure Development
3. Education

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Depending on the non-profit, advocacy and educational outreach to citizens would be the most helpful so that citizens may receive answers and ask questions in areas of the state where their representatives are not open to proving an honest forum.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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Center for Non-Profits | 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 35 | Mercerville, NJ 08619 | 732-227-0800 | www.njnonprofits.org
**Candidate Information:**

Joann Downey  
106 Apple St.  
#200D  
Tinton Falls, New Jersey  07724  

Running for: General Assembly  
Legislative District: 11  
Party: Democrat

Website: ericandjoann2019.com  
Email: joannldowney@gmail.com  
Phone: 732-284-5459

**Questions and Responses**

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After earning my law degree, I earned a Masters Degree in Social Work and obtained experience in running a non-profit, so I know from personal experience that non-profits play a critical role in providing social services to our most vulnerable residents. I became an Assemblywoman because I believed I could do more to help people if I was at the table where decisions were made. I understood that as a social worker and an attorney, I was limited in what I could do to help my clients and wanted to be able to make a bigger impact. I also wanted to ensure that I could pass legislation that would help make the State a better place to live for my daughters, and for the residents. In my time as Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, I received a first-hand look at how non-profits supplement our social welfare system in ways that are not immediately obvious. From assisting people with disabilities to obtain employment to feeding and housing our homeless population, non-profits address the gaps in our system that are left by the public sector.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Supporting Women’s Health and Family Planning Services: I sponsored legislation to restore the $7.5 million in funding for women’s health in February 2018. Despite this measure, however, revised federal regulations under Title X could potentially jeopardize federal funding for reproductive health services.  
2. Combating Gun Violence: While the federal government has left a void in gun safety, the Legislature has been successful in passing several gun safety measures this session that were signed into law. One successful measure directs the Attorney General and  
3. Protecting our most vulnerable populations: Throughout my first term as Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, we passed a sweeping bill package that comprehensively tackles food insecurity. In the upcoming session, I am working on proposals that

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What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe non-profits will be critical in developing innovative solutions to some of our biggest challenges in New Jersey. Some challenges -- for example opioid abuse -- involve the intersection of multiple factors, including housing, health, criminal justice, and children's services. Tackling the opioid epidemic requires comprehensive cross-agency collaboration and innovation. We can’t wait for our government agencies to address these challenges, and in many cases, non-profits provide a forward-thinking and adaptable model to tackle these challenges head-on. I will support proposals that enable non-profits to tackle these problems with assistance from the government. One of my proposals will encourage private investment in health care services for the treatment and prevention of opioid and other substance abuse disorders. By establishing Social Innovation Loans to reduce opioid abuse, we can encourage the non-profits that are already working hard on this issue to be more innovative and adaptable in their approach by providing funding from the state. This will allow providers on the ground to help us determine which approaches work, and which don't in reducing opioid abuse.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey's non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe the state of New Jersey should support non-profits that provide critical services by identifying effective service providers that could efficiently scale their services through increased funding. This year, I secured a combined $2 million in funding for Monmouth County community organizations, nonprofits, and programs under the budget that was enacted in July. The funding will go to a diverse array of recipients, including programs for historical preservation, animal welfare and control, community recreation, and educational funding. I was glad to have fought for the inclusion of these funds, and I am excited to see how these new investments improve the quality of life in Monmouth County. If the State is not able to meet its obligations in certain areas, we should allow non-profits to take the lead and provide them the additional capacity to succeed.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 11
Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits are integral to our communities because they fill the void that the private sector and government is unable to accommodate. I am currently a member of my high school's alumni board, and I actively volunteer with several other non-profits in Monmouth County. I see firsthand the impact of successful non-profits and will work to support them as a legislator.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Make NJ more affordable and create an environment that attracts high-quality jobs for residents
2. Restore the $65 million cut from LD11 schools and improve school funding state-wide
3. Incentivize redevelopment to prevent over-development and improve our quality of life

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits span a variety of issues and possess exclusive expertise and research. I plan to partner with non-profits that focus on economic development, education and environment, and utilize the information they have gathered to advance sound policy and my vision for the state.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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The state should encourage and incentivize residents to donate to non-profits. Because New Jersey is one of the highest taxed states in the nation, residents have fewer resources to support charitable organizations. Legislation such as A307, which would allow gross income tax deductions for charitable contributions, should be passed and enacted immediately.

**About the Center for Non-Profits**

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Candidate Information:

Ron Dancer
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Running for: General Assembly
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Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

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Legislative District: 13
Party: Democrat

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I was Parliamentarian then Board Member of the Guild for Exceptional Children in Brooklyn, NY, a Girl Scout adult volunteer for over 30 years including serving as the co-service unit manager in NY supporting and providing programming for hundreds of our youth and I continue to be a volunteer for the organization in NJ, I am currently the President of our HS Parent-Teacher-Student organization. I have also been a member of a few community groups effectuating changes in our town. I believe in volunteer work and if everyone donates time to take care of their corner of the world, it all adds up! I have also given monetarily to many organizations over the years starting in my early adulthood with PETA. Having seen first hand what a grassroots group can do as well as larger organizations built with volunteers, I fully believe in the power of volunteers. From a policy perspective, I believe we need to support these organizations financially and with not burdening them with too much red tape. These groups do the work at the ground level and the volunteers are to be commended.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Being in the Bayshore district, environmental concerns are a top priority. We need to preserve and protect our land and waterways.
2. I believe in supporting groups that educate our youth and develop their leadership skills helping them to become more involved in their communities.
3. State finances are an ongoing priority. Non-profit and charitable groups go a LONG way to keep state costs down while providing many needed services.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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As stated, non-profits do the much needed hands on work in our communities. I would certainly like to assist them in addressing drug addiction in our state, youth leadership, the arts, caring for the elderly and assisting the poor. There are many areas in which non-profits do exceptional work that contribute to our communities.

**What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey's non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

Have a streamlined process to set up non-profits. Provide training in social media, finances and other areas that would help keep the non-profits sustainable. Take a comprehensive look at the non-profits that exist in the state to see where groups may want to be combined to work together and to also offer opportunities for the non-profits to learn successful strategies from one another.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Gerry Scharfenberger  
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Legislative District: 13  
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738  
Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have been a career volunteer serving on over 20 boards/commissions/committees. Most notable are the Middletown Disaster Relief Board and the Habitat for Humanity Board of Trustees. They have shown me the critical importance of non-profits to the quality of life, financial well-being and day to day operations of all levels of government. Government cannot do everything, so non-profits are often the entities relied upon to provide essential goods and services that government is unable to provide. Their role in the lives of many New Jerseyans cannot be overstated.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Property taxes
2. Economic development
3. Safety/Law enforcement

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I think it is imperative for government policy to help non-profits flourish in New Jersey by partnering with them in their respective missions, while creating an environment that will attract and retain potential donors to the state. Unfortunately, New Jersey is a high tax, over-regulated state which also means that non-profits must play a greater role in filling the gaps between government services and programs and people in need.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Government policy should be about partnering with the non-profit community, listening to their needs, and making sure that government is not an impediment to their operations and growth.

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Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Serena DiMaso
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 13
Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Where do I begin? I have often been called a professional volunteer. Over the years I sat on numerous boards such as the Ashley Lauren Foundation, the Arc of Monmouth, and I am currently in my 9th Year as the Chair of Bayshore Medical Center Foundation. I serve on legislative committees that interface with all types of nonprofits. My resume is vast. I am a donor to all of them. I am a major donor to Bayshore Medical Center and the Count Basie Center for the Arts. Having the opportunity to give back to my community helps me realize that my job as a legislator is more than simply creating laws. It is to craft policy that will protect and safeguard the welfare of all residents; especially our most vulnerable citizens.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Property Taxes
2. Affordable Housing
3. Education

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe they play a key role in helping to influence and craft necessary police. When we, as legislators, partner with nonprofits we gain the benefit of their first hand knowledge and community experience serving those less fortunate than ourselves. As a team we can achieve more.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe that we need to bring all of our non-profits together to ensure that we do not have overlapping services and duplicated efforts. Once that happens, we can all move in a forward direction to ensure that no one person can slip through the cracks. Often we see that many organizations whose mission and services would pair well together, are not even aware that the other exists. Without knowing the full scope of our nonprofit community it is difficult to move forward together.

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Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Wayne P. DeAngelo
105 Limewood Dr.
Hamilton, NJ 08690

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 14
Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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About the Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Daniel R. Benson
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Hamilton, NJ 08610

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 14
Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I am involved in the following nonprofits: Board Member, Mercer Area District Boy Scouts, past Treasurer, Henry J. Austin Health Center Board of Trustees, present Member, Ancient Order of Hibernians, present Member, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge #2622, present Member, Citizens for a Better Hamilton, past Member, Friends of the Hamilton Public Libraries, present Community Advisor, Hamilton High School Key Clubs, present Member, Young Professionals Board of Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, past Member, American Council of Young Political Leaders, present Member/Former President, Kiwanis Club of Hamilton Township

My experiences with non-profits have shaped my perspectives and policy positions in two significant ways. First, my involvement with non-profits has put me in touch with impassioned constituents who have brought issues to my attention. Working with community groups outside of Trenton has allowed me to be at the forefront of many different efforts to improve our communities and our state. I consider the insight I have gained from working with nonprofits to be invaluable in complementing my work as a legislator. Second, my involvement with nonprofits has made me a better advocate in the Statehouse. The comprehensive education I have gained through involvement in various non-profits has afforded me the knowledge I need to advance policy initiatives that help my constituents. Whether it’s health care policies, state funding for libraries, or other issues, I consider my involvement in non-profits concerning these issues to be integral in my advocacy.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Fully funding our public schools.
2. Meeting our obligations to public employees by fully funding the pension system.
3. Reforming and improving NJ Transit to make New Jersey a leader in transportation technology that is innovative, effective, and sustainable.

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What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Nonprofits can and should play an integral role in lobbying our state lawmakers and driving the policy discussions on a host of different issues. Too often, nonprofits take a backseat in our policy debates to large interest groups with agendas that aren’t representative of the vast majority of New Jerseyans. I have always evaluated solutions to pressing issues based on the merits of those solutions, not based on politics. I believe that by-in-large, nonprofits advocate for solutions to issues that make meaningful differences in the lives of average people in our communities and our state.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

We must start by leveling the playing field for nonprofits by ensuring that 1) our state government is doing everything it can to ease the financial uncertainty that nonprofits face and 2) by ensuring that nonprofits have an equal voice when it comes to advocating for issues and aren’t drowned out by big money interests. Most importantly, the nonprofit sector is the key deliverer of much of the state’s social services. With changes in minimum wage and other employment laws, it’s incumbent upon our Legislature to fund these increased costs through the budget process, as nonprofits service providers of state programs do not have another source to cover these costs. I’m proud of the advocacy I’ve made to increase funding for DSPs. I look forward to continuing to look for ways to ensure that our state budget provides fair funding for these services to continue so that nonprofits can continue doing great work all across our state.

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Candidate Information:

Michael R. Bollentin
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Legislative District: 14
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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

The non-profit organization I am most familiar with is the one I have been a member of since 1992, the East Windsor Twp. Rescue Squad, District #1. It has been engrained in me to help when I can and it has been something that has guided my actions as an EMT, as a police officer, and as a citizen. Outside of the rescue squad, my wife and I have donated to many different organizations, mostly one that are aimed at helping animals. I believe that non-profits are crucial to our society. I have learned of the years to think critically about all decisions and act with compassion towards all people.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Fiscal transparency and tax reform
2. Health care reform to include insurance and pharmacological reforms
3. Strive to improve our already great educational system, specifically early childhood education and administrative reforms.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As I stated earlier, non-profits are vital to society for a multitude of reasons. The combination of championing for lesser known causes and providing people with a means to find meaning personally and be productive citizen is powerful. Many non-profits alter a person is such profound and positive ways, as mine did for me. If elected I would do what I can to be a voice and help non-profits that are wanting to do bigger and better things for the greater good.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I am not familiar with the processes in which non-profits conduct their businesses or interact with the state government, but I can imagine that there is an incredible amount of unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy. Overall, I want to work towards reducing redundancy and wastes within our state government. Being an independent candidate means I am not beholden to a party’s agenda, an agenda that for whatever reason, my stifle the progress of at least a few non-profits. I genuinely want to be the voice for all that feel they do not have one in the state.

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I have worked previously as a volunteer for non-profits such as the Boys And Girls Club, and Planned Parenthood. On the ground advocacy is the key to how I have shaped my perspectives on policy, and meeting with non-profits that center around issues included my legislative priorities has helped to build partnerships in helping to combat these crises.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Supporting our seniors
2. Ensuring everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare
3. Protecting our environment

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits play a vital role in terms of engaging the community and advocating for a community's particular needs. Non-profits have the ability to be completely issue-based and have a narrowed scope and vision, and therefore are often the penultimate expert in their advocacy aside from the affected persons.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

About the Center for Non-Profits

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Increased collaboration between non-profits. Often non-profits are engaged in fighting for the same dollar, and for the same community. By collaborating, you're able to build a more effective program that better serves the community.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Mark Caliguire
17 Hunters Path
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 16
Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I served on my church governing board for 8 years. As an elected official - Township Committeeman, Mayor Freeholder - I saw on a daily basis the impact non profit organizations have on our communities. Government has a vital role when it comes to serving people, but government has limitations. People who are committed, passionate, and, in many ways, closer to the people, can be much more effective than any government agency. As an example, my church has a ministry to provide housing, childcare, refurbished automobiles and used furniture for folks in need. Often, government agencies refer people to the church ministries. There are just physical need gaps and emotional support gaps that can only be filled by the myriad of non profit organizations all over New Jersey.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Controlling government spending.
2. Reducing the tax burden on New Jersey taxpayers.
3. Making New Jersey competitive with surrounding states in attracting and keeping businesses.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe in limited government. I also believe in the power and initiative of people when they are passionate about a cause. New Jersey's residents are over taxed and we are not competitive with neighboring states in attracting and keeping businesses. If we provide the regulatory and tax environment for non-profit organizations, they can oftentimes provide services, emotional support, and spiritual support that government cannot and

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should not provide. As an example, our church has ministries that provide clothing, shelter, refurbished automobiles and food for individuals in need. Many of the referrals to those ministries come from state agencies and family courts when people ask where they can get help.

**What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

It is critical that federal tax deductions for contributions to registered non-profits remain in place and contributions should be deductible on state income tax returns.
Candidate Information:

Andrew Zwicker
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 16
Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

With my office staff, I organize food and clothing drives for local-area food and clothing banks. I work for a private university, and I donate money to a variety of non-profits.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Voting rights/election security
2. Environmental Protection
3. Job growth via expansion of NJ’s innovation economy

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits are critical to provide services that the state and local government do not.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Access to more and consistent funding.

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**Candidate Information:**

Maria Concepcion Powell
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 17
Party: Republican

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**Questions and Responses**

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

The State of New Jersey needs desperately help to build the Non-profit sector to be in part with the rest of the Nation. When I win, I am proposing a new Reform for financial assistance to each of this organization’s funding. It’s critical for all the NGO’s to do social and community development and we need to empower this sector to have better communities.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. The State Budget: I will be relentless in proposing new economic opportunities for the State to improve 100% the budget for Education, Clean Water Taxes, Property Taxes.
2. Law Enforcement: The State of NJ needs a new Justice Reform to implement the justice system to be one of the XXI first century to improve safety and good Government practices.
3. Healthcare & Retirement: Roads and Transportation

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have forty years of experience administering Non Profits. I am the President Founder of the U.S-Women Grocers Association and I support the Non-profit sector to play a very significant role in building our communities in every aspect. I am a Philanthropist and I also will create Corporate Partnership to improve the non-profits financially.

**About the Center for Non-Profits**

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Center for Non-Profits | 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 35 | Mercerville, NJ 08619 | 732-227-0800 | www.njnonprofits.org
Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
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Running for: General Assembly  
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Legislative District: 20  
Roselle, NJ 07203  
Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have had the pleasure of supporting local non-profits in several capacities. I have been an Executive and CEO, a board member, a volunteer and a donor. These experiences have led me to understand that non-profit organizations are a vital part of our communities for so many reasons. They are doing the daily groundwork and help us to continuously provide resources to our constituents. These things I have mentioned and more have definitely shaped my perspective and policy positions and I will continue to offer my support in any way I can.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Affordable Education
2. Pension Reform
3. Social and Environmental Justice

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits are a valuable resource in this state, as they are designed to handle the specific needs. They have built relationships with the residents they serve and are aware of the challenges they are facing. I am confident that the relationships I have built with non-profits will continue to assist me in being the best representative that I can be for the constituents in my district and all over our great state.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

There are several steps that would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits but I think the most important is to provide continuous support for their efforts.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Patricia Quattrocchi
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Clark, New Jersey 07066
Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 22
Party: Republican

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Phone: 9084519988

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I was the VP of a 501C3. Also received legal representation in the past and do not know how I would have managed to handle these problems without that help based on my income. Non-profits play a key role in the formation of the landscape of our communities.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Stop the courts from directing overdevelopment in our communities.
2. Medical decisions should be made between the doctor and patient not by the insurance company.
3. Sensible spending of tax dollars.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Educating the residents of NJ about those issues that effect the lives of their families daily.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Every non-profit has a different calling in our communities but I would like to see them teaming up to see solutions reach successful results.

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Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

My parents taught me early the importance of giving back to the community. I have volunteered for non-profits since an early age. I now am working to teach my kids the same lesson. Every few months, we pick a charity and develop a project to assist the organization. We made centerpieces for a soup kitchen. We made activity kits for a children's hospital. We made homemade heating pads for a senior center and now we are in the process of making survival bracelets for soldiers. Not only do these activities help us learn about others it gives us a broader perspective on our community.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Lower Taxes
2. Economic Development
3. Environmental Protection

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Nonprofit organizations play a growing role in the social and economic well-being of New Jersey. They provide services, goods and resources to meet community needs. They are businesses, most often charitable, that assist other businesses in the community to drive economic development, the arts, cultural awareness, education, health, and basic needs — virtually every sector of society. As government agencies and the private sector have scaled back their charitable giving in recent years, nonprofits have become indispensable.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Continued transparency of the work and funding of non-profits builds trust in the community which translates to a stronger non-profit community.
Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Dan Solomon Smith  
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Mount Olive, nj 07840

Running for: General Assembly  
Legislative District: 24  
Party: Democrat

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I represent a Housing Authority as their general counsel. A trustee on the Warren County College Foundation Board, I served as a coach for the Morris County NJ Orators. Each experience has fulfilled me to serve “the least of these”. I serve as the Morris County team in Morris County. These experiences allow me to help the less fortunate live in affordable housing.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. reduce taxes and offer tax credits for environmental mitigation measures
2. improve transportation infrastructure
3. create job opportunities

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

To help reduce addiction, suicide, and homeless rates. To offer education, therapy, job opportunities for those affected.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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Full funding to provide a stable environment to address the important needs in real time and prepare for the future. Similar services should be part of a grid that reaches every part of the state and strengthen transportation system in order for the poor, disabled, students and seniors can have freedom of mobility.

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About the Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Christine Clarke  
Running for: General Assembly  
P.O. Box 585  
Legislative District: 26  
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Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As an environmental activist, a trained Climate Reality Leader, an Honorary Adviser to the United Nations’ NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, and a steering committee member of Jersey Renews, the NJ March for Science and the NJ People’s Climate Movement, as well as the former Environmental Director with Action Together New Jersey and an early organizer with NJ 11th for Change, I have been working hard as a volunteer with nonprofits and grassroots organizations for a few years now. I want us to deal meaningfully with climate change and handle the full range of policies it will impact, from lake pollution to food prices to insurance prices to healthcare, and more. There is a lot we need to do to educate the public. I have been speaking at public speaking events, rallies and protests, testifying to politicians at hearings, and going into schools to talk about these things. I’ve organized free public forums, free live streamed town halls, calls to action and educational content around clean energy goals. We need more public education and public investment, and new policies to lead the way. I’m approaching my candidacy for public office from the perspective of a volunteer and public servant engaged in these issues regardless of whether I win, but if you send me to Trenton I can be a lot more effective at my work.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. I want New Jersey to move forward assertively on solar and wind development opportunities, to lead in the clean energy transition, take advantage of the economic opportunities of being at the forefront of a developing industry, create tens of thousands of
2. I want New Jersey to move forward creating the state healthcare exchange that passed in the legislature in 2019 and work hard to lower healthcare costs and prescription costs, make healthcare more accessible to New Jersey residents and especially to the 7

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3. I want New Jersey to move forward with tax fairness policies like the millionaires' tax, so that we have funds for investments in high priorities like water infrastructure and quality. We need to replace lead-contaminated water lines. We need to protect L

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

One of the greatest parts of being the Environmental Director at Action Together New Jersey was the ability to set an agenda for educational content and public outreach. We ran online live town halls with our Senators and one member of Congress before I changed paths, talking about climate and environmental policy after hours in a heavily advertised series of events during which members of the public could tune in and ask live questions for responses from their representatives. We had over 8,500 viewers for the one with Senator Menendez as an example. These public educational efforts can be incredibly helpful in achieving social welfare goals or creating public demand for essential changes, needs or services. Real lasting change happens on two fronts: the legislative level, in working with elected officials and politicians to enact change; and the peer to peer level, which is actually most crucial to drive the legislative action. Nonprofits and unions are on the front lines in most crucial changes doing the hard daily work of talking to voters and interest groups, and it's essential that we maintain healthy and strong relationships to help each other bring progress forward.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I think reinstating the estate tax level at $675,000 in New Jersey rather than $2 million is essential for several reasons, inclusive of encouraging charitable giving from estates to nonprofit organizations. Responding to the recent court decision affirming that the federal repeal of SALT deductions will stand, by passing state legislation strengthening the tax deductions for charitable giving, could help as well.

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**Candidate Information:**

Angelica M. Jimenez  
419A-57th Street  
West New York, NJ 07093  

**Running for:** General Assembly  
**Legislative District:** 32  
**Party:** Democratic

**Website:**  
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**Questions and Responses**

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

My experience has always been positive. As an Assemblywoman I have referred many constituents to non-profits. Nonprofits have led me to advocate more for the need of education, housing, and economic growth.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Housing  
2. Education  
3. Economic Growth

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Nonprofits create more equitable and thriving communities in N.J.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Nonprofits are often times and parking with minimal resources, but there is no doubt that in these current times, nonprofits are doing way more with very little help. We definitely need to advocate for more public and private funding for nonprofits.

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2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Thomas P. Giblin
40 Montague Place
Montclair, N.J. 07042

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 34
Party: Democrat

Website:
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Phone: 9737793125

Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I have always been and will continue to be a supporter of non-profits as a board member, volunteer, elected official and donor. I have always been aware of the valuable services that non-profits provide and will do all that I can to further their cause.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Promote job growth.
2. Reduce property taxes.
3. Stabilize our state budget.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits all to often are called upon to provide assistance in many areas that are not adequately addressed by governmental agencies. We must continue to support their efforts.

What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Those steps are best provided by the non-profits, government must work with them to provide them the ability to strengthen their efforts. I am pledged to continue my support of those efforts.

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Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Khaldoun Androwis
5 Ivy lane
Wallington, NJ 07057

Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 36
Party: Republican

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

My experience with non-profit organizations have been phenomenal. I was even heavily involved and worked side by side to help move well respected non-profit organization to different level. I was the Grand Knights for the knights of Columbus for my council in Wallington. I was able to work with many businesses small and big to sponsor certain events for kids, first responders and many other event for the community. I am a big believer in the non-profit organization as well the businesses or partners support this good cause and the non profit organization to keep moving forward and help the community.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. Stabilize and reduce taxes. We are over taxed and the budget must be scrutinized and I will go with it line by line as I did in my Borough and make it ZERO increase when I took office which never happened in more than 20+ years.
2. Support small businesses who are the engine of growth in America. If small businesses survive and are successful they will create more jobs, support non-profit organization and give back to the community. Additionally, there is no need for big companies.
3. Not allowing recreational Marijuana and only medical allowed. I took motion in 2018 to not allow any recreational Marijuana open in our Borough. We need to protect our children not to have access for this type of products and have them get high at young age

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

About the Center for Non-Profits

The Center for Non-Profits is New Jersey’s statewide umbrella organization for the charitable community. Founded in 1982, the Center exists to build the power of New Jersey’s non-profit community to improve the quality of life for the people of our state. Through public policy, capacity building, education, and training programs the Center gives non-profits the information and tools they need to pursue their missions more effectively, strengthening non-profits as individual organizations and as a community. For more information about the Center’s programs, visit www.njnonprofits.org.

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I think the non-profit organization can play a major role within our state and will be in my vision a middle person organization and at the state level we need to start thinking how we can route or use certain programs to allow more individuals and businesses to provide more donations to these non profit organizations and take tax credit or break. We can’t keep the burden or the non-profit organizations how they can get more financial support to keep moving and give back to the community. it’s ashamed we are trying to promote illegals to come to our country and we can’t first take care of our own.

**What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

As I mentioned above. the non-profit organization can play a major role within our state and will be in my vision a middle person organization and at the state level we need to start thinking how we can route or use certain programs to allow more individuals and businesses to provide more donations to these non profit organizations and take tax credit or break. We can’t keep the burden or the non-profit organizations how they can get more financial support to keep moving forward and give back.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:

Clinton Calabrese
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Legislative District: 36
Party: Democrat

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As a volunteer I had the opportunity to work in the NJ Food Bank which was an enlightening experience. I am a sustaining member to NPR which provides transparent, non-partisan news coverage throughout the tri-state area and the country. The reporters and staff who work at NPR deserve the Medal of Freedom. I have performed at several improvisational theaters and am a huge supporter of the arts, although I have less time to perform and produce these days. I believe that non-profits are what make the world go round and are a necessary part of society. Without non-profits we would be a regressive society.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)

1. To encourage sustainable economic growth through (a) the examination of our laws and policies to determine changes that can assist in encouraging entrepreneurship, and (b) work training and higher education programs aimed at assisting both our businesses
2. To improve NJ transportation through prioritizing infrastructure repairs for safe roads and bridges, improving safety and reliability of NJ Transit’s rail and bus service, extending the Bergen-Hudson Light Rail to Bergen County, and supporting the Passaic
3. To support pragmatic environmental initiatives designed to protect our state’s environment as well as the health and well-being of each of our residents.

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

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I plan to continue working closely with non-profit NJMEP with regard to assisting our manufacturing businesses to grow and thrive in NJ. I also plan to continue to work closely with non-profit environmental groups to advance positive environmental initiatives and join together in opposing projects that move New Jersey in the wrong direction.

**What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)**

I believe the essential steps non-profits need to take to meet the needs of their communities are to employ all methods possible to get the word out about their services. Relationships with offices at all levels of government as well as with other community groups are important to making sure that they non-profits are most effective. Good use of social media as well as a presence at community events, where appropriate, would be another way to make sure that non-profits develop the necessary relationships with their communities to serve their needs.
Center for Non-Profits

2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Gordon M. Johnson
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Running for: General Assembly
Legislative District: 37
Party: Democrat

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As a volunteer, I picked up bread and other foods from supermarkets and fed the homeless on Tuesdays at 9th Avenue and 42nd Street. As an Assemblyman, I have listened to non-profits when they were in need and tried to connect them to resources. Whether a business wants to have a day of service or the food pantry needs a van to deliver food, I do all I can to make sure their needs are met.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Jobs/Economic Development
2. Transportation
3. Education

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Twenty-eight percent of the state budget is grants-in-aid, which is state funding for non-profits and public entities to provide services on behalf of the State of New Jersey. Non-profit organizations are the ones on the ground providing direct services to my constituents. I am running for Assembly to help people, and when you think of seniors, disabled residents, and other vulnerable communities, it is the non-profit organizations providing that direct help to them on a daily basis. Non-profit groups also function as think tanks and study issues that the legislature should address. These groups have the time, analytics, and wherewithal to dive deep into data and create policy recommendations on how to address pertinent issues.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Having additional opportunities to compete for grant funding would be the most helpful. Also, the contract administrators and Department personnel should be advocates, not adversaries when it comes to complying with rules, requesting additional funding, or seeking answers to questions. Several times during my past term, my office was able to cut through the red tape on behalf of non-profit organizations, but it should not have to take a State Assemblyman getting involved to get answers for a non-profit organization spending the State’s money and delivering services to our residents.
2019 New Jersey State Legislature Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information:
Valerie Vainieri Huttle  
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Legislative District: 37  
Party: Democratic

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Questions and Responses

Charitable non-profits include groups like food banks, affordable housing providers, youth organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, environmental protection organizations, public radio, mental health centers, senior organizations, child care centers, and many others. What has been your personal experience with non-profits as a board member, employee, volunteer, donor and/or client/constituent? How do these experiences shape your perspective and policy positions? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Throughout my career, I have served on various non-profit boards, including Shelter Our Sisters (currently Center for Hope & Safety), Adler Aphasia Center, Vantage Health System and the bergen PAC. Having been involved with these organizations, I have seen firsthand the need for advocacy and legislation. These experiences have shaped my legislative priorities and inspired me to champion legislation to help victims of domestic violence, those suffering with mental health and physical disabilities, and to advocate for the arts.

If elected, what would be your top three policy priorities for your district and the state? (Limit: 500 characters per entry)
1. Advocating for individuals struggling with mental health and substance abuse disorders.
2. Improving transportation infrastructure
3. Property tax relief

What role do you see non-profits in New Jersey playing to help advance your vision for the state? (Limit: 2000 characters)

Non-profits play a critical role in providing support and services for a range of issues and residents throughout our state. The reality is, government funding is not available to support every project or initiative - non-profit organizations help to ensure that these important projects and services remain available to the public. In so many cases, non-profit organizations save lives through their programming and support systems. I believe that the state government must continue to work with non-profits through public-private partnerships.

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What steps do you believe would be essential to strengthening the ability of New Jersey’s non-profits to meet the needs of our communities? (Limit: 2000 characters)

I believe that we must take steps to bolster the role of non-profit organizations in New Jersey. For example, my legislation A3566 will create a task force to help non-profit social service organizations streamline services. So often, non-profit organizations are left out of the conversation, we must prioritize their voices as we look to new ways to improve services for New Jersey’s residents while also providing support for non-profit organizations. Additionally, we must continue to prioritize funding for non-profit organizations, including benefits for volunteers and employees.