



Three Questions for Candidates for Office in 2022

With responses published for community leaders throughout your district

Please respond to these three questions at www.ncnonprofits.org/questionnaire-2022 or send responses to David Heinen at dheinen@ncnonprofits.org or 919-877-8111 (fax). Thank you.

Candidate Name Diamond Staton-Williams

District 73 Party Affiliation Democrat

Campaign website _____

1. **Charitable nonprofits include groups like food banks, Habitat for Humanity, YMCAs, community health centers, churches, synagogues, hospices, crisis assistance agencies, school mentoring programs, hospitals, United Ways, community theatres, private schools and colleges, museums, domestic violence agencies, medical research organizations, Meals on Wheels, and child care centers.**

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)

I am currently a board member for the Rowan Cabarrus YMCA, Daymark, the NC Foundation for Nurses, Communities in Schools, and the Cabarrus County Adult Care Homes Committee. I have through my job and privately given to organizations who support the community in different capacities and find value in the services and tools provided to those in need. I know first hand how the support of Communities in Schools has helped me as an alumni of the organization. Without the support of my teachers and other adults within the education system, I would not be the person I am today. It is important to help clear barriers to the needs of the the people in our areas. The YMCA provides scholarships for after school programs and summer camp for those who may not have had an opportunity. I served as a camp nurse and donated my time for children to attend overnight camp and have a different life experience. Non-profits provide opportunities for many and it is a pleasure to serve others.

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

The three biggest things I would like to focus on during the campaign and being elected are: Economic Development for the area we live in, Mental health access and support, and Education needs in particular access to broadband for our rural areas. One thing my mother and grandmother wholeheartedly believe in is the power of education. My mother enrolled me into a school lottery in kindergarten to transition me to a higher performing school. I can still remember my grades in the first semester of 1st grade. They were D's and F's. I could not read well. Had it not been for my 1st grade teacher providing additional support to help me with my reading and the foresight of my mother to enter me into the lottery, I would not be where I am today. This is why I believe in the power of education. I know first hand what it has done for me and countless others. There are countless other 6yr olds in every part of this state and there are 6yr olds here in Cabarrus County with similar stories as mine. Mental health is a priority as I watched my mother struggle with mental health was one of the factors that led me to become a nurse 19 years ago, to care and advocate for others. I often thought if I was in a position of power I would make sure kids had more access to support on how to cope with their parent's mental health condition. My friend and I started a small business to help other women who wanted to provide for their families and to provide others with opportunities to economically empower themselves. I support small businesses, women owned businesses, and minority owned businesses. With the pandemic, it has become increasingly more important to energize these sectors and to keep our local and state economies moving.

3. 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.

If elected, which of these policy goals would you support most enthusiastically, and why?

(Limit: 250 words)

I believe all of the above policy agenda items are equally important. All of the above help improve the process and efficiencies of non-profit work. It also allows for non-profits to maintain fund balances to do more of the great work they are doing and support teammates within their organization.

Thank you!

For more information about North Carolina's nonprofit sector or policy issues that affect nonprofits, please contact David Heinen, dheinen@ncnonprofits.org.