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

## Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	<b>Joe John</b>
District	<b>NC House District 40</b>
Party Affiliation	<b>Democratic</b>
Campaign Website	<b><a href="https://www.joejohnnchouse.com/">https://www.joejohnnchouse.com/</a></b>

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## Q2

Q1. Please tell us about your personal experiences with nonprofits. These may include experiences with any organizations that have served you and/or fellow residents of your community, or specific nonprofits for which you've served as a board member, staff person, volunteer, or donor. How do these experiences shape your policy positions? (Limit: 300 words)

As recollection best serves, those non-profits with which I have had personal experience in some capacity--excluding those to which I am a donor--include the following: Greensboro YMCA Annual Fund Raising Committee; Greensboro Committee on the Reduction of Crime and Violence; Greensboro Legal Aid Foundation, Board of Directors; Family and Children's Services of Greater Greensboro, Inc., Turning Point: Rape and Family Abuse Prevention Services, Advisory Committee; Criminal Justice Task Force, Greensboro Gateways Community Improvement Program, Vice-Chair; Greensboro Volunteers to the Court, Board of Directors; Greensboro Center for Creative Arts, Board of Directors; Hamilton Village Homeowners Association, Vice-President; Cardinal Manor Homeowners Association; Finley YMCA, youth baseball and basketball coach; North Wake Baseball Association, Board of Directors & youth baseball coach; Leesville Road High School Pride Athletic Association, Treasurer; Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, volunteer; Meals on Wheels of Wake County, volunteer.

The variety of these organizations has certainly broadened my life experience and contributed to the accumulated background against which I, in my current position as a Representative in the NC House, measure and judge proposed legislation. At a minimum, it is very helpful to me to be aware of and have a personal connection with these agencies which individually and collectively touch the lives of so many.

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**Q3**

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

Actually, four:

- 1) End gerrymandering by creating a truly independent, impartial, non-partisan redistricting commission to draw legislative and congressional electoral maps for NC, thereby allowing voters to select their representatives instead of politicians picking their voters.
  - 2) Close the insurance coverage gap by expanding Medicaid. NC taxpayers--through their federal tax dollars—support expansion in 39 other states. Expansion would provide health care to hundreds of thousands in NC, and provide billions of dollars to hospitals, many of which, especially in our rural areas, are struggling to survive.
  - 3) Create and maintain a wholly independent, non-partisan judiciary. As a former judge, I know how important it is for every person to have a fair and equal opportunity for justice in our courts. North Carolina's judicial system should be an independent branch of government, exerting its constitutional checks and balances on the executive and legislative branches. To accomplish this, judges must be removed from the partisan elections currently prescribed by law. It is inconsistent to expect judges to be, on the one hand, what we all expect them to be—fair, independent, and impartial—but require them simultaneously on the other to be rank, partisan politicians.
  - 4) Establish and maintain a strong educational system from bottom to top, from pre-K to community colleges and universities. This is essential, not only to allow all NC children to develop their natural abilities to the fullest, but also to promote and support a robust economic and business climate in our state.
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**Q4**

The Center advocates on public policy issues that affect North Carolina's nonprofit sector and works with the NC General Assembly and North Carolina's members of Congress to develop laws and policies that save nonprofits time and money, help nonprofits operate more effectively, and preserve the public's trust in North Carolina's nonprofit sector. Our policy agenda includes:

- Ensuring that all 501(c)(3) nonprofits are fully exempt from federal, state, and local taxes.
- Promoting new and expanded tax deductions and credits that encourage individuals and businesses to give generously to support their communities through the work of charitable nonprofits.
- Supporting policy solutions that will address the nonprofit workforce shortage, including increased funding to support jobs in the nonprofit sector and investment in accessible and affordable child care.
- Seeking solutions to long-standing challenges that nonprofits face when they provide public services through government grants and contracts, including late contracts, late payments, overly complicated application and reporting requirements, and underpayment for indirect costs.
- Promoting laws that will help nonprofits and businesses alike to provide affordable and high-quality health care and other benefits to their employees.

Q3. If elected, which of these policy goals would you support most enthusiastically, and why? (Limit: 250 words)

I support most enthusiastically the first two policy agenda items: 1) ensuring the ongoing viability of the exemption of 501(c)(3) nonprofits from State taxes, and 2) promoting additional nonprofit tax deductions. With reference to the latter, I would favor eliminating North Carolina as one of only two states with a sales tax refund system and replace it with a system utilized by most states whereby 501(c)(3) nonprofits receive sales tax exemption certificates so that vendors do not charge sales tax on the nonprofits at the point of sale. Currently, nonprofits pay sales tax at the time of purchasing goods and services in NC and then later may apply to NCDOR for semi-annual refunds of the sales taxes previously paid. The proposed system revision would reduce costly administrative burdens on nonprofits at a time of increased demand for services and reduced revenues, both attributable at least in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, funds awaiting the biannual refund process would be immediately available to provide essential services and avoid potential cash-flow issues instead of serving as a cash-free "loan" to the State. Because nonprofits must operate for the public benefit and reinvest earnings back into their mission, any potential abuse of the immediate exemption could be controlled by strong statutorily mandated misuse penalties. This system would also save NCDOR the processing costs of thousands of biannual refund applications.

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