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Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Lindsey Prather
District	NC HD 115
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	www.pratherfornc.com

Q2

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

I was raised to give back to my community whenever and wherever I could. We volunteered at our downtown church, worked with another church to help Montagnard refugees from Vietnam to get resettled, built homes with Habitat for Humanity, and attended YMCA after-school care for years. Since moving to Asheville, I have worked with countless nonprofits in my role as public school teacher and former co-leader of our school's Community Outreach Committee. We held "community nights" where we invited local nonprofits to the high school so parents and families could learn more about what resources and services were available to them. This included the YMCA, Manna Food Bank, Eblen Charities, United Way, Eliada Homes, etc. Since leaving the classroom, I have used my position on various local Democratic party auxiliary boards to connect with local nonprofits and collaborate on projects. As adult advisor of the local teen Democrats, we put together care packages for BeLOVED Asheville, volunteered for Manna Food Bank, and participated in roadside clean-up with Asheville GreenWorks. I believe strongly in not reinventing the wheel or duplicating efforts, so I've worked hard to highlight the good work that's already being done in our communities.

Q3

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

The first would be stronger funding for our public schools and our teacher-preparation programs. North Carolina used to be a model in the South for our K-12 public education system, and I believe we can be again. Second would be expansion of healthcare access, particularly in rural areas. Medicaid needs to be expanded yesterday, and we need more robust mental health services as well. Finally, I'll be fighting for good government policies like independent redistricting and expanded access to the ballot.

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)

"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." This policy goal is incredibly important, and as someone with a degree in Public Affairs, I fully understand how crucial it is for these processes to be clear and efficient. As stated before, I care deeply about avoiding duplicate efforts- if we have a nonprofit that is providing a necessary service in our community, we should be making it as easy as possible for people to access that service. Nonprofits serve an essential role in our community, and addressing these administrative challenges will go a long way towards preventing burnout and encouraging more people to work in the nonprofit field.
