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

Q1

About Candidates

Candidate Name	Maria Cervania
District	NC House - District 41
Party Affiliation	Democrat
Campaign Website	https://mariafornc.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)

My personal experience with nonprofits include being a:

- Medic at the Berkeley Free Clinic
- Manager/Coordinator at the Downtown Berkeley YMCA
- Girl Scout Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council
- Chair and a Board Member for the Wake County Commission for Women, Berkeley (Cary, North Carolina) Homeowners Association, American Public Health Association Student Caucus, Cal Alumni Club of North Carolina, and Cal Alumni of the Triangle.

I currently serve as a Board Member at the Poe Center for Health Education, Wake County Smart Start, Wake County Pre-K and Alliance Behavioral Health Services.

All these experiences have made me conscientious towards the people I serve. From newborns to seniors, it has been valuable to listen and comprehend the positives and the lessons learned. It builds toward being open to new ideas and thoughts that may not be ones that are my own. Ultimately, I have been able to create policies that has buy-in, acceptance, longevity and positive change in the community.

Q3

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

My top three policy priorities are to:

- improve access to quality physical and behavioral healthcare and achieve the highest quality of Social Determinants of Health, especially in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, housing affordability, thriving wage/income equity, transportation, broadband for all, food security, criminal justice, clean water, air and environment, sustainability, and parks, open space, and greenways.
 - fully fund and support public education from pre-K to university graduate programs.
 - continue our strong economic development in North Carolina with more new jobs and corporate and small business investment in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.
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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 all of these policy and most enthusiastically have worked on the following:

- 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.

Through my work on the Wake County Commission, and especially because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have funded and implemented many programs to address the workforce shortage and invested in accessible and affordable child care in all sectors. We have also provided for many of our nonprofit partners through our American Rescue Plan Act and Community Funds. We have changed many of our processes to overcome the challenges that nonprofits face when they provide public services and also added ways to access funding for new nonprofit organizations, especially ones that help our under-served communities. We have promoted the provision of affordable and high-quality health care. If elected to the NCGA, I will continue this work at the state level as it is important to strengthen our nonprofit organizations since they are the ones that close the gap to assure the highest quality of life for North Carolinians.
