

General Aims:

- Together SC, as the statewide network for the charitable nonprofit sector, sets forth its priorities for public policy advocacy through this annual Agenda developed by its Advocacy Committee, and approved by its Board of Directors. Priorities on Federal issues are determined by the National Council of Nonprofits in their Public Policy Agenda (<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/public-policy-agenda>).
- Together SC takes positions on state and federal public policy issues that affect the ability of our state's charitable nonprofits to function effectively and efficiently.
- Together SC does not take positions on local issues, unless the issue has statewide relevance and it has been invited by a local member organization to do so.

The Importance of Charitable Nonprofits to Society:

Together SC maintains that the charitable nonprofit sector is a crucial and vital lynchpin, providing services and social good that governments and the private sector are either unable, or unwilling, to do. Together SC will aim to inform and remind policymakers of that vital role, through:

- Dissemination of information and statistics about the impact of charitable nonprofits on the economy, the provision of public and social services, and the state budget.

Nonprofit Operations:

Together SC supports reasonable regulation by State and Federal Governments, to ensure that tax-exempt assets are being properly utilized. Together SC objects to regulations that treat charitable nonprofits differently from other private organizations that are independent of government agencies. Together SC holds the following positions:

- Except when a charitable organization's board is completely appointed by a government agency or official(s), it is a private organization and not a public body, and should not be subject to disclosure requirements of its assets and records beyond what is required for annual reporting to state and federal governments. Charitable nonprofits which receive government grants should report to the granting agency, who should be responsible for appropriate disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Contracts for good and services awarded to nonprofits by governments should be treated the same as contracts awarded to private for-profit companies. Together SC supports legislative efforts to reform the state FOIA law to accomplish this, and opposes efforts to impose burdensome requirements that treat charitable nonprofit organizations differently from other companies.
- The Secretary of State's office and other regulatory bodies should ensure that their efforts to regulate charitable organizations and professional fundraisers are reasonable and efficient, so that charitable nonprofits can easily meet their regulatory responsibilities without undue burden or expense. Together SC supports efforts by regulators to streamline filing processes. Together SC supports the reauthorization of Nonprofit Raffles for Charitable Purposes, Act 11 of 2013 by July 1, 2020.

Tax Policy:

Charitable nonprofit organizations provide services and social good for all South Carolinians, and in recognition, are exempted from income and other taxes. These exemptions allow the contributions of citizens to be used completely to further the missions of the causes they care about, and not to have a portion of their contributions be diverted by taxes. Together SC holds the following positions:

- All 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations should be fully exempt from state and local taxes and licensing fees in lieu of taxes (also known as PILOTs). Local Governments should not attempt to circumvent tax exemptions through creative relabeling of taxes, or charging fees to nonprofits that are not charged to for-profit companies.
- South Carolina has a myriad of sales tax exemptions for certain types of organizations and some organizations by name, but no general exemption from sales tax for charitable nonprofits. At least 30 states have this exemption. Together SC would like to see sales tax reform that includes an exemption for charitable organizations similar to those in most other states.
- South Carolina's property tax exemption for charitable nonprofit organizations should be maintained.

Government – Nonprofit Contracting, & the State Budget:

Governments often contract out their responsibilities to provide public services to charitable nonprofit organizations, because nonprofits have proven to be efficient and effective in delivering public services through government grants and contracts. However, contracts with nonprofits are often not treated the same as contracts with for-profit companies. In order to assure that nonprofits are paid the full cost of providing public services, including reasonable, documented indirect costs, Together SC holds the following positions:

- State and local governments should avoid delays in paying nonprofits that deliver services; and inform them in advance if a payment will be late.
- The General Assembly should include provisions in the state budget or other laws requiring state agencies to sign contracts with nonprofits before nonprofits are asked to begin delivering public services.
- The General Assembly should include enforcement mechanisms in prompt contracting and prompt payment provisions in the state budget and other legislation.
- The General Assembly should have the Legislative Audit Council study problems with nonprofit-government contracting, including late contracting, late payments, and underpayment for indirect costs and recommend legislative, regulatory, or policy solutions to help nonprofits provide services more effectively and efficiently.
- State and local policymakers should ensure full and fair implementation of the cost principles and other grants reforms in the new OMB Uniform Guidance issued in December 2014.
- The General Assembly should ensure adequate state support for public services provided by nonprofits. They should maintain, and, where appropriate, expand state support for nonprofits that provide essential public services for South Carolinians, and ensure that the state budget includes adequate financial support for nonprofits that are expected to provide services instead of state or local governments.