



2018-2019 Policy Agenda

The Maine Association of Nonprofits enriches the quality of community and personal life in Maine by strengthening the leadership, voice, and organizational effectiveness of our state's nonprofits. MANPs public policy agenda is designed to support and advance the role of the nonprofit sector, promote integrity and efficiency, encourage civic participation and advance budget decisions that provide for and promote the safety, prosperity and general welfare of the state. MANP lobbies on behalf of the entire sector to assure an environment that allows Maine nonprofits to thrive and effectively serve their communities. Our membership is broad based, so we focus on issues common to all nonprofits:

Tax Policy: Empowering Community Solutions through Nonprofits

Taxes and tax policy are important to nonprofits because taxes finance government programs and services, many of which are delivered by nonprofits or received directly by those served by nonprofits. Consistent tax policies and the federal, state and local levels are critical to the success of nonprofits in pioneering and implementing solutions to community problems. Tax policy can also serve as an incentive for giving to charitable organizations.

- ▶ MANP supports policies that protect the tax-exempt status of nonprofits.
- ▶ MANP opposes tax initiatives that would result in dividing 501(c)(3) organizations based on subject matter and philosophy.
- ▶ MANP supports tax policies that increase charitable support for the sector.
- ▶ MANP opposes fees such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) and other taxes on nonprofit organizations.

The Economy: Strengthening Communities through Job Creation and Economic Development

Maine nonprofits employ 98,000 people, pay \$4.7 billion in taxable wages and generate \$271 million in state income taxes. While the nonprofit sector is a vital part of the economy, survey data consistently shows that charitable organizations do not have sufficient resources to meet the needs of our nation's communities. As proven job creators, nonprofits can and should participate in the development of job growth policies at the state and local levels.

- ▶ MANP strongly endorses policies that promote job creation in all sectors of the economy.
- ▶ MANP advocates for nonprofit employers and employees on state, and local government changes to employment laws and rules (minimum wage, overtime, family/medical leave).
- ▶ MANP encourages governments to incorporate revisions to existing and future contracts and grants when there are changes in federal and state employment policy.

Government-Nonprofit Collaborations for the Public Good

It is the role and duty of government to provide for and promote the safety, prosperity and general welfare of its citizens. The nonprofit community is dedicated to the same goals of public service and should be a leader in advocating for policies that recognize and support the fulfillment of this primary mission of government.

- ▶ MANP supports nonprofit input on governmental policies, including the budget, that affect nonprofits or their constituents.
- ▶ MANP opposes policies that place unnecessary burdens on the contractual relationship between government and nonprofit service providers.
- ▶ MANP opposes policies that unnecessarily increase nonprofit business costs or interfere with their sound business practices.
- ▶ MANP supports activities that strengthen nonprofits' relationships with federal, state, county & local governments.

Nonprofit Advocacy Rights: Promoting Civic Engagement

Advocacy is an important role of the nonprofit sector, providing a voice for the voiceless in our society. Very often, advocacy is the most effective way for nonprofits to achieve their missions. Nonprofits share the responsibility to promote greater engagement of Maine's citizens, civic dialogue, open elections and open government.

- ▶ MANP supports proposals that encourage the advocacy activities of the sector.
- ▶ MANP supports policies and proposals that build the capacity of nonprofits to advocate.
- ▶ MANP encourages policies, regulations and proposals that seek the voice of nonprofits on public policies.
- ▶ MANP advocates on behalf of nonprofits on selected issues that impact the sector.

Accountability and Nonprofit Independence: Ensuring Public Trust

Nonprofits serve the community, and as a result, should function with integrity and efficiency and should address violations within the sector.

- ▶ MANP supports an appropriate level of government regulation and enforcement to protect the public's interest while upholding the integrity of the nonprofit sector.
- ▶ MANP promotes vigilance in maintaining excellence in the sector, speaks out against abuses of trust within the sector, and promotes the highest level of accountability within the sector.
- ▶ MANP encourages policies that strengthen the management capacity of nonprofits.

Charitable Giving +Volunteerism

Public policy should recognize and support the important roles of volunteer service and private philanthropy in improving the lives of citizens and the quality of life in Maine.

- ▶ MANP supports public policy that increases the number of volunteers.
- ▶ MANP opposes public policy that places undue burden on organizations that effectively utilize volunteers.
- ▶ In addition to favorable tax policy, MANP supports public policy that assists fundraising and increases charitable giving to the sector.