

MANP Candidate Questionnaire 2018

Through this questionnaire Maine offers Maine candidates for publicly elected office the opportunity to reach our vital constituency and let them know how you would partner with them to advance policies that would strengthen Maine. Our goal is to promote an educated and enthusiastic nonprofit community that votes.

Did You Know?

Maine nonprofits:

- Employ 1 in 6 workers in Maine;
- Contribute approximately \$11 billion per year to the economy through wages paid, retail and wholesale sales, and professional services contracted;
- Pay \$4.3 billion annually in wages, which translates to approximately \$264 million in personal income tax revenue; and
- Mobilize 345,000 volunteers each year to improve communities!

Your Name *

Angus S. King, Jr.

Office Running For *

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House
- State Senate
- State House

District

Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations. *

My first job in Maine was working for Pine Tree Legal in Skowhegan as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Law Fellow from 1969 to 1971. This experience helped shape my interest in public service, and it affirmed my commitment to legal services work and that of the nonprofit community. I have subsequently served as a board member for several nonprofit organizations, including St. Paul's Church in Brunswick, the Nature Conservancy, and the University of Maine's Maine Policy Scholars program. In addition, my wife Mary Herman and I do our best each year to make charitable contributions to nonprofit health and social services organizations in Maine. Finally, the author's proceeds from my new book go to the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with the nonprofit sector to advance policies that strengthen Maine.

As a policymaker, I have always looked to the nonprofit community as a source of advice on a range of issues important to the people of Maine. In the U.S. Senate, I have met with a wide range of people in the nonprofit community - from people committed to finding better ways to deliver healthcare to seniors, groups working stem the opioid epidemic, organizations that provide shelter to individuals fleeing domestic violence, and owners of local cultural attractions who are working to bring more visitors to their communities. The relationships I have built with these groups help inform my opinions on federal policy. From studying the implications of tax reform on the nonprofit sector to advocating for funding for agencies like the National Endowment for the Arts or programs like the Community Development Block Grant - listening to and learning from Maine's nonprofit community has been an important part of my job in Washington, and if I am fortunate to win reelection, I will look forward to continuing to build those relationships.

What is your position on property tax exemption for Maine nonprofit property owners?

Every state in the country exempts nonprofits from paying property taxes, and for good reason. Nonprofits provide critical community services that state and local governments are often unable to adequately fund. In recognition of their use of local services - like law enforcement and road maintenance - many Maine nonprofits make payments to municipalities to account for their use of these services.

As a U.S. Senator, and in keeping with the practice of my predecessors in this office, I typically refrain from weighing in on what are fundamentally state and local issues. While I have reservations about state-level proposals to eliminate this tax exemption, any changes to this policy are for the people of Maine and their locally-elected officials to consider.

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