

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 *

Lori K. Gramlich

Office Running For *

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

District

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

I have worked for NPOs for nearly all of my professional career. I have a keen understanding of the critical work non-profits do for our communities and the integral relationships between NPs and government agencies. Most often, non-profits do the work that government might otherwise do for their communities. Mainers count on nonprofits, and we must protect our nonprofits ability to operate - to that end, as a former employee of MANP, I worked hard to defeat proposals such as taxing NPOs, and would continue this type of advocacy work as a legislator.

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

As a social worker, I have seen first hand the dismantling of safety-net services for those who don't have their voices represented in Augusta. For many years, the ME DHHS has forged partnerships with various NPOs throughout the State. Services to our most vulnerable must be protected. I will work with the nonprofit sector to assure that safety net services for our most vulnerable remain intact and will hold the Dept accountable. Further, I will support policies that protect the tax-exempt status of nonprofits in ME and continue to be a strong voice for the sector. I would love to develop a nonprofit caucus that has a specific emphasis on issues affecting the sector.

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

First of all, nonprofits earn their property tax exemption in numerous ways. They provide valuable services and benefits to their communities and many already DO pay some form of property taxes. Please see the following link for additional information about my position on this issue: <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/04/26/opinion/contributors/lepage-values-nonprofits-then-says-theyre-takers/?ref=comm-from>

While this piece was crafted in 2015, it still illustrates both my position and support for our nonprofit community.

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