

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 *

Christopher Kessler

Office Running For *

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

District

32

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

I have previously been an employee at Spurwink Services (direct care staff), Preble Street (Teen Center staff), and The Opportunity Alliance (Energy Auditor with the Weatherization Assistance Program). While employed at these agencies, I know first hand the difficult work that staff perform day in and day out, working to mend the broken fabric of our society. All too often, these agencies struggle to maintain a steady level of funding to adequately fulfill the work they are tasked with.

I am also a regular volunteer with the South Portland Land Trust, working to maintain trails and open spaces throughout South Portland.

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

I am honestly not tuned in to the specific needs of the various non-profits throughout the state as it relates to state government. However, I will assist as much as possible to maintain program funding and prevent elimination of vital programs that assist the most vulnerable in our communities.

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

I fully support maintaining property tax exemption status for Maine non-profits.

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