

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 *

Kristen Cloutier

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 been employed by Bates College, currently in the Harward Center for Community Partnerships, for the past 17 years. My office coordinates community placements for any Bates student participating in a community-engaged learning course, community-engaged thesis, community-based-research project, and most volunteer opportunities. I know first-hand how valuable non-profits are to Lewiston and the people who live here. In most instances, residents would be unable to get the services they require without them.

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

I am a firm believer in the need for consultation and collaboration with those who are more knowledgeable on specific topics than I am. Many of those experts are working at non-profits, addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations on a day-to-day basis. I am intrigued by the idea of non-profit/governmental task forces and caucuses that could help address many of the needs present in communities across the state.

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

What non-profits don't pay in property taxes, they make up for in services and jobs for local residents. However, as a City Councilor in Lewiston, I have also witnessed first-hand how this tax-exempt status can cause a city with a high poverty rate like Lewiston to struggle with the costs of public services like police and fire protection and street maintenance. So while I support the property tax exemption for Maine non-profit property owners, I would be interested in discussing ways in which we might alleviate some of those tensions and find a solution that benefits everyone.

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