

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 *

Thom Harnett

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 with many nonprofit organizations as an attorney in both New York and Maine. I have also served and continue to serve on the boards of many non-profits. In New York, I worked for migrant and seasonal farm workers for nine years as a legal services attorney housed in a nonprofit. I also worked with many nonprofits to improved the lives and health of my clients. In Maine I worked as an Assistant Attorney General in the Natural Resources Division and also directed the office's Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Division. In those capacities I often worked with nonprofits addressing environmental issues and those working on civil rights.

I have served on the board's of directors of:

The Maine Bar Foundation (now The Maine Justice Foundation)-served as a Board member for seven years and as the President of the Board for one year.

GLSEN Southern Maine- Board member.

Maine Justice Action Group- member.

I currently serve on the following boards:

Kennebec Land Trust- Board member and past Secretary.

Gardiner Main Street- Board member (ex-officio).

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area- Board member.

Gardiner Public Library Board of Trustees- Board member (ex-officio).

Johnson Hall Regional Advisory Committee- Committee member.

Also, in my capacity as the mayor of Gardiner for the last six years, I have worked closely with many area nonprofits including the United Way of the Kennebec Valley, the Gardiner Rotary Club, and the Johnson Hall Board of Directors.

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

Given my decades long experience with nonprofits in two states both professionally and personally, I am well aware of the important role nonprofits play locally, statewide, and nationally. They do work that would not be done otherwise and mobilize communities by providing opportunities for public service and volunteerism. They also play an important role in Augusta in educating legislators and state agencies on important issues. One of the primary ways I would support that work is by listening to them and making sure their voices are heard and their views on issues are considered and acted upon.

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

I support the property tax exemption for nonprofits, particularly those that are small. As a city councilor for one year and a mayor for six, I have struggled with difficult budget decisions as they relate to property taxes. In light of the continued assault on revenue sharing at the state level, an undue financial burden is being placed on property tax payers-homeowners. In some instances, particularly with very large nonprofits such as hospitals and educational institutions, I understand the need to explore payment in lieu of taxes for government services notably for the provision of public safety services.

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