

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 *

Victoria Doudera

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 worked in the non-profit world extensively before moving to Maine in the late 1980's (the American Society of Law & Medicine, and Boston's Children's Hospital) and worked for three non-profits once here (the Maine Photographic Workshops in Rockport, Camden First Aid Association, and Camden-Rockport-Lincolville Chamber of Commerce.) Since then, I've been involved continuously on the Board of Directors level with many, many, non-profit organizations. They do crucial work in our state and are important economic engines for Maine!

Organizations on which I've served on the Board of Directors include: The Camden-Rockport-Lincolville Chamber of Commerce, Youth Arts, First Congregational Church Community Outreach Committee, and Midcoast Habitat for Humanity.

I served as Board President of Midcoast Habitat for 5 years and took that organization through a crucial redevelopment in which we reinvigorated the Board of Directors, hired our first paid employee, our Executive Director; purchased a building in Rockland for an office and ReStore; started the ReStore and hired a manager for that, and -- most importantly -- greatly ramped up our building program and family selection and made ourselves self-sustaining. I'm proud to say that this organization is thriving and doing incredible work! After terming out (I also led the charge as President for term limits to keep a healthy turnover of BODs) I am now once again on the Board.

Additionally I am an appointed officer of my town's Conservation Commission.

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

In just about any challenge facing our state there are non-profits we can and should reach out to for collaboration. For instance -- Habitat for Humanity of Maine can be a resource in providing ideas for building decent, safe affordable housing for Mainers by providing ideas on what incentives builders would need to create more low cost housing. Certainly there are non-profit groups (such as Midcoast Recovery Coalition here in my area) working hard to address the opioid crisis, and these are people on the front lines who can help Legislators craft and implement appropriate legislation. I know first hand how hard Maine's non-profits work and we should take full advantage of their expertise, networks, and passion.

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

I support the exemption.

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