



Name: Chris Johnson

Running For: State Senate – District 13

Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on your experience with Maine's nonprofit sector. Once we receive your response, your answers will be posted on our website at www.nonprofitmaine.org/2016candidates. Please respond no later than Friday, September 30, 2016.

Did you know nonprofits:

- **Employ 1 in 7 workers** in Maine.
- **Contribute \$10 billion per year** to the economy through wages paid, retail and wholesale sales, and professional services contracted.
- **Pay \$3.6 billion annually in wages**, which translates to approximately **\$206 million in personal income tax revenue**.
- **Mobilize 350,000 volunteers each year** to improve communities.

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

I have found nonprofit organizations very helpful in assisting constituents with their needs, from disability rights, to access to legal assistance, help with obtaining DHHS services, repairs to low income homes, fuel assistance, etc. I have worked to help a number of nonprofit lake, watershed, or conservation organizations with issues in state government. And I have worked with the local CLC Y as a legacy partner and had their help with getting the Lincoln County Recovery Collaborative (LCRC) agreement and volunteer and law enforcement training going. I lead the effort to get LincolnHealth and Mid Coast Hospital to reach a signed agreement with law enforcement in Lincoln County as members of the LCRC. I have been a community supporter of the Restorative Justice Project in Lincoln County. Really nonprofits are integral to many aspects of our communities in Maine and many aspects of advocating for, providing, and/or protecting the rights and essential needs of Maine people. I find the information and advice of Maine Equal Justice Partners, the Maine Children's Alliance, the Maine Center for Economic Policy, and others helpful in my public service work.

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

I reach out to nonprofits and they reach out to me regarding policies important to Maine people and the future of our state. I am always willing to listen and understand their ideas or concerns as I weigh what is best for Maine. In doing so I find the counsel of nonprofits valuable whenever their interests and advocacy are well aligned with those of Maine people and sound policy, not harmful ideology.

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

Because most property owning nonprofits do not provide services that provide revenue streams to support paying such taxes, I oppose repealing property tax exemptions. I do believe that nonprofit entities with significant revenues and cash flows, and which utilize significant municipality provided services, such as hospitals, should pay fees in lieu of taxes to help cover municipal costs of the services utilized by the nonprofit.

4. Do you have any specific questions or need further information on any particular issue regarding Maine's nonprofit sector that we can help you with?

None, thank you.

You may submit your responses as follows:

Via email to: mecasale@nonprofitmaine.org

Online: www.nonprofitmaine.org/2016candidates

Via mail to:
Mary Erin Casale
Maine Association of Nonprofits
565 Congress Street, Suite 301
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MANP is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation under IRS code 501(c)(3) and therefore cannot endorse candidates for elected office. Our goal is to promote an educated and enthusiastic nonprofit community that votes.