



Name: Colleen Morton

Running For: State Representative

District: 139

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 held executive positions in several nonprofits at the national and international level, including: the Canadian-American Committee of the National Planning Association (defunct); Executive Director of the Mexico-US Business Council of the Council of the Americas; Vice President of the Institute of the Americas (San Diego); and Director of the US-Mexico Environmental Business Committee. I've also been very involved with a number of other nonprofits, including Women in International Trade; the US-Mexico Studies Center (UC San Diego); The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; and a number of other organizations in Washington, DC and San Diego.

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

I would like to hold hearings on infrastructure and economic issues incorporating expert testimony from nonpartisan nonprofits on economic and infrastructure development strategies for Maine.

I would also like to work with nonprofits that have strong expertise in promoting local food networks to write legislation that would make it easier for local farms to survive in Maine.

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

If the property is directly connected to their mission, i.e., their own office space; conservation areas; spaces for the provision of services (clinics, etc.), I'm all in favor. If they own property as part of their endowment, I would have to think about it, as generally, I don't believe that's good practice for either the donor, or the nonprofit. Endowment funds should be more liquid than that. If they own property that it not related to either their mission or their endowment, then they should definitely pay property taxes like everyone else.

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?

Nope.

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
Portland, ME 04101

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.

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