



Maine  
Philanthropy  
Center

## 2018 Nonprofit + Philanthropic Gubernatorial Candidate Conversation (Webinar) Questions

Opening Statement: Tell us about your history working with nonprofits and how these experiences will help shape your approach to public policy.

### Long Questions and Answer

- Under your administration, do you intend to engage the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors in the development of policy and/or the implementation of government programs?
- Philanthropy plays a unique innovating role in being able to experiment and take risks that government and nonprofits can't. Philanthropic funding supports the development, incubation, and testing of new ideas as well as pilot programs, discrete programs, and advocacy and thought partnerships. On what issue would your administration want to partner with Maine's philanthropic community and why?
- The state of Maine faces a workforce challenge. Do you see a role the nonprofit sector can play in helping to attract and retain a work force and how would you address that? For example, in other states, the creative sector has been an important component to attracting young talent.
- Follow up - if didn't mention immigrants, Is there a role for the refugee and immigrant populations in Maine's work force? What steps would you take to advance this role?
- When do you think it is appropriate, if at all, for the Legislature and Governor to alter a policy that was adopted at referendum?
- Maine ranks high among the states with the least affordable housing. According to a study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a Maine renter would have to earn \$18.73/hour to be able to afford a typical 2 bedroom apartment, but the average wage for a Maine renter is \$11.44/hour. Is there anything the Government should be doing to help the average Maine worker and retiree facing similar challenges to be able to afford appropriate housing?
- Maine's child protective services agency receives 55,000 calls a year. The state used to have 24,000 children served by TANF, yet that has dropped to 7,000 a year despite a rise in children living in poverty. What can state government do to ensure kids are not falling through the cracks and are able to thrive in Maine?
- Our public health system is facing some serious challenges. For example, our youth smoking rate has risen above the national average. We also have a growing opioid

crisis, and nearly twenty percent of Maine's children are food insecure. Do you have plans for strengthening Maine's public health system?

- Often multiple state agencies are tasked with addressing the same problem. The opioid crisis is one example, but there are many more. In these instances, how will you ensure different parts of your administration work together to meet the common challenge?
- Many nonprofits provide services to the state through contracts. These contracts require the state to set rates. In order for these nonprofits to attract a quality work force, the rates have to keep pace with inflation. Do you agree? If so, how would you do it?
- One of the most important responsibilities as governor is to propose a state budget. Please share with us what would be your approach to the budget writing process and describe your top budget priorities.

### Rapid Fire Questions

- Nonprofits enjoy property tax exemptions for the work they do. Do you support the exemption?
- The last time voters approved a bond for the Land for Maine's Future program was in 2012. Would you support a significant bond to fund the Land for Maine's Future program?
- Do you support a universal public preschool program in Maine?
- Will you implement the voter approved Medicaid expansion?
- Restorative Justice programs in Maine provide the opportunity for youth offenders to engage in a community and peer driven process to rehabilitate and have demonstrated success. Would your administration support Restorative Justice opportunities for youth offenders?
- What would be your top action item around the opioid crisis?
- Maine has many public parks and state lands that don't comply with the law regarding providing access to people with disabilities. Would you support increasing funding to address this challenge?
- We know that only half of people that need mental health services receive them, and only one in ten people who need substance use disorder treatment actually receive it. Do you think that the State has a responsibility to assure access to behavioral health services for those that need them?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, where do you rank climate change as a matter of importance for the state government to address with a 1 being not at all important and a 10 being critically important that the state invest significant resources in addressing the issue?

- Maine has the third highest percentage of veterans in the nation. We can end veteran homelessness in Maine but our state needs leadership from the top and to take a comprehensive approach. What will you do to honor and take care of Maine veterans and their families who are homeless in Maine?
- Many agree that immigrants bring tremendous value to Maine including diversity of perspective and experiences, increased vibrancy to Maine's culture, and added economic strength. What would be your first action as Governor to make Maine a welcoming place for immigrants to work, start businesses, and make their homes?

Closing Statement