

Name: DAVID PEARSON

Running For: HOUSE DIST #104

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.

1986-1998 PENQUIS C.A.P. BOARD OF DIRECTORS - VICE-CHAIR 1992-1994
1997-2005 CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - TREASURER
2000-2008 DEXTER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - TREASURER, VICE-CHAIR
2002-present WAYSIDE GRANGE #590 - MASTER
1990-1992 USDA CO-OPERATION FOOD & NUTRITION COUNCIL
1994-2008 DEXTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - TREASURER

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

The non-profit sector could deliver many services to Maine residents at greater efficiency and lower cost than many state agencies. I think there are particular opportunities with DHHS programs to deliver services in health and energy areas.

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

As long as Maine non-profits are adhering to the statutory definitions and their own by-laws and articles of Incorporation, they should retain the property tax exemption. I like to see non-profits do PILOT payments when they can ("Payment-in-lieu of taxes") because it recognizes the value of municipal services.

I am troubled by certain professional associations (doctors, housing) that perform no pro-bono or charitable services but want to be tax-exempt. These are occasionally nothing but for-profit businesses trying to save money for their own compensation.

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?

A trend in recent years for housing projects that receive or received federal assistance to call themselves "non-profits" and pay their directors the equivalent of salaries has been removing taxable properties from the rolls (check out Bangor for instance) and adding no or small charitable services. I would like to see these definitions reviewed.

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
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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.