

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 *

Karen Kusiak

Office Running For *

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House
- State Senate
- State House

District

16

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

I'm an educator and have worked for most of my adult career in government supported schools (12 years), or in a private/non profit institute of higher education (28 years.) I've served on boards or steering committees for non-profits.

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

I would seek the knowl she if individuals who are working in non-profits. For example, I'm on a steering committee for an English Language Program within a Portland-based non-profit that serves immigrants. People who do this work understand the situations they people they serve face.

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

98% of non-profits in Maine should unquestionably remain exempt from property taxes. I think it is worth talking about the ~2% (by numbers) of Maine non-profits that are worth millions of dollars, have 100s of employees and several thousand clients who use municipal services. Local communities need some way to benefit from "hosting" the non-profit and to have a say in how the non-profit "benefits" the community. In other words, if the non-profit acknowledges that it needs to contribute to the community - the community needs to participate in deciding how the contributions will be used. The community may prefer to have a school nurse, guidance, counselor, and firefighters rather than community museum space, for example.

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