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 was very privileged to have worked for Maine non-profit, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc., from 1986 through 1995 as a Paralegal. I have continued to support their work. The law office I have worked in since leaving Pine Tree has worked pro bono for non-profits in Aroostook County.

2. Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with the nonprofit sector to advance policies that strengthen Maine.
There are many services provided to the people of Maine through our non-profits - legal services, educational institutions, homeless shelters, health, mental health and substance abuse services, childhood and family services, services to the elderly, animal shelters, etc.... It is essential that state government be assistive in maximizing the effectiveness of our non-profits.
3. What is your position on property tax exemption for Maine nonprofit property owners?
I was and remain opposed to erosion of the property tax exemption for non-profits. It is a "slippery slope" idea that would be a false economy for the people of Maine - likely resulting in service cutbacks. It would also have a disparate impact on non-profits depending on where they are located in the state.

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?
What do non-profits think the State could streamline to help non-profits to efficiently and effectively provide services to our communities? What obstacles need to be addressed now?

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.