



Name: Walter Riseman

Running For: State Representative

District: 69

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 worked for 23 years at Community Concepts, Inc., a CAP agency serving primarily Oxford, Androscoggin and Franklin counties in Western Maine. I had been the Chief Financial Officer for the last 10 years before retiring last fall. My responsibilities included budgeting, financial oversight, contract compliance and building the overall financial strength of the organization and I was a member of the leadership team.

I also served on numerous non-profit boards including the Oxford Hills Growth Council, Fareshare Coop, and Deertrees Theater.

I have been recently appointed to the Tri County Mental Health Agency Board of Directors. I served as Chairman of the Maine CAP Finance Directors for quite a few years. This was a group representing financial officers from the various CAP agencies here in Maine.

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

At the root of strengthening Maine is making sure we are addressing the issues of poverty and the under-served here in the State. The most efficient and cost effective way to address the issues is by building community partnerships, of which non-profits are the cornerstone. As part of my campaign I have been circulating a survey to my constituents listing nineteen different issues which could be of importance to the district. These are things including global warming, drug issues, poverty and economic development, to name just a few. I am

asking respondents to pick five and prioritize them. If elected, I will consider the top five overall issues to be my work goals for the session.

While I realize that I alone can't solve major issues, I will explore how to make a start in addressing them. True solutions will require cooperation between non-profits, community, businesses and state policy makers. I will be looking to building relationships with like minded legislators and community leaders.

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

My current position is that a property tax exemption should only apply to organizations (legal entities) granted a 501c3 status. However, if there are activities within the organization that are clearly only commercial in nature they should be subject to taxation. It's a little complicated because an organization can currently be a Maine nonprofit and not a 501c3, which means they would be subject to tax.

I would be interested in exploring this issue some more.

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?

I appreciate the work you do and if elected look forward to working with you on a number of issues.

You can also check my website for more information about me at:
www.risemanformelegislature.com.

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.

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