



**Name:** Ginette Rivard

**Running For:** State Representative

**District:** 149

## 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](http://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.**

Throughout my career I have served on numerous boards of nonprofits in various capacities. Some of these include domestic violence projects and child serving programs. For a period of approximately five years I was employed by a nonprofit. Over 20 years ago, I formed a community collaborative composed of representatives from state agencies, business leaders and community partners, many of whom came from the nonprofit sector. Together we worked to look for creative solutions to address unmet needs of children with disabilities.

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

I have seen nonprofits lose good staff year after year due to uncertainty of funding. This is not good for sustainability of programs and recruitment and retention of good staff. I have a good record of working well with individuals as well as diverse groups and i would be a productive partner.

*Survey continues on back page*

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

Unfortunately, what i know about this issue I have learned from the media. Tax policy is not my strong suit. However, given the rigorous process that nonprofits must go through to obtain tax exempt status I would oppose increasing their financial burden by changing their tax exempt status.

**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?**

Even though I have been involved in various ways in this sector for many years, I know I have much to learn and look forward to working with you to seek solutions to the issues you identify.

You may submit your responses as follows:

Via email to: [mecasale@nonprofitmaine.org](mailto:mecasale@nonprofitmaine.org)

Online: [www.nonprofitmaine.org/2016candidates](http://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.*