



**Name:** Alan Tibbetts

**Running For:** State Representative

**District:** 0

## 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.**

Like so many I personally benefit from the works of nonprofits without always knowing this is the case. Boy Scouts, church groups, the local Lions Club all contributed to great experiences and opportunities I enjoyed growing up in small town Maine. More recently it is things like the Winslow 4th of July festival, Waterville film and art shows, nonprofit activist groups getting issues to referendum and the Snow Pond Academy for the Arts. So many people in the community are also receiving food, shelter and medical assistance on a daily basis. It would be a rare individual whose life is not touched by nonprofit organizations. As I sit here typing, a string of organizations come to mind. I've been a member of the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization, for many years. Whether it is organizing a local event, working on scholarships or gathering and processing eye glasses and hearing aids for reuse, this is about helping other people. Similarly, the American Legion Post I belong to offers scholarship programs, sponsors Boys' State, and lends assistance to other nonprofits. As a Boy Scout and Cub Scout leader I concentrated on the organizational side, making sure that den leaders and scout masters got the support they needed, and that scouting events were well planned and funded.

While working for the National Guard we interacted with organizations such as the Red Cross when responding to floods, ice storms and other events; with lake associations, agricultural fair committees, scouting camps and similar groups to construct buildings, camp sites, boat launches, bridges and otherwise make improvements to their facilities. Speaking of the Red Cross, this reminds me of the many times I gave blood, often at the Augusta

Armory.

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

Maine needs to leverage nonprofits to move the state out of the ditch we are in. Although I can name several nonprofit organizations in the district I seek to represent there are many more that I could not name. Encouraging nonprofits to talk with each other and collaborate (as they undoubtedly do to some extent) is part of your mission, but surely there are things state government could do to further that collaboration.

You are in a far better position to educate me on how state government could better partner with the nonprofit sector than I am to give specifics. For example, what state grants are available for nonprofits, what is the process the state uses for these grants, and how can it be improved.

Whether elected or not, I will continue to work with several nonprofits to further their missions. As a legislator I'm sure the impact would be far greater and far wider.

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

I think it would be a huge mistake to make a blanket change on this exemption, call it the law of unintended consequences. But, I am willing to listen to a balanced discussion.

**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 does MANP think are the most important and most beneficial changes/issues regarding nonprofits in Maine?

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.*

---

565 Congress Street, #301  
Portland, Maine 04101  
tel: 207-871-1885  
fax: 207-780-0346

[www.NonprofitMaine.org](http://www.NonprofitMaine.org)

---