



Name: Amy Volk

Running For: State Senator

District: 30

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 am currently the longest serving board member for The Root Cellar in Portland. I serve as the secretary and have overseen all three directors for that organization, which is an inner city mission offering a free health and dental clinic, job training, English language and citizenship classes, homework help, a food co-op and numerous other services to the Munjoy Hill/Bayside neighborhood.

I recently stepped down as board chair of Maine Connections Academy, Maine's first and largest virtual charter school, providing education to 7-12 grade students from all over the state. I am still a board member of this important organization.

Just last year, my family and I received Spurwink's Humanitarians of the Year Award for our efforts to raise awareness about autism. We were proud to help them raise a record amount of money at their gala.

Lastly, I have been active in many different churches in Greater Portland over the last 25 years and am currently a member of The Rock Church in Scarborough.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of all the nonprofit organizations I have been involved with, but such a list would take a very long time to write. Nonprofits play a huge role in Maine's economy and our fabric of life. They step in where government cannot, and sometimes should not go, often effectively meeting the needs of people in every imaginable circumstance.

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

The biggest asset I have as a legislator is the respect I have earned working across the aisle with Democrats and traditionally Democrat-leaning organizations, such as Maine Association for Affordable Housing, United Way and Maine Women's Lobby, helping them pass priority legislation in spite of conservative opposition.

I am deeply concerned about Referendum Question 2 on the ballot and how it will further discourage financially successful people and businesses from growing and staying in Maine. I also believe we need to repeal the cap on charitable contributions as soon as possible because it is damaging non-profits' ability to fundraise in Maine.

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

I support our current statute remaining unchanged.

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 hope you will take an active and vocal position opposing Question 2.

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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