2022 Candidate Survey - Maine Association of Nonprofits

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on your experience with Maine’s nonprofit sector.

Through this questionnaire, the Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) offers Maine candidates for publicly elected office the opportunity to reach our vital constituency to let them know how you would partner with nonprofits to advance policies that would strengthen our state.

Our goal is to promote an educated and enthusiastic nonprofit community that votes.

Please complete the questionnaire no later Friday, September 30, 2022. We will post responses to our website the following week.

Did you know?
Did you know nonprofits:

- Employ 1 in 6 Maine workers. That's triple the size of the construction industry.
- Pay 18% of the state's total payroll
- Generate $300+ million in state tax revenue
- Contribute nearly $14 Billion to the nation's economy

Email *

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Candidate's Full Name *

Stephen Coston

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I presently serve on the board of directors for two nonprofit organizations in my hometown of Bar Harbor, Maine. I am also a supporter of many nonprofits in Maine to which I make donations regularly.
I believe Maine, which in 2022 per the Tax Foundation had the tenth highest state and local tax burden of the fifty states, needs to be more competitive in order to retain and attract residents, particularly young residents and the small businesspeople who are the engine of our economy. I am generally supportive of less government involvement in peoples' day-to-day lives, and I favor lower taxes and smaller budgets as I believe government has long proven to be an inefficient allocator of resources. Therefore my top goals would include less taxation and government spending, and making Maine more competitive and thus a more affordable place for people to live and work.

I believe nonprofits funded by non-tax dollars are generally superior allocators of resources compared to publicly funded government mechanisms and I would support looking for ways to work with nonprofits to reduce government spending and involvement in Mainers’ day-to-day lives. First and foremost, I would support increasing the amount of charitable contributions that can be deducted in the State of Maine (presently, itemized deductions for the State of Maine are capped at around $30,000). I believe the cap is a meaningful disincentive to charitable contributions and that we should not be disincentivizing charitable contributions to nonprofits.