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 *

Justin Chenette

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Office Running For: *

- [ ] Governor
- [ ] U.S. House
- [ ] State House
- [ ] State Senate
- [ ] Sheriff
- [ ] County Commissioner
- [ ] Other:  

District *

3 (Saco, OOB, Hollis, Buxton)  

Campaign website:  

https://www.accountabletou.org  

Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations. *

I currently work as communications director at a statewide mental health nonprofit and operate a nonprofit scholarship fund. In the past, I've run a nonprofit group that focused on investing in arts education, providing support to homeless Veterans, and awarded college scholarships. I currently serve on Age Friendly Saco's Board of Directors and previously spent 7 years on the board of Saco Main Street including stints as President and Vice President.
Please describe your top 3 policy goals.

The County Commission shouldn't be Maine's lost level of government. In order to restore public trust in county government, we must increase access, transparency, and engagement in the decision-making process. County Commissioners should hold office hours, virtual or otherwise, to give you an opportunity for direct feedback. They should write monthly columns, providing in-depth reports on key issues and ideas. They should post on social media, record videos, & send out email newsletters explaining decisions. They should frequently update the county website. They should be visible and actively volunteer in the communities they serve at local events. Meetings are held at 4:30 with workshops & special meetings even earlier like 3PM. Working Mainers aren’t able to attend. Why are they not held in the evening like most other public meetings? We must change the meeting times to be the most convenient for the individuals we represent and shift them to the evenings and livestreamed on social media.

Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with the nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.

We all should have a stake in making county government more accessible, transparent, and accountable. Nonprofits can be an important partner in helping spread the word around how their employees and the clients they serve can access county services and weigh in on important county issues. Nonprofits can also play a role in brainstorming regional solutions to use Federal relief dollars known as ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. Each county is receiving millions of dollars for transformative projects and often nonprofits can serve as a conduit for this investment allocation. I would also want to meet with nonprofit leaders to understand other needs throughout our county to ensure the commission is prioritizing the best ways to assist. This could be as a simple as sharing information from nonprofits to our constituents and partnering on hosting informational forums to investing in specific initiatives.

This form was created inside of Maine Association of Nonprofits.