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 *

Candidate's Full Name *

Patricia Smith
Office Running For: *

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

District *

Cumberland County District 4

Campaign website:

https://www.facebook.com/Patti-Smith-Candidate-for-Cumberland-County-Commissioner-100320332860475
Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations. *

I am consistently humbled by the meaningful work that so many Maine nonprofits achieve in our communities in Cumberland County and beyond. Personally, I was among a group that co-founded the Community Garden Collective in 2010, a non-profit promoting community gardening in the Greater Portland area, and have served as a Board member of CGC since that time. I have also been a Board member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM), and served as a municipal representative for Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). I’m also an alum of the 9-month Lift360 Leadership Intensive program (formerly, the Institute for Civic Leadership) learning alongside a 60-person cohort of nonprofit Executive Directors, NGO representatives, public, private and municipal leaders committed to developing and expanding their leadership perspectives, abilities and skills. Additionally, my nine years as a South Portland City Councilor (2008-2017) afforded me extensive experience with numerous nonprofits in the Greater Portland area. Each year, the City’s budgeting process included CDBG grant funding and I had the opportunity to learn about many area nonprofits and their community impact.

Please describe your top 3 policy goals. *

As a Cumberland County Commissioner, I would seek to:

- Ensure that the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds are obligated in the most equitable and impactful way.
- Seek out strategies, solutions and programs that will make a meaningful impact in: mental health, domestic violence, and alcohol and drug addiction, including bolstering our recovery communities.
- Support, promote and position the County as a leader in climate adaptation and resilience, so that our communities are proactively supported by the County Emergency Management Agency to prevent and adapt to crises and climate challenges.

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

As a County Commissioner I would meet with and learn from individual nonprofits in order to gain a greater understanding of their missions and purpose, with the goal of amplifying their visibility and impact to community members. I would welcome the opportunity to be a guest speaker or panelist for nonprofit gatherings and/or provide quarterly or semi-annual communications and updates from Cumberland County via MANP or other platforms. I am also very comfortable reaching out to or partnering with municipal leaders, council/select persons, or State representatives should legislative issues arise that have the potential to impact nonprofits.