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 *

Victoria Doudera
Office Running For: *

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

District *

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Campaign website:

vickiformaine.com
Please describe your personal and professional experiences with nonprofit organizations.

My first three jobs were with nonprofits in Boston... The Downtown Crossing Association (we worked to promote the area around South Station,) The American Society of Law and Medicine (I was the conference planner for this medico-legal nonprofit that explored the ethical intersection of law and medicine,) and Boston Children's Hospital, where I worked in development. Once we moved to Maine to start a hospitality business, I served on several nonprofit organizations' boards: our local Chamber of Commerce; Youth Arts (providing opportunities in the arts in our local schools,) the Camden Shakespeare Company, and Camden First Aid, where I was a first responder. Maine's many nonprofits received a whole chapter in the first book I wrote, Moving to Maine, a guide to welcome newcomers to the state published in 2000, and then revised and reissued in 2007 and 2014. That is because I know how important a role they play in our state.

One of my proudest accomplishments concerns a nonprofit that has become an integral part of my life... Habitat for Humanity. I went on my first build in 2007 to Tutwiler, MI, then to Mobile, AL, and returned to Camden only to realize that our own Habitat affiliate was sinking fast. Knowing that this nonprofit’s mission was too important to lose, I jumped in, serving as President of Midcoast Habitat for Humanity for five years, an important time of reinvention for the organization in which I sought like-minded community members to help completely revamp the group’s culture. We then hired our first executive director, bought our Rockport barn, opened a ReStore, and greatly ramped up our building program to help as many Knox County families as possible. Today I am once more on the board and incredibly proud of our amazing achievements. Thirty-plus years of building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter!

As you can probably tell, I love and support all manner of nonprofits, and to my great delight, our daughter Alexandra founded and runs her own Maine nonprofit, Saltwater Classroom. (https://www.saltwaterclassroom.com/) I am in awe of the work she is doing to help our oceans by instilling a love for the sea in middle schoolers, and I like to think that I led by example with all those years of volunteering myself.

Please describe your top 3 policy goals.

In the 131st legislature I will strive to pass more Gun Safety measures in Maine (I founded and co-chair the Legislative Gun Safety Caucus and partner with non-profits such as the Gun Safety Coalition of Maine, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and BRADY to craft and pass legislation) environmental equity/climate justice (I partner with NRCM, Defend our Health, Maine Conservation Voters, Acadia Center, Maine People's Alliance and others to advance equity measures as we pursue a clean energy future) and I will be submitting two domestic violence prevention bills, working with Finding Our Voices (headquartered in Camden,) Maine Women's Lobby, and Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence.
Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with the nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.

I think I mostly answered this in the previous question, but for gun safety measures I partner with non-profits such as the Gun Safety Coalition of Maine, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and BRADY to craft and pass legislation. In our state we have a WEALTH of awesome environmental organizations with whom I work regularly, as I serve on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I will partner next session with Natural Resources Council of Maine, Defend our Health, Maine Conservation Voters, Acadia Center, Maine People’s Alliance, Maine Sierra Club and others, and for the domestic violence prevention bills, I have already begun working with Finding Our Voices (headquartered in Camden,) Maine Women’s Lobby, and Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

I believe in the amazing work of our state’s nonprofits and cannot imagine my work in the legislature without them.