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

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.

Email *

Candidate's Full Name *

Allison L Hepler
Office Running For: *

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

District *

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Campaign website:

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

I’m involved in a number of non-profits, and have been for years, as a volunteer. Maine’s First Ship is an organization committed to building a replica of a ship built by English colonists at the mouth of the Kennebec River 400 years ago. In 2008, when I joined the all volunteer organization, several of us took the project in a different direction, and chose to start building the ship even without having all the money up front. I’ve been on the board as the Secretary ever since. We launched Virginia in downtown Bath on June 4, and she is still on top of the water! But during this time, I helped write grants, design a Visitor Center, organize publicity, and build a ship. We finally hired our first Executive Director. (We have had a part-time office administrator for several years.)

I’m also the Secretary of the Woolwich Historical Society board and have been for years. This is also an all-volunteer organization. We are stewards of a historical building that we open to the public in the summer. We also participate in an annual winter history series and, as a historian, I have presented a number of Woolwich-specific historical presentations at the local library in Bath.

Finally, I serve as a Trustee on the board of the Patten Free Library in Bath, which is the “regional” library in our area. This is obviously a more formal organization than the others that I’ve been part of.

I am also a member of the Bath Y and participate in a number of programs with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust.

Please describe your top 3 policy goals. *

- Keep and attract young people to Maine, which encompasses a number of policy issues, such as quality schools, good infrastructure (roads and broadband), good paying jobs, and a community committed to environmental stewardship.
- Maintain a marine economy that is sustainable for both fishermen and our environment.
- Create affordable housing for people of all ages and all circumstances, by opening up a collaborative, creative and regional approach, and by developing a sustainable plan for our coastal communities, which face a number of challenges with regard to sea level rise and climate change.

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

The most important issue I have worked on is a way to simplify the tax status of non profits in Maine. Currently, the system of several specific categories is not helpful and leaves out many legitimate organizations. I’ve been told that Maine Revenue Services plans to submit a bill that simplifies this system, which will help many non-profits that didn’t fit into these boxes.