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.**

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**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

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**Email** *

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**Candidate's Full Name** *

Sam Hunkler
Office Running For: *

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

District *

state

Campaign website:

standwithsam2022.com

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

I currently am the director of Samburu Trust USA, a 501(c)3 which supports an indigenous, nomadic tribe in northern Kenya, samburustrust.org. My daughter works for Healthy Acadia. My son works for HOPE as a Pathway Navigator. I recently attended Defend Our Health's fall brunch. I am volunteering at MOGFA’s Common Ground Fair all 3 days next weekend.
Please describe your top 3 policy goals.

My primary focus is children and their future. I believe physical/mental/emotional/spiritual unwellness begins in childhood and perpetuates itself into adulthood which is why, if our society is truly going to change, we must start with children... keeping them safe, cared for, and protected. This involves many different aspects of our society: stable housing, treatment for their parents’ health issues, food security, education (as opposed to simply schooling them), nature and a connection to the outdoors, a future to believe in and build upon incorporating a plan to mitigate climate change, and community, including regular contact with the elderly. Children need the patience, gentleness, wisdom, and nurturing which the elderly can give. The elderly need the life-giving energy of children.

Our educational system is failing our children. It is also chewing up and spitting out our teachers; there are plenty of teachers in Maine but we have a shortage of teachers working due to burn out, poor wages and/or unhealthy working environments. We need to change the nature of our schooling systems with focus on the local needs of schools. Educational policies need to be malleable to each individual school district; what is needed in Portland is often quite different than what is needed in Beals. We need to find a balance between testing and practical learning such as how to use and balance a checkbook, basic gardening, how a toilet works and simple repair, how to change a car tire, etc. I support student loan repayment for teachers and aides who commit to the profession for at least 5 years. Recruitment of teachers needs to begin when they are in high school. We need to recruit more males to the profession; a 50/50 ratio of female/male teachers would be ideal. We need to take an in-depth look at the way we school our children to find the best way to educate each student.

The opioid crisis directly affects many Maine children. We need to treat the underlying cause of most addiction... history of abuse, neglect and trauma, esp Post Traumatic Stress Disorder... for addicts to heal. Treating withdrawal symptoms of addiction with addictive pharmaceutical drugs needs to be temporary while beginning the process of recovery. Addiction treatment currently focuses on Medication Assisted Treatment which keeps people addicted to pharmaceutical drugs and dependent on a system of disease maintenance which replaces the individual's responsibility for recovery. Let's convert one of our prisons to drug and alcohol rehabilitation. The current annual cost per prisoner in Maine is approximately $50,000. Let's put this money towards true rehabilitation as the majority of prisoners are incarcerated due to drug-related crime.. Anyone revived from narcotic stupor with Naloxone would have the choice of going to jail or rehab, rather than simply enabling them to repeat their dance with death. We do not have unlimited resources to dance with them.
Please provide specific ways in which, if elected, you would partner with the nonprofit sector to achieve the goals of your campaign.

Maine nonprofits are intimately connected to the above issues and are vital to helping ensuring ongoing support for children. I would foster a close working relationship to nonprofits as a way to continue to support all aspects of children's lives. In addition to continuing ongoing financial support, I would ask them to be an integral part of discussions on how to go forward.