



# 2026 Candidate Survey

**Candidate Name:** Mary Shannon Lindstrom

**Office Running For:** State House

**District:** 124

**Campaign Website:** [www.lindstromforme.com](http://www.lindstromforme.com)

**Please describe your personal and professional experience with nonprofit organizations**

I have both professional and personal experience with nonprofit organizations, and I have seen firsthand the important role they play in strengthening communities and improving lives.

During my career, I worked for organizations with a strong commitment to community service, including a credit union and a Credit Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. These experiences gave me a deep appreciation for the unique challenges nonprofits face, as well as the tremendous impact they have in areas such as financial well-being, education, health, housing and community development. I have worked alongside nonprofit leaders, volunteers and community partners to advance missions that make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

On a personal level, my husband and I are active supporters of numerous nonprofit organizations throughout the Scarborough and greater Portland area. We regularly contribute our time, talent and financial support to causes that strengthen our community and serve individuals and families in need. Through volunteering and charitable giving, I have gained an even greater understanding of how vital nonprofits are in addressing local challenges, filling service gaps and fostering a strong sense of community.

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*MANP does not endorse candidates or promote or endorse any political party. MANP's goal is to educate nonprofits and legal and effective advocacy and election season activity, to educate candidates about the impact and potential of the nonprofit sector, and to educate voters by soliciting information directly from candidates on how they would strengthen and partner with the sector if elected.*

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These professional and personal experiences have reinforced my belief that nonprofit organizations are essential partners in building healthy, vibrant communities and I am committed to supporting their continued success and impact.

**Please describe your top three policy goals.**

My top three policy goals are:

1. **Building Consensus and Restoring Civil Dialogue**As an independent candidate, I believe one of the greatest challenges facing our state and nation is political division. Throughout my career, I have brought people together to solve complex problems, find common ground and achieve meaningful results. I want to bring that same consensus-building approach to public service by focusing on solutions rather than partisan politics.
2. **Improving Affordability for Maine Families**Maine families are feeling the pressure of rising costs, and property taxes are one of the biggest contributors to affordability concerns. Maine has some of the highest property taxes in the country, creating a significant burden for homeowners, seniors and working families. I am interested in exploring options such as a local option sales tax targeted toward tourism-related spending, which could provide municipalities with additional revenue while offering property tax relief for residents. Visitors benefit from Maine's infrastructure and services, and it is reasonable to explore ways for them to contribute to maintaining those resources.
3. **Strengthening Maine's Education System**Every child deserves access to an exceptional education, regardless of where they live. Improving Maine's educational outcomes and national rankings must be a priority, but that effort goes beyond classroom instruction alone. Across our state, many students and educators are learning and working in aging facilities that need significant repair or replacement. We must address Maine's school construction backlog and invest in safe, modern learning environments that support student success. At the same time, we need to strengthen academic opportunities, support educators and ensure every child is prepared to thrive in college, careers and life. A strong education system requires both excellent teaching and the infrastructure necessary to support it, making this investment essential to Maine's economic future and the long-term success of our communities.

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

I would view nonprofits as essential partners in achieving many of my campaign goals. Nonprofit organizations often step in to fill gaps when government programs or other services fall short, and they have a deep understanding of the unique needs of the communities they serve.

If elected, I would actively engage nonprofit leaders in policy discussions and decision-making processes to ensure that legislation reflects the realities facing Maine families and communities. Whether the issue is affordability, education, housing, food insecurity, workforce development or services for seniors, nonprofits are often on the front lines and can provide valuable insights into what is working and where additional support is needed.

In the area of education, for example, nonprofit organizations can be valuable partners in providing enrichment opportunities, mentoring programs, early childhood services and student support programs. In addressing affordability challenges, nonprofits play a critical role in areas such as housing assistance, financial education, food security and support services for vulnerable populations.

Ultimately, my approach would be to recognize nonprofits not simply as service providers, but as trusted community partners whose experience, innovation and commitment can help shape effective solutions. By working together, we can build stronger communities and improve the quality of life for people across Maine.

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