



# 2026 Candidate Survey

**Candidate Name:** Walter G. Runte Jr.

**Office Running For:** State House

**District:** 146

**Campaign Website:** runtefor146.org

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

I worked for a non-profit research organization, GTI, heading their alternative fuels and hydrogen energy programs in the early 00's. I also founded or was among the founding members for the US Fuel Cell Council, Mountain States Hydrogen Business Council, High Temperature Fuel Cell Association, and USAPV, a solar demonstration project consortium.

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

My top priority is making Maine more affordable for Mainers. This means tackling the costs people face every month, like housing, property taxes, health care, and energy. Second, I want to improve our energy system by using our current infrastructure more efficiently, so we can lower costs and boost reliability before asking ratepayers to pay for new projects. Third, Maine needs a stronger economy where businesses can invest, innovate, and create good jobs, and where workers can afford to live in the communities where those jobs are.

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

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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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My primary goals relating to energy will require the involvement of a number of stakeholders: among them are advocacy organizations who are vitally interested in working to achieve a more modern, efficient and resilient electricity grid, the cost of which is now over half of residential electricity bills.

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