



2026 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Shawn Saindon

Office Running For: State House

District: 44

Campaign Website: www.shawnformaine.com

Please describe your personal and professional experience with nonprofit organizations

My experience with nonprofits is mostly personal and through the work they do in our communities. Members of my family have worked in leadership roles with conservation and farmland organizations, so I've had a close-up view of the work nonprofits and land trusts do to support farms, protect working land, and strengthen our local food system.

I believe strongly in that work. I've spent a lot of my life around agriculture and food, from cheesemaking and the seafood business to helping with my family's dairy farm and now restoring our old farm in Warren. I'm also a supporter of organizations like MOFGA, Good Shepherd Food Bank, and Full Plates Full Potential and the work they do for farmers, families, and communities.

To me, nonprofits are often the people closest to the problems and closest to the solutions. State government should listen to them, work with them, and make it easier for them to keep doing the work our communities depend on.

Please describe your top three policy goals.

1. Affordable housing and food access. These are pretty basic things. People need a place they can afford to live and enough good food to put on the table. I want to help

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www.NonprofitMaine.org



create more housing, keep seniors and working families in their communities, and strengthen our local food system so more Maine food gets to Maine people.

2. Strong rural communities, Agriculture & small businesses. This one is personal for me. I've seen what it takes to keep a family dairy farm going, and my wife and I are restoring our old farm in Warren now. Our towns depend on small businesses, farms, tradespeople, and local employers. I want to make it a little easier for them to keep the doors open, hire people, and grow without getting buried in costs and red tape.

3. Better access to the services people actually need. Health care, mental health, childcare, education, transportation, and help for seniors all matter. A lot of nonprofits are already doing this work every day, and I think the state needs to listen to the people doing the work and be a better partner.

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

I'd want nonprofits at the table early, especially on housing, food access, conservation, and rural development.

I think land trusts and conservation groups can be part of the housing conversation too. We should be able to protect good farmland while also finding smart places for affordable housing, including for farmworkers, young families, and people who want to stay in their communities.

I'd also work with food organizations, farms, and schools to get more Maine-grown food into schools, food banks, and local programs while creating stronger markets for Maine farmers.

Most of all, I'd listen to the people already doing the work. They usually know where the gaps are and what's getting in the way.

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