



2026 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Shawn Packard

Office Running For: State House

District: 64

Campaign Website: packardfor64.com

Please describe your personal and professional experience with nonprofit organizations

My experience with nonprofit organizations has been both personal and professional. Growing up in Maine's foster care system, I became involved in advocacy at a young age, including working on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and advocating for improvements to the systems serving Maine children and families. As an adult, I have continued that commitment through community service and board involvement with organizations including the Alford Youth & Community Center's Founders Club, Discover Waterville, the Mid-Maine Technical Center Advisory Board, and the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. Professionally, through Red Claw Media, I have worked with nonprofits, educational institutions, and community organizations to strengthen their outreach through video production, marketing, social media, and storytelling. These experiences—as a former foster youth, advocate, volunteer, board member, and business owner—have shown me the important role nonprofits play in our communities and the value of strong partnerships between nonprofits, businesses, government, and the people they serve.

Please describe your top three policy goals.

DHHS Legislation, Education Fundamentals and Solving the Unhoused Crisis

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

If elected, I would treat Maine's nonprofit sector as an active partner in solving the challenges facing our communities, particularly in the areas of foster care and DHHS reform, education, homelessness, substance-use recovery, workforce development, and support for families. I would regularly meet with nonprofit leaders and frontline staff to ensure legislation is informed by the people actually delivering these services, and I would work to improve the way the State contracts with nonprofits by addressing unnecessary administrative burdens, delayed payments, and reimbursement structures that can make it difficult for organizations to sustain their work. I would also support stronger partnerships between nonprofits, schools, municipalities, businesses, and state agencies so that we are not duplicating services or working in separate silos. My goal would not be for government to replace the work of community organizations, but to listen to them, remove unnecessary barriers, hold public funding accountable to measurable results, and help successful local solutions reach more Maine people.

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