



2026 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Cheryl Golek

Office Running For: State House

District: 99

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/share/18Tb1B7iFc/>

Please describe your personal and professional experience with nonprofit organizations

My connection to nonprofit organizations began long before I ever thought about public service. Growing up in poverty, my family relied on food banks, clothing banks, and programs like the Santa Fund. Later, as a young single mother, nonprofit services helped provide stability for my family during some very difficult times. I know firsthand what it means when an organization is there for a family when they need it most.

As I got older, my relationship with nonprofits grew from receiving support to advocacy. Maine Equal Justice had a particularly meaningful impact on my life. Through the Equal Justice Partners Circle, I learned how to use my lived experience and my voice to advocate for change. That experience helped shape the advocate, and eventually the legislator, I became.

Professionally and as a legislator, I have worked alongside nonprofits addressing housing, health care, poverty, recovery, civil rights, food insecurity, and services for older Mainers and people with disabilities. They are often closest to the people impacted by the decisions we make in Augusta, and their knowledge and experience are invaluable.

Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for Maine's nonprofit community and the people who do this work every day. Nonprofits don't just fill gaps in services.

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.

www.NonprofitMaine.org



They strengthen communities, give people opportunities to be heard, and are important partners in building public policy that better reflects the lives and needs of Maine people.

Please describe your top three policy goals.

Affordability and a fairer economy
Addressing Maine's housing crisis
Strengthening our workforce and care infrastructure

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

If reelected, I will continue to treat Maine's nonprofit sector as an essential partner in addressing housing, health care, child care, food insecurity, recovery, and affordability. Nonprofits are often closest to the people impacted by the decisions we make, and their experience should help shape public policy.

I will continue listening to what is working and what is not and actively seeking information and expertise from nonprofits working on the issues involved in the legislation we are considering. That knowledge helps inform my work on legislation and the state budget. I will also continue advocating for sustainable funding, fair wages for essential workers, and fewer unnecessary administrative barriers.

Some of our best policy comes from listening to those closest to the issues, and I will continue to make that partnership an important part of my work in Augusta.

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.