



2026 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: Shanna Cox

Office Running For: State Senate

District: 21 Lewiston

Campaign Website: ShannaForMaine.com

Please describe your personal and professional experience with nonprofit organizations

Nonprofit organizations have been part of my life from several perspectives. As a young, single mother, I experienced firsthand how programs like Head Start can support a family, create opportunity, and help someone build a more secure future. Professionally, I helped found a neighborhood housing organization, working alongside residents and nonprofit partners to improve housing in the Tree Street neighborhood, and expand access to safe, stable housing.

I worked in both small and large nonprofits since 2010, and in 2019 I led the LA Metro Chamber, a nonprofit membership organization. There, I partnered closely with nonprofits working in healthcare, education, workforce development, housing, community services, business growth, and entrepreneurship. During the pandemic and following the October 25 mass shooting, I saw how quickly nonprofit organizations responded, often filling urgent needs before larger systems could adapt.

Today, through Project Tipping Point, I work with nonprofit leaders and boards on strategy, governance, community engagement, and organizational change. These experiences have given me a deep respect for the expertise nonprofits bring, the trust they build, and the essential work they do, often with limited resources.

Please describe your top three policy goals.

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



1. Make life more affordable. Increase housing supply, preserve affordable housing, provide meaningful property tax relief, and lower the everyday costs that are straining working families and older Mainers.
2. Strengthen Maine's workforce and essential services. Invest in childcare, education, healthcare, behavioral health, and the direct-care workforce. This includes recognizing nonprofit organizations as essential partners in delivering services and ensuring state contracts reflect the true cost of that work.
3. Build safe, healthy, and resilient communities. Improve access to healthcare and mental health services, address youth violence through prevention and coordinated action, and protect the strong community institutions that people rely on during times of need.

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

Nonprofits are essential partners in achieving each of my campaign's goals. They are at the heart of strategies to intervene early and break cycles of violence, provide healthcare, behavioral health services and childcare, support workers and families, and develop and preserve affordable housing.

If elected, I would bring nonprofit leaders and frontline providers into the policymaking process early, particularly when legislation will affect the people they serve. I would work to ensure state contracts cover the real cost of delivering services, reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, and create more predictable funding so organizations can retain skilled staff and plan beyond the next grant cycle.

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.



I would also support stronger coordination and responsible data-sharing among state agencies, municipalities, schools, law enforcement, and community organizations. Nonprofits often see where systems are failing before policymakers do. I would treat their experience as essential expertise in developing practical solutions that work for Maine people.

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