



Maine Nonprofits by the Numbers



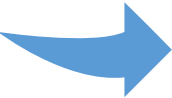
Learn more at www.NonprofitMaine.org

Disclaimer

The MANP staff are *not* lawyers and the following information provided is *not* legal advice.



Today: 501(c)3 Public Charities



IRS Designation	Type	Tax-deductible contributions	Education	Lobbying	Partisan Political Activity
501(c)3*	Public Charities	Yes	Unlimited	Limited	None
501(c)4	Social Welfare	No	Unlimited	Unlimited	Limited
501(c)5	Labor Orgs	No	Unlimited	Unlimited	Limited
501(c)6	Professional Associations	No	Unlimited	Unlimited	Limited
527	Political Action	No	Limited	Limited	Unlimited

Nonprofits + Elections: A Perfect Match!?

“Nonprofits have the **power** to foster a more **inclusive democracy**. People engaged by nonprofits are **much more likely** to vote than comparable voters.”



Why Get Involved?

- ▶ Nearly 9 in 10 voters (87%) **support local charities educating policymakers and businesses** about the needs of the communities they serve.
- ▶ Seven in 10 voters (71%) think it is a **good idea for nonprofits to offer voter support services**, like voter registration and election day transportation.
- ▶ Politicians simply listen more to communities who are more engaged in elections!

Source: Independent Sector, 2021

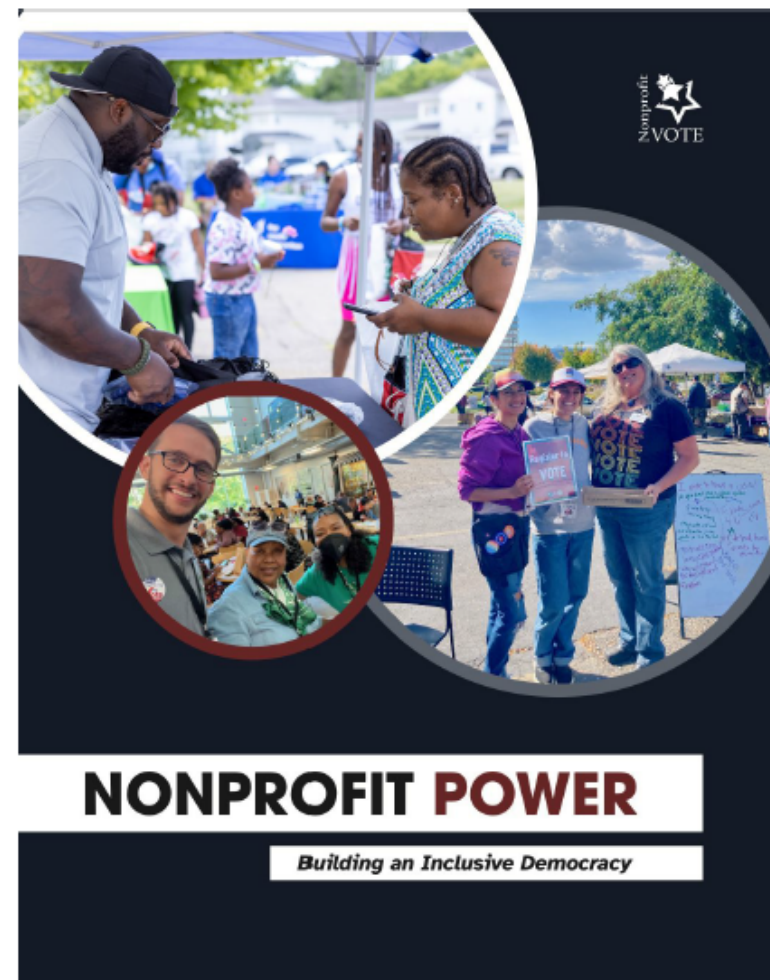
New! Nonprofit Power Report

New report shows the power of nonprofits to build a more inclusive democracy.

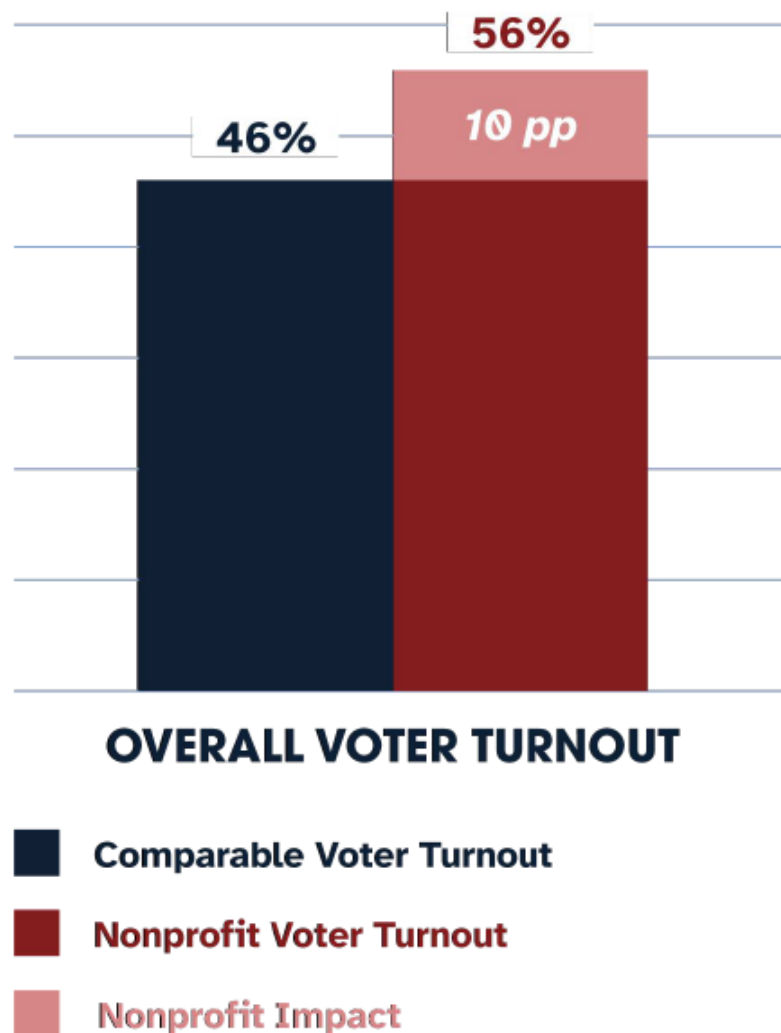
- Nonpartisan voter engagement by nonprofits significantly boosts turnout – 10 percentage points or more!



bit.ly/nonprofitpower2024



Nonprofit engagement boosts turnout!

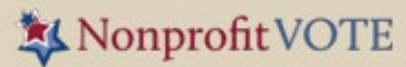


Nonprofit voter engagement drives the biggest increase among lower-propensity voters. Similarly:

- 12 pp for voters of color
- 15 pp for those earning \$20-30K
- 14 pp for young voters 18-24



Maine Nonprofit + Funder Voter Engagement Guide



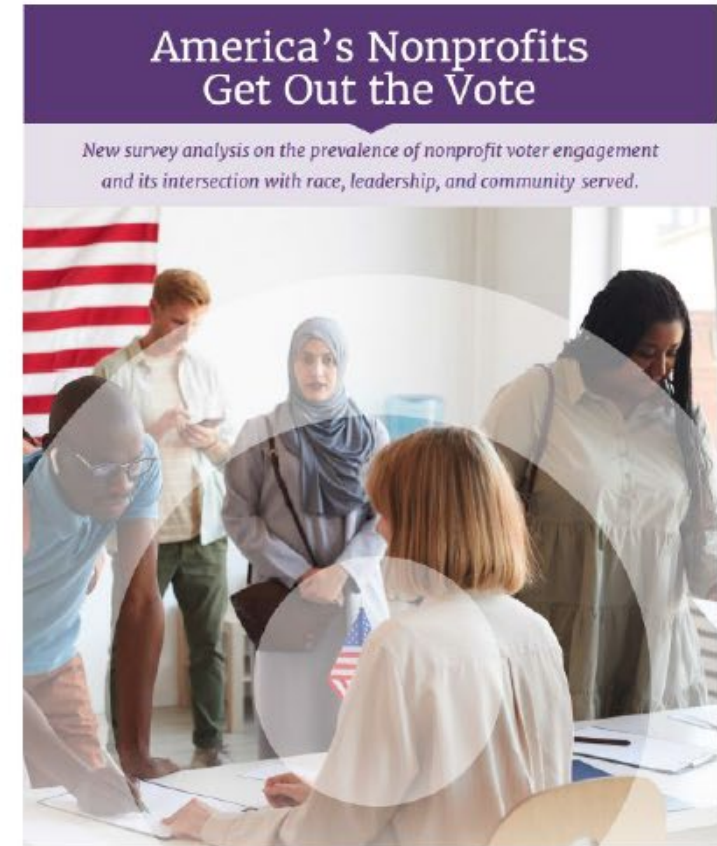
America's Nonprofits Get Out The Vote Report

What percentage of nonprofits do voter engagement?

1 in 5 or 20%

What percentage of nonprofits CAN do voter engagement?

ALMOST ALL OF THEM!



 NonprofitVOTE

Advocacy for 501(c)(3)s



Partisan
Political



Lobbying



Organizing

Public
Education

Nonpartisan
Voter Ed.

Influencing
Corporations

Educating
Legislators

Educational
Conferences

Lobbying
Exceptions

Regulatory
Efforts

Get to Know
Legislators

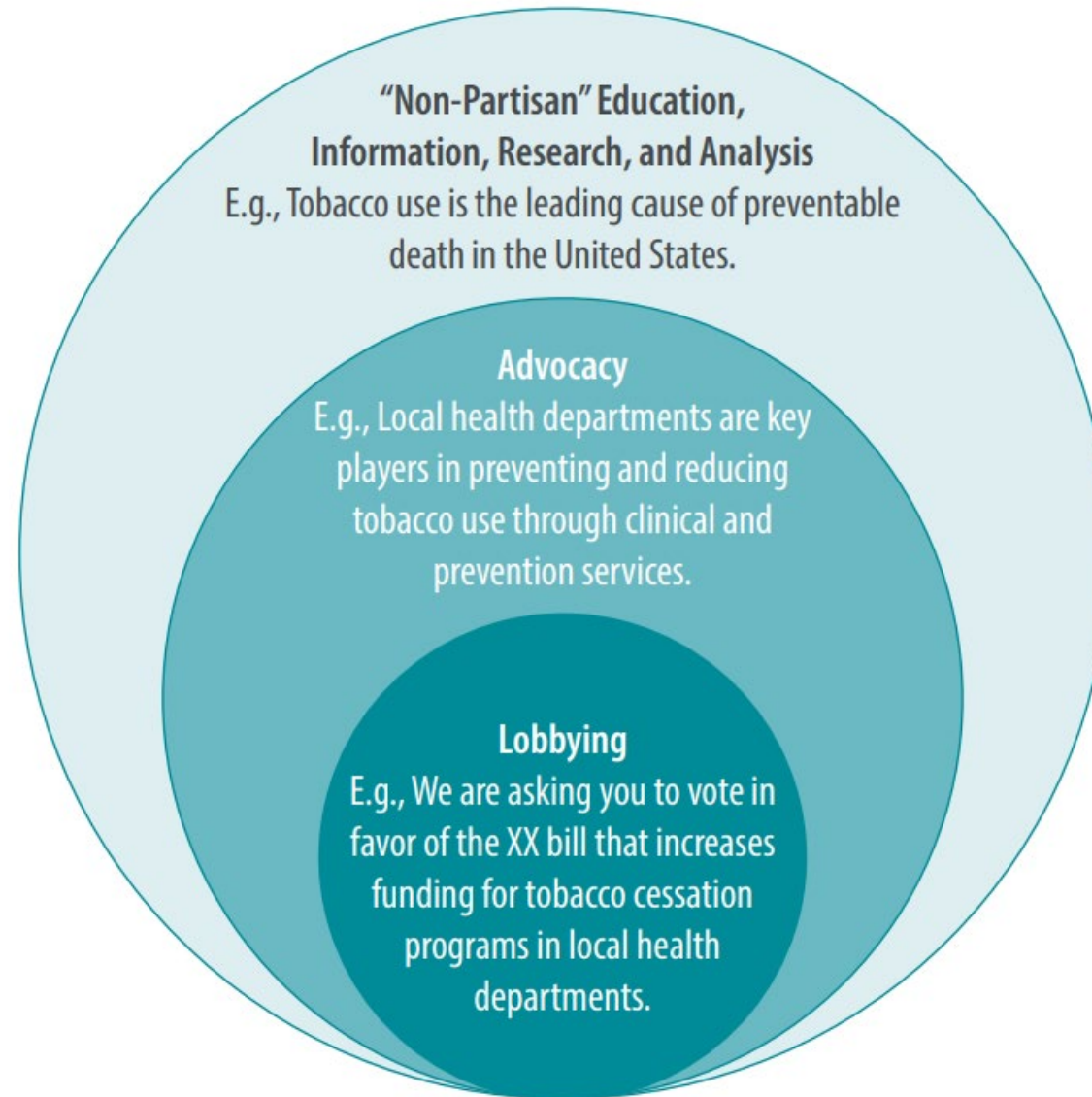
Research

Training

Litigation

Private foundations prohibitively taxed
Public charities have generous limits
Insubstantial part test
501(h) expenditure test
Contributions raised specifically for
lobbying not tax deductible

ADVOCACY VS. LOBBYING



Source:

https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/flyer_advocacy-na16-002.pdf

Avoiding Partisanship



Registered Voters in Maine

- ▶ Democratic 36.2%
- ▶ Republican 29.5%
- ▶ Unenrolled 28.8%
- ▶ Green Independent 3.9%
- ▶ No Labels 1.0%
- ▶ Libertarian 0.6%

Secretary of State 1/1/2024



Every Year is An Election Year!



BANGOR DAILY NEWS

The tiny groups of voters deciding big issues in Maine this summer



by **Daniel O'Connor**

July 31, 2025

Portland Press Herald

Politics News Elections

What Maine voters need to know about upcoming referendum questions

The secretary of state's office announced Thursday that Question 1 on the November ballot will be the proposed changes to voting laws and Question 2 asks voters to approve or reject a proposed red flag law.

Posted
July 31

Updated
July 31



Randy Billings

Staff Writer

2025 Ballot Questions in Maine

QUESTION 1: VOTER ID

Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?

QUESTION 2: RED FLAG LAW

Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?

Direct Lobbying - the voters are acting as legislators!

Easy Actions You Can Take

- ▶ Nonpartisan voter registration and education
 - ▶ When
 - ▶ Where
 - ▶ How
- ▶ Give employees paid time off to vote

Voter Education

▶ When

- ▶ Election Date
- ▶ Deadline to vote early or by mail
- ▶ Polling hours
- ▶ Registration deadline (you can register day-of in Maine!)

Voter Education

▶ Where

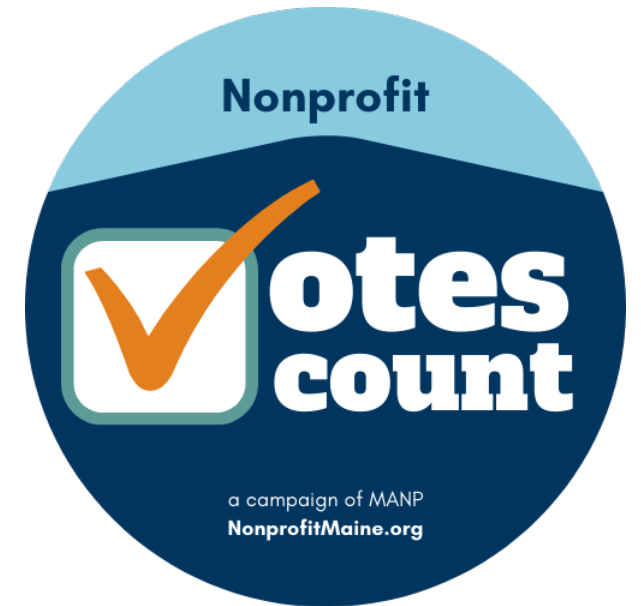
- ▶ Polling Places
- ▶ Early voting locations
- ▶ How to find out if your polling place has changed

Voter Education

► How

- Eligibility
- ID requirements (remember the ballot question?)
- How to vote absentee or early in-person
- “What’s your plan for voting?”
- Rides to the polls
- Election Day Registration
- NEW in Maine: online voter registration
- Additional resources for voting (translation services, casting conditional ballots, etc)

Get Creative with Voter Engagement



Voter Registration: Level 2!

- ▶ You can also organize a registration drive!
 - ▶ Remember to be nonpartisan! Check out Nonprofit Vote and League of Women Voters of Maine for additional resources and tips
 - ▶ Your funding sources (federal) may prevent you from doing voter registration or lobbying.
#NotALawyer

Paid Time off to Vote

► Check out example policies on our blog!

<https://www.nonprofitmaine.org/blog/join-us-in-offering-paid-time-off-to-vote>



Proceed (with some caution)

- ▶ Candidate questionnaires (avoid scorecards!)
- ▶ Candidate forum (treat all candidates equally – if there are likely no shows... reassess)
- ▶ Candidate visits (treat all candidates equally – no politicking or fundraising).
 - ▶ Definitely invite elected officials when they are not campaigning – they have more time then anyway!

Absolutely NO Electioneering or Partisan Political Activity



- ▶ Public Charities **CANNOT**:

- ▶ Endorse candidates
- ▶ Indicate favoritism in an election or toward a political party
- ▶ Indicate support or opposition to candidates

- ▶ This is particularly important to pay attention to during big election years, or in the months leading up to an election

- ▶ Remember, **other types of nonprofits CAN** participate in electioneering!

Threats to Nonpartisanship

- ▶ For 70 years, something called the “**Johnson amendment**” (named after LBJ) has **prohibited charitable nonprofits, including houses of worship, from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office**
- ▶ In July 2025, the IRS proposed settling a lawsuit between the IRS and the National Religious Broadcasters. This settlement would **effectively rule the Johnson amendment unconstitutional.**
- ▶ What does this mean for nonpartisanship?? Stay tuned...

Resources

► Nonprofit Vote

- <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/>
- National Voter Registration Day – free marketing materials!

► Bolder Advocacy

- <https://afj.org/bolder-advocacy/>
- Free hotline to answer tough questions: 866-NP-LOBBY

► League of Women Voters of Maine

- <https://www.lwvme.org/>

► Maine Secretary of State

- <https://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting>





QUESTIONS?



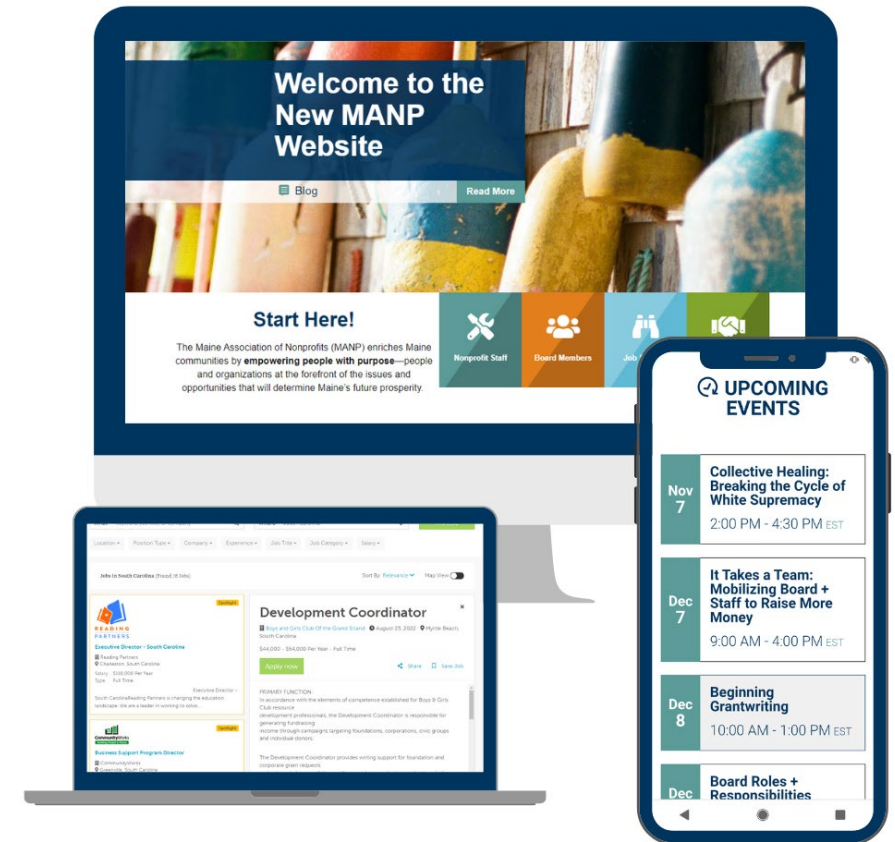
Save the Date!

December 4, 2025 | Portland, Maine

Join us this December for Maine's Nonprofit Gathering, a day designed to connect, support, and inspire the people powering Maine's mission-driven work.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

- ▶ **Online:** www.NonprofitMaine.org
- ▶ **Email:** Learn@NonprofitMaine.org
- ▶ **Phone:** 207-871-1885
- ▶ **Socials:** @MaineNonprofits
- ▶ **Upcoming Events:** www.NonprofitMaine.org/Events





THANK YOU!

M | A | N | P
Maine Association
of Nonprofits