

How would you shape Maine as our next Governor?

Page 1: Help us understand your position on topics important to all Mainers.

Q1 Please state your name.

Mark Dion

Page 2: PLANNING

Q2 What will you do to encourage towns to plan proactively and for the long term, understanding that the environment and rural character are fragile and can be damaged before people take notice?

I would reconstitute the state planning office to assist towns in creating local planning strategies

Q3 What could you, as Governor, do to support and encourage the kind of community level localism and ruralism that is succeeding in some Maine communities today? (Generally, localism supports local production and consumption of goods, local control of government, and promotion of local culture and local identity. Ruralism is the rural equivalent of new urbanism: creating walkable communities with a range of housing and job types.)

Encourage food sovereignty. Invest infrastructure to scale up "food to table" micro-economies

Page 3: THE RURAL ECONOMY

Q4 How will your policies support regrowth of Maine's downtowns so that their heritage, unique rural character and economic value is safeguarded?

Restore and subsequently increase revenue sharing so that local governments can undertake local initiatives. Provide tax supports and technical assistance in preserving historical building and pay attention to road construction and deployment to preserve the "human" dimension of town and village life

Q5 How will your policy/action support a shift in focus for growth in our rural areas, such as the recent example in the Katahdin Region?

Encourage county governments to act as a policy/planning platform for joint ventures among towns, not for profit agencies and private sector entities

Page 4: TRANSPORTATION

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Q6 Maine is a rural state, which makes efficient public transportation challenging. However, the lack of it makes it more difficult for many people to find and keep jobs and access affordable housing. What will you do to encourage funding and development of more transit solutions both in our rural and urban areas?

Develop and expand passenger rail services. Create a network of charging stations to incent adoption of electric vehicles.

Q7 What is your plan for sustainable funding to maintain/repair our transportation system to shift away from the current over-reliance on gas tax and general fund bonds each year?

Raise the gas tax and couple indexing to that rate. Pilot a fee structure predicated on miles travelled rather than gallons used as a future revenue basis. Explore the possibility of tolling I-295 and 395 with car pooling exemptions.

Page 5: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Q8 People-to-people connections are increasingly identified as a key determinant of individual health as well as successful community engagement. How would you encourage both our aging population and other Mainers to create connections within their community?

Isolation is a fatal disease. Explore the potential for multi-generational housing. Young people sharing housing with elders and receiving significant rental discounts for adopting "shared" use.

Q9 Broadband infrastructure is critical to Maine's economic future and the personal well being of Mainers. Who should determine access to the internet – communities or companies?

Broadband deployment in rural areas should be managed as a public utility so that companies can accept a reasonable return on investment and the cost for deployment and services be socialized across the broadest base of consumers in a given region

Page 6: ENERGY

Q10 What are the pillars of your energy policy? How will you prioritize energy efficiency? How do you define renewable energy and what role will it play in your energy policy? Please touch on transmission as well as production and usage of energy.

Efficiency is a cornerstone. We need a bigger push in our strategies to address the energy consumption in multi-unit apartment buildings.. I would sign legislation that would expand solar and wind. I would favor development of community based solar to encourage neighborhood rather than just single family residential units to enter the market. I would continue to champion the creation of a third party entity charged with assessing "non-transmission" alternatives to any proposed power line construction. I sponsored such a bill to see it vetoed by the Governor. Transmission costs are the new battle ground for consumer input and oversight.

Page 7: SCHOOL FUNDING AND TAXATION

Q11 What are your thoughts on the pros and cons of using property tax dollars as a basis for school funding. What are other options and how would they shape Maine's development patterns and our economy?

Increase the ceiling for circuit breaker relief. Push for a local option sales tax dedicated to reducing the dollars need from property tax. Try shifting some of the income tax revenue to a lockbox dedicated for education funding.

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Page 8: GOVERNANCE

Q12 GrowSmart Maine facilitates people working together to reach better solutions for their communities. What will your administration do to build an effective relationship with the Legislature that listens and responds to the differing voices of Maine communities?

A Governor should listen and speak last. I have served 40 years in city, county and state government. When we are successful it is testimony to the value we place in relationships as the currency for leadership

Page 9

Q13 Thanks for taking GrowSmart Maine's survey! We'll be sure to get your answers out to our members and friends right away. If you have anything more you'd like to tell us, feel free to send us a file as shown below. Thanks again.

Respondent skipped this question
