Maine Women’s Lobby & MWL Education Fund  
Call for Board of Directors Nominees

The Maine Women’s Lobby and MWL Education Fund (the “MWL/MWLEF”) are seeking individuals with feminist values and a commitment to strongly centering social justice throughout the organizations’ policy work to join our boards for a three-year term beginning in 2021.

The ideal nominee will be enthusiastic to support feminist public policy change that centers anti-oppression and lifts the voices of the people most impacted by harmful public policy. They will bring an expansive perspective to the work and be committed to helping us create a sustainable organization. Nominees will support the values and strategies of the MWL/MWLEF, including deeply engaging people impacted by misogyny, racism, and poverty.

About Us
Since 1979, the Maine Women’s Lobby has advocated for the rights and dignity of female-identified Mainers. Through the MWL Education Fund, we work to build the skills, knowledge, and confidence of Mainers to support feminist, anti-oppression-based public policy initiatives that improve the lives of everyone, with a focus on the needs and experiences of those most affected by misogyny and oppression. We believe that all Mainers, including women, girls, and non-binary people, must have equal rights, equal opportunities, and the power to direct their own lives. They should have access to economic security, physical and mental well-being, lives free from discrimination and violence, and should live with justice, equity, dignity, and privacy.

Like other nonprofit advocacy organizations, the MWL/MWLEF is comprised of two entities, the Maine Women’s Lobby, a 501(c)(4), and the Maine Women’s Lobby Education Fund, a 501(c)(3). The MWL/MWLEF employs 2.0 staff, augmented by contract positions that provide project and administrative support, and has 13 board members. The MWL/MWLEF offices are in Augusta, Maine’s capital city. The average annual operating budget is $400,000 with a revenue base of donations, foundation support, event fees and corporate sponsorships. For more information about the MWL/MWLEF including information about recent programs and events and our current board and staff members please visit [www.mainewomen.org](http://www.mainewomen.org).

Characteristics and Experience
We are looking for nominees who have:

- Demonstrated feminist and social justice values.
- Interest in working to support the MWL/MWLEF as a movement-building organization that builds power for intersectional feminist policy development and change.
- Experience and knowledge of, or interest in learning about, lobbying and community-informed policy development, and grassroots organizing models.
- Committed to helping us create a sustainable financial model and infrastructure (policies, practices, staffing) to support our values and strategies.
Experience with or interest in supporting programming and communications that educate and raise consciousness about systemic misogyny.

A sense of humor and willingness to chip in and support our staff and volunteers achieve the organization’s goals. We work hard and have fun, and we seek board members who are excited to share that approach.

Interrupting and dismantling historic and structural inequalities are central to our work and mission. These inequalities have had the greatest impact on the members of our society who have traditionally been excluded from power – not only female-identified people, but people of color, Black or Indigenous people, low-income people, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, those with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We aim to center these experiences and voices in the work we do. We encourage people to nominate themselves or people they know with these experiences, identities, or members of these communities to join our boards.

**Board Member Expectations**

In general, board members will:

- Be active participants in the financial and programmatic growth of the organizations and support that growth by connecting their networks with MWL/MWLEF events, gatherings, fundraising events, and more. Work to understand and educate others about the purpose and values of the MWL/MWLEF.
- Develop an understanding of fundraising, financial planning and oversight, and board governance.
- Commit to ongoing personal education and development.
- Actively participate on a committee.
- Prepare for, and absent extenuating circumstances, attend (in person or virtually) all board and committee meetings (approximately ten Board meetings per year).
- Encourage, support, and appreciate the staff and other board members in their efforts. Bring a spirit of curiosity and enthusiasm to the work. Engage and ask questions.

The MWL/MWLEF board is committed to the success of its board members. We provide opportunities for education and growth, connection with like-minded activists, and the ability to engage in inspiring social change.

**Nomination Process**

This call for nominations is being conducted by the Governance Committee of the MWL/MWLEF. Nominations should be made by completing this form or sending an email to board@mainewomen.org. In your nomination, please briefly share why the nominee (which may be yourself) is interested in MWL/MWLEF board membership, and what skills, experience, and/or background they would bring to this role.

The MWL/MWLEF is seeking board members for three-year terms beginning January 2021. Board members often serve two consecutive three-year terms. You are encouraged to make nominations as soon as possible. Review of materials and interviews of nominees will begin immediately and will continue until the MWL/MWLEF Governance Committee has identified a final slate of board members (in the fall). All nominations will be confidential. *Applicant review begins on September 1, 2020.*