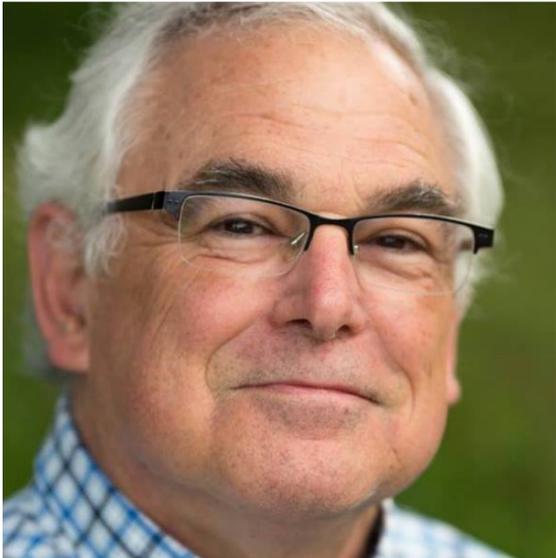


The Independent News

Serving Harrison, Bridgton and Denmark, State Legislative District #69



Walter Riseman
Candidate for State Legislature

Poll Finds Healthcare is the #1 Concern in the Region

Independent Candidate Walter Riseman Speaks Out on Local Healthcare Challenges

“I have spent a good portion of my campaign listening to the top concerns of voters in the district. Many have filled out a survey that clearly identifies healthcare as the #1 issue in our area,” comments Walter Riseman, candidate for the State Legislature for District #69.

For the towns of Bridgton, Harrison and Denmark the issues connected to healthcare are as varied as the cost of healthcare, access to services, preventative care, skyrocketing insurance premiums, physician recruitment, and the current operational status at the Bridgton Hospital. Unfortunately, our hospital has had to reduce or eliminate key services and has seen a loss of physicians due to a variety of internal and external conditions. The issues are far reaching and complicated, but promoting efforts to work together to find and implement solutions to our healthcare challenges will go a long way to stabilizing the situation and providing a healthier community for us all.

Financial Challenges

Declining revenues, increased operating costs and an ever-competitive job market have contributed significantly to the financial and operational challenges experienced by the Bridgton Hospital. Rural hospitals like Bridgton provide more uncompensated care, are more reliant on Medicaid reimbursement, and have lower operating margins than do urban hospitals in Maine. When

local hospitals have financial challenges, it presents a dual risk to the people in rural Maine. First, access to life-saving medical care is jeopardized and, second, since hospitals are often the largest employer in the area, the loss of jobs and the resulting economic impact is broadly felt.

As you’ve seen recently, hospitals have had to cut costs by making the difficult decisions to reduce the services they provide. Medicaid provides 72 cents in reimbursement for each dollar of care provided for inpatient and outpatient services in hospitals. The 126th Legislature cut hospital outpatient reimbursement rates by 10% and the 127th Legislature cut hospital reimbursement for Emergency Department services. These cuts have not yet been restored. We must tackle this issue. Also, most uninsured patients pay very little toward their cost of care. Lack of affordable health insurance has a direct bearing on the bottom line at hospitals.

Healthcare Coverage Issues

Bad debt and free care are crippling hospitals small and large. We have a stalled financial system for healthcare. Premiums are exorbitant and deductible levels are in the thousands of

dollars. Too often people are putting off healthcare because they have no way of paying for it. Is universal healthcare the answer? I am not sure. However, we could expand Medicaid coverage here in the state which would allow an estimated 82,000 to 90,000 Mainers to qualify for much needed health insurance coverage.



While the financial ramifications are complicated, the bottom line is that the federal government would cover 95 percent of the costs associated to newly eligible individuals covered under Medicaid. That would bring \$500 million of federally funded revenue each year to the state. The benefit would be extraordinary for the support of Maine hospitals. While the state’s current share of costs is meaningful, the Legislature could fund these additional costs from existing resources if it prioritizes Medicaid expansion.

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Wellness Challenges

Maine saw 418 overdose deaths in 2017, compared to 376 in 2016. The state has taken significant steps to reduce the chances that a pain prescription will lead to opioid addiction. In fact, opioid prescriptions in Maine were down 32% from 2013 to 2017. The recently enacted supplemental budget increased funding for medication management, established a ‘hub and spoke’ treatment model, expanded drug courts and further criminalized certain drug crimes. While much work has taken place, the job is clearly not done and I believe the efforts should continue. Too many patients either can’t find or afford treatment. We must continue to work hard to break this crisis.

In a recent study, 7 out of 10 Maine families were found to have been directly or indirectly affected by wellness issues - they include adequate health care, expansion of Medicaid, affordable health insurance, the substance abuse crisis, elder care and mental health support. If we are going to create a reasonable health care system in Maine we need to have all options on the table. We must provide more accessible and integrated wellness services for people in need.



Final Thoughts

A Brighter Future - Maine citizens understand that hospitals are there for them 24/7, 365 days a year and are ready to provide the care they need when needed. However, to keep people out of the Emergency Rooms or to reduce hospitalizations, people need to be able to access primary care and other preventative services.

Hospitals provide more primary care than any other group or organization in Maine. While our hospitals will continue to lead the effort to ensure that all Mainers continue to have access to high-quality care at the right time, in the right setting, we need to work together to provide access to affordable health insurance, and both primary and preventative care. By doing this we will go a long way toward putting our rural hospitals back on a firmer financial footing.

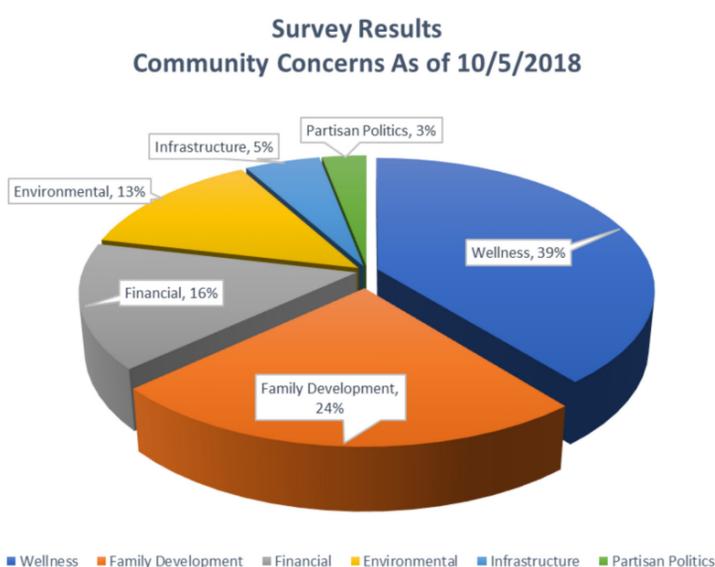
Despite the recent challenges, Bridgton Hospital is here to stay and will remain a vital member of our community. I am confident that out of this difficult time

I believe we can forge partnerships with government, local leaders, businesses and programs that will lead to a healthier community for our families and future generations.

will come a brighter future. I believe we can forge partnerships with government, local leaders, businesses and programs that will lead to a healthier community for our families and future generations.

Together, with your help and input, we CAN make a difference.

I have been conducting a community survey of important issues to voters. The survey includes 20 different topics. I ask that people choose their top five and to prioritize them. Results show there are some clear trends with the top five issues being healthcare, environment and global warming, education, Medicaid expansion and gun violence/safety. If elected, I plan on making the top three issues my top priorities.



Wellness 39% includes:

- Health Care
- Medicaid Expansion
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Support
- Care for Elders

Family Development 24% includes:

- Schools/Education
- Gun Violence/Safety
- Housing/Shelter
- Food Insecurity

My Plan to Address Wellness Issues

- Support reasonable additional financial resources to address issues.
- Create a coordinated plan to address wellness by promoting the “hub and spoke” model.
- Move forward with ways to reduce healthcare costs.
- Support access to expanded and affordable health care insurance.

Meet Walter Riseman

Candidate for State Legislature in District #69 Harrison, Bridgton, Denmark

- **An Independent Candidate** Running as an Independent, Walter chooses to put the public interest ahead of any partisan politics or special interest.
- **A Clean Election Candidate** Walter uses the Clean Elections system to fund his campaign for office. He doesn't accept any outside monies from Political Action Committees (PACs), or corporate or special interest donors. Except for a small amount of seed money, Walter's campaign is entirely financed by local people and regulated by a system approved by the voters of Maine.
- **In the Political Arena** Never shying from the political arena, Walter led the fight in the 1980s to keep the Department of Energy from establishing a nuclear waste dump in the area. For many years he has served as moderator at the annual Harrison Town Meeting. This year he was a plaintiff in the successful lawsuit to free clean election funds to candidates after the governor refused to release the money.
- **He Knows Business** Many in the area know Walter from his time as a small business owner operating the Village Tie Up in downtown Harrison. From there, he went on to a 23-year career with Community Concepts, a non-profit community action agency in South Paris and Lewiston with an annual budget of over \$23 million. He started as a small business development specialist administering a loan program for small business and worked his way to chief financial officer, a position he held for 15 years. He has also been a volunteer with the SCORE Association offering free advice to local entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- **Serving the Community** Walter was recently elected treasurer for Tri County Mental Health, a community agency serving seven counties providing mental health and substance abuse services to the low to moderate income population. He is also treasurer of the Oxford Hills Growth Council where he helps maintain lending resources and secures economic development in the area. He's even found time to coach several youth sports teams.
- **Family First** Walter lives with his wife of 26 years, Jane Whitney Riseman, in Harrison. They are parents to eight children, including an adopted son and daughter, and have six grandchildren.



Why I'm running to be your representative to the Legislature

I have always been interested in the relationship between government, the people it serves, and the community. Recent history indicates that traditional politics has seemingly moved from being "of the people" to that of being controlled by big money and partisan political power. Extreme agendas, personal interests and big egos have resulted in situations where compromise cannot be reached. This is why I am running as an Independent and a Clean Election candidate. I am running to bring back respect, trust, transparency and accountability to government. I am running to serve the people of this district, to listen to different viewpoints, and to find solutions to problems through consensus.

ECR WSS
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What People Are Saying About Walter's Candidacy

“Walter is a man who understands the needs of others in a personal and empathetic way. That quality, along with his financial, administrative and leadership skills, makes him a strong force for positive change in Augusta.

—Stan Cohen
Bridgton

He is honest and hard working, caring yet practical. We believe electing him to the Maine Legislature will be a positive step toward making our state government turn away from the posturing and partisanship and get back to doing the work of the people.

—Peter and Karen Toohey
Harrison

We believe every effort should be made to encourage campaign fundraising transparency while maintaining a level playing field. We feel it's important to run as a Clean Election candidate and that's why we're supporting Walter Riseman.

—Nancy and David Bull
Denmark

With Walter as our representative, we will find a voice that promotes equality of opportunity, inclusiveness, and Yankee notions of fiscal accountability.

—Robert Boggs
Bridgton

Voters in District 69 who are concerned that partisanship in the state legislature has advanced beyond an acceptable level have an excellent choice in November – Independent Walter Riseman. His background will serve as an asset as he weighs in on issues including small business, community and economic development, housing, health and the special and vexing problems facing a state with the second oldest population in America.

—Richard Hooper
Harrison

Vote for Walter Riseman Independent for Good Reasons

As a candidate for the state legislature for District 69 – Harrison, Bridgton and Denmark – I want to share with you the many good reasons for my running as an independent candidate. The future of good government lies in our ability to change the political culture that currently surrounds state government. To that end I am committed to the following:

- **First**, I will put the public interest ahead of any partisan or special interest.
- **Second**, I will use common sense and find common ground to solve problems. I will strive to understand different perspectives, follow the facts, identify root causes, offer new ideas, and make logical decisions. We must end partisan bickering.
- **Third**, I will stand for the timeless values of opportunity, equality, and stewardship. I will strive to find the proper balance between fiscal and social responsibility.
- **Fourth**, I will foster competition, transparency, and accountability in politics. I will strive to rebuild Mainers' trust in government by holding ourselves to the highest standards of civility, integrity and honesty and by fixing the broken incentives that contribute to political dysfunction.
- **Fifth**, I believe in the shared responsibility of civic engagement. It is all our civic duties to be informed and engaged on important issues. As an independent, I will encourage increased citizen participation in the political process. I will support reforms to ensure our political processes truly represent the people – including the way we implement citizen initiatives, fund campaigns, and run elections.

On November 6th, I ask for your support. Vote for Walter Riseman, Independent Candidate for State Legislature District #69, Harrison, Bridgton, Denmark

