

In early August 2014, Delaware Arts Alliance (DAA) emailed a survey to all candidates in the upcoming Delaware elections (for whom valid email addresses could be obtained). Candidates were asked to state their positions on various legislative matters as they relate to the arts and arts education in Delaware. Presented below are all the responses received as of August 29.

Responses appear exactly as they were received, and have not been edited in any way. Candidate names, offices pursued, and party affiliations are based on how they appear in the [Statewide General Candidate Listing](#) in the Delaware.gov website as of September 2.

QUESTION #1:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to enhance economic development (i.e. creative districts, revitalization of low-income neighborhoods, etc.)? Please explain what option you choose and the reasons for your selection.

Poppiti III, Ciro (Register of Wills, New Castle County / Democrat)

Delaware and New Castle County should absolutely support the arts in conjunction with economic development. Of course, I am biased. I am one -- and perhaps only -- elected official who is a professional artist. I understand the joy (and economic) power of acting, writing, directing, and producing. I am a champion of creative districts. I would love to see a creative district in a troubled area, specifically Edgemoor and the corridor of Governor Printz Boulevard connecting Wilmington to Bellefonte. Artists will calm those troubled waters and revitalize the area. What a connection we could have, from the arts of downtown Wilmington, through the creative district of Edgemoor, through to the arts of Bellefonte!

QUESTION #2:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to provide a comprehensive education for all Delaware students? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Poppiti III, Ciro (Register of Wills, New Castle County / Democrat)

There are a myriad of ways that Delaware and New Castle County can support arts education immediately and without bureaucratic red tape. A specific example: I have the honor of serving as the chair of the Delaware All-State Theatre (DAST). You have heard of all-state football and all-state basketball for high school students. Well, DAST is the all-state team for high school actors, singers, and dancers. The all-state team puts on a

championship musical production each summer. Despite the enormous success of DAST over the past seven years, we have no official government support from the state or county government. Again, Delaware and New Castle County should be proactive in supporting arts education.

QUESTION #3:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to enhance quality of life? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Poppiti III, Ciro (Register of Wills, New Castle County / Democrat)

I truly believe the following: EVERY elected official should sit on the board of at least one arts organization. As we all know, the board has a responsibility to achieve the goals of an organization. If every politician had a responsibility to help an arts organization, I guarantee that -- without raising one penny in taxes -- the arts movement in this state would flourish. Too easy.

QUESTION #4:

What specific ideas do you have for creating new revenue streams to fund arts and culture? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Poppiti III, Ciro (Register of Wills, New Castle County / Democrat)

I wrote it above and I here repeat: I truly believe the following: EVERY elected official should sit on the board of at least one arts organization. As we all know, the board has a responsibility to achieve the goals of an organization. If every politician had a responsibility to help an arts organization, I guarantee that -- without raising one penny in taxes -- the arts movement in this state would flourish. Too easy.