

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 November 3.

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 November 3.

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.

Ayotte, Donald R. (State Representative, District 20 / Independent)

I believe that government should partially subsidize the creative arts in communities because the arts are vital to a thriving society.

Baumbach, Paul (State Representative, District 23 / Democrat)

Government should serve as the mortar between the bricks of a community. Government can bring players (landlords, non-profits, the art community, donors, companies) together, and can offer economic incentives to promote such combinations. These bricks and mortar, together, can strengthen our communities, and provide a fuller landscape. In Delaware, state government, through the grants-in-aid program, provides supplemental funding for non-profits including organizations active in the arts.

Bolden, Stephanie T. (State Representative, District 2 / Democrat)

Every aspect possible. It will take a holistic approach which the arts play an immense part in enhancing cultural, economic development in our neighborhood. We currently implementation of entertainment in the parks, at the riverfront but it would be a plus to have ampla theatre in neighborhoods.

Bonini, Colin (State Senator, District 16 / Republican)

Government has a critical role in funding and encouraging the Arts. I am a strong believer in the free market system, but Arts is one of those issue areas that the free market alone may not meet the needs. As a responsible-government conservative, it may surprise you to hear my strong advocacy for the Arts, but the Government can certainly play a role in those areas that the free market may not provide for completely and I believe Arts funding to be one of those areas. :-) I fully support Arts funding.

Briggs King, Ruth (State Representative, District 37 / Republican)

I have seen the positive results in our community through Possum Point Players, Coastal Concerts, Music in the Parks, and Clear Space productions. We have so many volunteers who are gifted and bring unique talents to our community. Our children are entertained and learn, our adults have socialization and enjoyment and our local merchants have new business opportunities. The list is numerous. For this reason, I have supported the Arts while on Joint Finance and continue to advocate for the Arts with Economic Development as well as tax exemptions for those engaging in not for profit events. I would like to see further development. It is a wise investment and should be recognized. I am currently working on legislative for the next session that would align Delaware law with other states that support the film industry. We have great potential to invite, expand, and create a viable Arts industry. On the other hand, we need to be careful to not allocate tax dollars that are lost when poor decisions impact the delivery of services such as the Schwartz Center or Milton Theater. Good intentions are not enough and we need to consider how to support funding or programs that can be self sustaining.

Bushweller, Brian J. (State Senator, District 17 / Democrat)

I believe the arts play a significant role in economic development. Business leaders, investors and others who make decisions to locate or expand businesses include in their consideration factors relating to the quality of life they or their employees may enjoy. The arts are a significant element of that quality of life. To the extent those job creators sense that their own lives may be enriched, or not enriched, in a given area, that sense will have some effect on their ultimate business decisions.

Buttner, Sarah L. (State Senator, District 4 / Democrat)

It is important for government to support the arts. The arts are an important part of a vibrant community, and support job growth. The arts bring money into communities as event attendees spend money on tickets, meals, snacks, lodging and transport. The Governor's Downtown Development District Initiative, which could provide grants to support the Wilmington Arts District project, is a good example of how government can support the arts and economic revitalization of urban areas.

Cole, George B. (Sussex County Council, District 4 / Republican)

In Sussex County, I have supported many organizations that support the Arts with County funding. In Coastal Sussex we have many events that are scheduled in the off season to attract art and music lovers, who will provide a great economic boost to the County. Two that come to mind are the Film Festival and the Jazz Festival...and of course the Freeman Company Arts Programs.

Coons, Christopher A. (U.S. Senator / Democrat)

I believe government has a role to play in supporting the arts as a means of economic development. Up and down our state, there are a number of towns where the arts can be credited with fostering meaningful growth and revitalization. When the public and private sectors work together to create an environment that is supportive of the creative sector, the results have been exceptional. Take a town like Milford, which has been able to completely reinvent itself as a destination for artists through a robust Main Street program and targeted governmental investment. The result is a lovely Riverwalk and surrounding downtown area, full of galleries and shops. In Wilmington, the willingness of government at all levels to work with committed developers has led to an impressive creative core extending from the Wilmington Riverfront up the Market Street corridor. In both places, the results are vibrant downtowns, which are now drawing new visitors and new tourism dollars, and an expanded downtown tax base helping to bolster the local economy.

Denn, Matthew (Attorney General / Democrat)

Promotion of the arts is an important part of our state's economic development efforts, because the existence of a thriving arts community is one of the quality of life considerations that businesses consider when they are making decisions about where to locate. High-value employees are more mobile than they have ever been, which means that businesses wishing to hire and retain those high-value employees must consider whether Delaware is a place where those employees will want to live. In a state like Delaware, surrounded by three other states, a thriving arts community can also be a magnet to draw visitors into the state who will then spend money at other businesses.

The most important thing an Attorney General can do to support the arts community is to lead the effort to reduce the current levels of violence in our cities, in particular the City of Wilmington. A number of arts leaders have told me that they believe the violence has had a direct, negative impact on the willingness of people to travel into the city to enjoy the arts. Reducing violent crime in our state will be my top priority if I am elected, and I believe that this should be a high priority for the arts community as well.

Gallo, Jonathan (State Representative, District 30 / Democrat)

I believe that government should support the arts in any way possible. I firmly support downtown arts districts where theaters, art galleries and similar institutions could be placed which drive citizens to local small businesses. Venues that support the arts are places where families can go and be entertained in their own community. Arts organizations can inspire communities to change from within and not affect the taxpayer. When arts and business can come together, it positively affects all involved.

Henry, Margaret Rose (State Senator, District 2 / Democrat)

I believe that the government should provide funding opportunities for economic development. I sponsored legislation called the Downtown Development Districts that provides opportunities for Wilmington to be revitalized through the various mechanisms that bring life to our community specifically creative districts to include culture, history, and arts. I have been an advocate and a lover of the arts for my entire career and I have served as a volunteer on the Delaware State Arts Council appointed by, at the time, Governor Carper. Serving on this board gave me training in advocacy and exposed me to various types of arts and the different ways of expressing history through the arts. I am a very big supporter of Christina Cultural Arts Center which is also in my district.

Howell, Glen M. (Representative, Levy Court District 6 / Republican)

I do not see the government at any level competing with the private sector in the arts.

Hurd, Charles (Representative, Levy Court At-Large / Republican)

Government should always support the arts. They are the backbone of any society. When we have a strong creative sector it enhances the ability of all people to advance. It shows everyone, from low income to the rich that there is common ground for everyone to be equal.

Kittila, Theodore A. (Attorney General / Republican)

I believe that government has a valuable role in supporting the arts, whether through subsidies or tax exemptions. The influx of artists and communities supporting arts often leads to the revitalization of areas that are forgotten. The lower Market Street area in Wilmington is a key example of this. Arts can serve as an attracting force to bring economic development, and government's role in supporting this should be viewed as an investment in these communities.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

As your Recorder of Deeds of New Castle County, the office collects a document recording fee which a portion of the fee collected \$24.50 per document is sent to the State of Delaware for the Arts Access Fund. I said your office because I have been elected by the citizenry to represent you as your gatekeeper since 2002. Our State Legislature has recognized the importance of the Arts by taking on a pro active role by supporting and implementing legislation to ensure that the funding for economic development is generated by collecting the land recordation fee in all three counties.

Mackenzie, John (State Representative, District 22 / Democrat)

There are some pretty good economic analyses proving the local economic benefits of investment in arts. That's a big part of the economic dynamism of university towns. You can't really keep art down; if you don't support any other creative outlet for people, you get graffiti, maybe Banksy if you're lucky.

McCorquodale, David A. (State Representative, District 21 / Green)

I'm no expert on this topic, but the two examples you used are the sorts of things I believe government should support and fund. The stage our economy is in now will never be able to get back to the point where everyone can be employed in terms of traditional employment. We must start to view creative activities as a legitimate sources of a basis for being remunerated with the means of survival. In other words, creative people should be paid to create.

Newton, Steve (State Representative, District 22 / Libertarian)

The role for government in supporting the arts to enhance economic development is to empower the people who live in an area to generate their own arts projects and development. For example, there are over 600 abandoned buildings in the City of Wilmington, of which the City holds title to over 100. These should be turned over to community members and community groups (including art, music, and theater) to own, develop and use. Likewise, regulations that inhibit street performers or impromptu concerts/exhibits should be repealed.

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!

Porter, Jeffry (State Representative, District 12 / Democrat)

I support grants and other programs that make it possible for organizations to make art education and participation available to the community. Small investments made by the state can go a long way toward helping the arts flourish and that benefits all of us. I believe there is a large return on investment for funds used to support the arts.

Richardson, Bryant (State Senator, District 21 / Republican)

If Delaware would focus on encouraging the arts and look into successful endeavors in other states, this could be part of an overall effort to improve Delaware's economy. Small investments could bring some amazing results.

Snyder-Hall, R. Claire (State Senator, District 6 / Democrat)

*The arts are an important industry in Delaware, and I believe that strengthening the arts will enhance economic growth. As Richard Florida has documented in *The Creative Class*, there is a direct correlation between a strong arts community and a strong economy. The presence of what he calls a "creative class," including "various types of artists," spurs innovation and economic growth.*

The arts and economic development are both critical to the sustainability of our communities. Studies have shown that communities that initiate growth by investing in the establishment of an arts center experience faster growth and sustainability to their infrastructure. This is particularly true of larger, urban areas, but is equally reflective of smaller communities looking to grow their economic centers as well.

Right now the state supports the arts through the Delaware Division of the Arts (DDA), which administers grants and programs that advance the arts and educate the public about the arts and their importance to our communities and economy. As a senator, I would strong support continued funding from the General Assembly for the DDA.

State government can also incentivize private donors, whether individuals, corporations and private foundations, to support the arts as well, and use public monies to leverage private dollars, and help arts organizations with capital development and sustainability.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

Before I begin, it should be noted that as a candidate for Recorder of Deeds, the office has limited input on art projects across the county. Still, I appreciate being asked to comment and would like to add my thoughts.

When it comes to enhancing economic development, I believe the government has a role to play to improving the livability and prosperity in a community. One way that can be achieved is through art. Low income neighborhoods often don't have the financial ability to support art projects in their communities. Projects that can foster a spirit of pride and cooperation in a neighborhood. I believe government has a role to support local artists in these communities. And through their works, it will raise both the cultural and economic attractiveness of a region. To quote the President, "Let's never forget that art strengthens America."

Warfield, Kim E. (State Senator, District 17 / Republican)

Government should play a large part in revitalization of low-income neighborhoods with providing more jobs and community policing especially now that low-income communities in Dover, DE crime rate have increased because there is a lack of employment in these area. Many of the people in these communities have stated that they would not be on the streets committing crime such as selling drugs if they were able to get employment. They stated that they need to take care of themselves and their families.