



Election 2016 Legislative Candidate Survey District 10

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Legislative District 10
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From the choices below, please identify the top five most pressing issues you believe the Arizona Legislature must deal with in the next session.

Stimulating Arizona's economy and creating more good quality jobs.

Increasing funding for K-12 schools.

Supporting the contributions that Arizona's creative sector makes to local economies and state tourism.

Insuring that our state parks and cultural heritages sites are maintained and are open and available to our citizens.

Increasing funding to our state universities.

How would you describe the importance of arts and culture resources to the development of our state?

Arizona is blessed with rich cultural traditions associated with our Native American and Latino communities. We also have a legacy of frontier culture with early mining towns and settlements. Arizona's incredible natural resources have inspired generations of painters and photographers. Our arts and cultural resources make us a travel destination internationally, and tourist dollars are an important component of our economy. The State hosts many communities of artists and our universities have strong visual and performing arts departments.

What role should the state play in investing in and assuring that nonprofit arts and culture experiences are available to all Arizonans?

At the same time, we are the beneficiary of these rich artistic and cultural traditions, we are also the stewards of these resources. We must continue to invest in the arts and in artists to ensure they thrive for the good of our local community and the larger world. It is particularly important that the arts and cultural resources are available to all Arizonans and not just to those with the means to pay a steep ticket price. This means public investment and support of nonprofit organizations through grant programs and through engagement with private foundations and organizations dedicated to the arts.

I am always open to move more funding into areas that will be best for the growth of our society. Prisoners receive more money than students in our state. How did this happen? It is unacceptable and I will do what I can to make sure areas like education, art, job growth, etc. are funded to the max. I plan to do this by voting against bills that cut education funding and especially bills that provide more funding to prisons.

Would you support the gradual restoration of funding for the Arizona Commission on the Arts to prerecession levels?

General fund appropriations? Another funding stream? Any other ideas?

Yes, I would support restoring funding to the Arizona Commission on the Arts to pre-recession levels. It is appropriate to use general funds for the Commission since it benefits all Arizonans. In addition, I would work at the legislature for other means of augmenting general funds dollars, such as through federal grants and through private foundations and businesses.

How else could you as an elected official encourage the development of arts and culture resources and incorporate them into the development of our state and local economies?

The most important way in which the legislature can support the arts is through funding. I favor supporting legislative efforts to increase funding for the arts and specifically programs to make the arts accessible to low income persons and persons with disabilities and which provide financial support to artists and nonprofit organizations of artists.

In addition, I support the efforts of our economic development agencies to promote our region's art and cultural resources and would support economic incentives targeted at encouraging new arts-related organizations and businesses. Arizona was once the home of a thriving film industry that provided many jobs and spin-off ventures. We should be working to build up that industry again.

Please select from the following statements which best reflects your philosophy about public support for arts, culture, and arts education in Arizona.

Public support for the nonprofit arts and culture sector is a necessary investment in our local economies, quality of life in our communities and educational experiences for our families and children.

Please discuss what impact you believe arts and culture has on your local communities, e.g. individual artists, nonprofit performing arts, museums of various kinds, zoos or botanical gardens.

Arts and culture bring diverse communities together in celebration and ceremony and provide members of the community with an opportunity to reflect upon their own history and traditions. A good example of both is the annual "All Souls" Procession in Tucson.

This mass participatory event is open to everyone and provides a diversity of religious, ethnic, social and political groups an opportunity to express their thoughts and emotions regarding death. The All Souls Procession connects us to the Mexican cultural traditions of Dia de los Muertos and the joy of replicating and yet creatively adding to and revising this ages old celebration.

Please describe your personal participation and/or interest in arts and culture, e.g, professional or amateur visual or performing artist, a patron, board service, financial support, participation in your youth, favorite arts or culture institution, etc.).

The arts are vital to human happiness and development, to a vibrant, engaged and civic-minded culture and to the flourishing of our economy. I participate in the arts by being a member of the Tucson Museum of Art and by attending visual and performing art events throughout Tucson. I am an engaged parent of a pre-teen who is intensely interested in performance arts. Since kindergarten, my daughter is the beneficiary of the Tucson Unified School District's "Opening Minds Through the Arts" program.

Through this program, my daughter has been exposed to music from around the world, to art and drawing and has become proficient on the violin and the saxophone. The highlight of our spring is the OMA Showcase Choir which my daughter has participated in for the past two years. The OMA program first triggered my daughter's interest in violin. She has taken private violin lessons with her original kindergarten OMA violin teacher.

Our family has had a special interest in dance, also originally motivated by my daughter's interest. She takes dance classes several days a week at a local dance studio and as a family we attend dance performances put on by the University of Arizona's dance department. I believe public art is important.

Through art programs in local parks and schools, persons from all walks of life can enjoy the emotions and insights that the arts provide. Currently I am involved with a local community group that is working to improve Himmel Park. We are working with artists to include a large mural as a focal point in the Park.

How would you insure that the benefits of a quality arts education available to every student in Arizona's K-12 schools?

I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of the "Opening Minds Through the Arts" program in the Tucson Unified School District. I would seek to help replicate this program in other school districts. In addition, I would work with the fine arts departments of our state universities and community colleges and private organizations to build interest in teaching the arts in our public schools. I would fight to ensure arts funding is included for all public schools and encourage S.T.E.A.M. based curriculum.

Would you support the inclusion of arts education in education reform measures that identify curricula, funding formulas or incentives designed to improve education outcomes for our students.

Yes. The connection between arts education and student academic performance has been conclusively demonstrated. It is time for arts education to be included in curricula, funding formulas and incentives that drive our educational outcomes.



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