



Election 2016 Legislative Candidate Survey District 28

Kelli Butler
House of Representatives
Legislative District 28
Party: Democrat

Contact Information
5926 N. 33rd Street
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
602-509-2790
kellibutleraz@gmail.com

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.

Ensuring 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?

Culture and art give communities depth and identity. Arizona has much to offer but cannot reach its potential without creative experience. As an Arizona legislator, I will work to ensure that the long term rewards of art and culture will be protected and funded through wise and thoughtful investment.

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

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. Arizona is currently in a recovery although is lagging behind most of the country. During the recession many cuts were made to nearly every agency. We now have a revenue surplus and should spend it wisely. Injecting money into our economy from this surplus will not only immediately broaden and increase our revenue, but it will also encourage businesses and residents from other states to move here. As a pro public education candidate, restoring funding to our schools is my top priority and I feel arts and education go hand in hand. I would look strongly into restoring art and culture funding as well.

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?

Too often businesses become short sighted and only look at ways to cut in order to maximize profit. While wise spending has always been paramount to success, strategic investment is just as important to long term prosperity. If our local businesses properly embrace our art community, it benefits the entire state.

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.

To me, art and culture is what sets us apart from all the other creatures on our planet. Art lets us both express our individuality and share communal experiences. Both of these aspects allow people from different backgrounds, cultures, ethnic groups and political affiliations to learn, appreciate and enjoy our shared community.

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.).

When my children were in school in the Madison School District, I was very active in supporting the school band and performing arts - often helping organize concerts and fundraisers. I later became an Executive Board member of the Madison Education Foundation, whose specific mission is to provide music and arts programs to schools throughout the district.

I've worked hard over the years to help make sure children from every background and every school have equal access to vibrant, vital art programs. Additionally, my husband, Ben, and I have had the benefit of having family members who are season ticket members of Gammage performing arts, so we've been fortunate to have access to performances over the years. Whenever we travel, attending live theater performances and visiting museums is always first on our list of activities.

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

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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. All students in our state deserve and need to have art and music included in their curriculum. As a state representative, I will support measures which seek to accomplish this.

Mary Hamway
House of Representatives
Legislative District 28
Party: Republican

Contact Information

7112 E. Bronco Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
602-315-4635
mhamway@cox.net

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.

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.

Improving our state highways and transportation infrastructure.

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

Public art is an important component to creating attachments to communities. I support continued funding for the Commission on the Arts so that grants can be awarded.

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

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

Yes

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

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?

Encourage educational programs. Assign part of bed tax collection to public art. Encourage municipalities to with developers of new projects to incorporate public spaces and support for public art.

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.

The Town of Paradise Valley has invested in public art for its municipal campus. The Town's Art Committee juries artists and selects an annual artist in residence. Each year in October a new artist is selected and the work will be on display for a year. The Campus buildings are decorated with art donated by local artists.



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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.).

I have served on the Paradise Valley Arts Committee for over 8 years. I was the chairwoman for the creation of the Giddy-Up-Daddy statue honoring cartoonist and Arizona History Maker, Bil Keane. The statue is installed at the McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. It was funded entirely from private funds.

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

Fund art, music and dance teachers

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.

Local control is important, but I would support funding for arts programs.

Maria Syms
House of Representatives
Legislative District 128
Party: Republican

Contact Information:
6032 E Lincoln Dr
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
info@symsforaz.com

Response not received