



Election 2018 Legislative Candidate Survey District 17

Steve Weichert
Arizona Senate
Legislative District 17
Party: Democrat

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Please rank each of the issues identified below according to how critical they are to building Arizona's future, by choosing a number from 1 to 5, as follows: 1 - Not At All Important, 2 - Not Very Important, 3 - Somewhat Important, 4 - Very Important, 5 - Extremely Important

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

5 - Extremely Important

Increased funding for K-12 schools.

5 - Extremely Important

Providing diverse opportunities for university and postsecondary education.

5 - Extremely Important

Protecting and stewarding Arizona's natural resources, e.g. air quality, water.

5 - Extremely Important

Preserving and promoting Arizona's unique cultural heritage and resources.

5 - Extremely Important

Leveraging Arizona arts as a means of community and economic development, attracting businesses and enriching education.

5 - Extremely Important

Please rank how effective the non-profit arts and culture sector is at supporting the following community priorities, by choosing a number from 1 to 5, as follows: 1 - Not At All Effective, 2 - Not Very Effective, 3 - Somewhat Effective, 4 - Very Effective, 5 - Extremely Effective

Supporting local community development, e.g. downtown revitalization, neighborhood redevelopment.	5 - Extremely Effective
Providing a well-rounded education for our K-12 students.	5 - Extremely Effective
Supporting local business and attracting and retaining new businesses.	5 - Extremely Effective
Encouraging tourism.	5 - Extremely Effective
Making Arizona a place citizens want to live and raise their families.	5 - Extremely Effective
Supporting community health by directing programs and services to groups such as veterans, seniors, young people, and the cognitively and physically challenged.	5 - Extremely Effective

Given the value of the nonprofit arts and culture sector to the state, how would you support the eventual restoration of funding for the Arizona Commission on the Arts to pre-recession levels?

 Return to a General Fund appropriation which is built into the budget base.

To ensure all K-12 students have access to standards-based arts education and the benefits it can have on their academic performance and the overall learning environment, how would you encourage more attention and resources for arts education?

- 🎨 Establishment of a Fine Arts Seal -- similar to the Civics Literacy Seal -- to be affixed to the diplomas and noted in the transcripts of graduating students with advanced achievement in high school Fine Arts.

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

I believe the arts and culture have a tremendous impact on our community. Art is instrumental in preserving our collective heritage. While our historical record provides factual information regarding various time periods, art can be handed down to future generations to provide a real sense as to what it may have felt like to have actually lived in a given time period. In this sense, art is also about communication. It allows people from different cultures and different times to communicate with each other via stories, music and paintings/ photographs. Pragmatically speaking, providing children access to art education has been shown to increase performance in other curriculum areas such as math and science.

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 by your children, etc.

Both of my daughters have been actively involved in music and choir through their local public schools. (My eldest daughter recently had the opportunity to sing with the Perry High School Advanced Women's Choir at Carnegie Hall.) Both my wife and I have been very supportive (financially and otherwise) of their individual passions for music. We also contribute financially to the Chandler Center for the Arts. As a San Francisco Bay Area native, I recognize the benefits of living and working in a culturally diverse community. As such, I appreciate the diversity within my current district and welcome opportunities for new and unique cultural experiences.



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Arizona House of Representatives
Legislative District 17
Party: Democrat

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Please rank each of the issues identified below according to how critical they are to building Arizona's future, by choosing a number from 1 to 5, as follows: 1 - Not At All Important, 2 - Not Very Important, 3 - Somewhat Important, 4 - Very Important, 5 - Extremely Important

Stimulating Arizona's economy and creating more good quality jobs.	5 - Extremely Important
Increased funding for K-12 schools.	5 - Extremely Important
Providing diverse opportunities for university and postsecondary education.	5 - Extremely Important
Protecting and stewarding Arizona's natural resources, e.g. air quality, water.	5 - Extremely Important
Preserving and promoting Arizona's unique cultural heritage and resources.	5 - Extremely Important
Leveraging Arizona arts as a means of community and economic development, attracting businesses and enriching education.	5 - Extremely Important

Please rank how effective the non-profit arts and culture sector is at supporting the following community priorities, by choosing a number from 1 to 5, as follows: 1 - Not At All Effective, 2 - Not Very Effective, 3 - Somewhat Effective, 4 - Very Effective, 5 - Extremely Effective

Supporting local community development, e.g. downtown revitalization, neighborhood redevelopment.	5 - Extremely Effective
Providing a well-rounded education for our K-12 students.	5 - Extremely Effective
Supporting local business and attracting and retaining new businesses.	4 - Very Effective
Encouraging tourism.	5 - Extremely Effective
Making Arizona a place citizens want to live and raise their families.	5 - Extremely Effective
Supporting community health by directing programs and services to groups such as veterans, seniors, young people, and the cognitively and physically challenged.	5 - Extremely Effective

Given the value of the nonprofit arts and culture sector to the state, how would you support the eventual restoration of funding for the Arizona Commission on the Arts to pre-recession levels?

 Return to a General Fund appropriation which is built into the budget base.

To ensure all K-12 students have access to standards-based arts education and the benefits it can have on their academic performance and the overall learning environment, how would you encourage more attention and resources for arts education?

Other ideas?: It is important to have increased arts education in K-12 schools, however schools do not need the burden of another report card or grading system. I hesitate to support a Fine Arts Seal because it is an additional requirement for schools with (I assume) no additional funding to pay for someone to track graduating students' credits in Fine Arts. Perhaps community partners would be interested in sponsoring the arts program at schools in their community. Additionally, perhaps community service organizations, groups of retired teachers, and groups of retired artists may be interested in volunteering their time on a regular basis to provide a weekly art program for K-12 students. Because funding is so limited, we must consider "outside the box" ways to bring art back to the classroom. Ultimately the issue is that there is not enough revenue in the general fund to cover all that is important in our society.

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

Art has a positive effect on the community. It helps beautify the community, and it brings people together. Art bridges cultures and economic difference.

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 by your children, etc.

We are a family that appreciates art in many forms. My family and I enjoy visiting museums and attending music performances. Throughout different time periods, we have been members of the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Gardens, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and the Arizona Science Center. Both of our daughters play instruments; they participated in the East Valley Youth Symphony when they were in high school. My husband is a Director of Multimedia; he does photography, videography, and digital art. When I taught, I made it a point to attend my students' band, orchestra, choir, and drama performances. I am grateful for the strong programs (and great teachers) in Chandler Unified School District.



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Below are the Legislative District 17 candidates from whom Arizona Citizens for the Arts did not receive responses to our survey, along with their contact information. We encourage you to contact your candidates and ask them about their views on arts & culture in Arizona. A list of questions to ask candidates about the arts can be found on our VotesmART webpage under 'The Candidates'.

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