



Election 2018 Legislative Candidate Survey District 26

Isela Blanc
Arizona House of Representatives
Legislative District 26
Party: Democrat

Contact Information
 948 E. Manhattan Drive
 Tempe, AZ 85282

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

Comments: Arts are an important integral part of economic development and community enrichment.

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.	3 - Somewhat 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.	4 - Very 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?: We simply need to ensure arts are part of the curriculum. Students learn best when they have access to a variety of enrichment courses. Our state needs to re-evaluate how we support and educate our kids. Access to arts in various forms, music, art, drama, and access to arts through field trips would be a good first step. We must be committed to funding such programs.

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.

Access to the various arts and culture opportunities only enrich our communities. Children are benefactors when they have access to such programs.

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.

I recall every field trip I took as a child which is why I understand its importance. It was those school field trips that enriched my learning.

As a parent, I understood the value of exposing my children to arts, science, history, music, and other various forms of art which is why I took the time to take them to various places.



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Athena Salman
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Legislative District 26
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.

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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.

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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?

- Support audited reporting about arts education course offerings and student enrollment in any existing school "report card" or certificates of assurance required by state law.

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.

The first thing I notice in any vibrant community is that arts and culture are valued through financial investment and broad support. What I see is a community empowered to tell multiple stories, share diverse ideas, and ready to tackle complex problems facing most of us as society. The most impressive feats are when arts and culture are bridged into areas that struggle to find the resources to build and maintain a sustainable artistic presence on their own.

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.

From a young age I have been interested in fine arts. I found much enjoyment in drawing and often found it as a calming yet challenging outlet from the day to day stresses in education and our political climate.

Throughout my life, I have met people who use art, whether it is dance, music, or visual, as a means of expression on a variety of topics. And often, it's an experience that draws together the entire community, strengthening the fabric between a diverse range of people. Artists in my life includes family members and friends.

Below are the Legislative District 26 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'.

Juan Mendez
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Rebecca Speakman
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