



10 Questions to Ask Candidates

1. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts and culture sector represents a \$704.2 billion industry in America, which accounts for 4.23 percent of the nation's annual GDP and generates a \$24 billion trade surplus to the United States. What policies would you pursue to support the dynamic growth of this economic sector?
2. The nation's arts and culture sector employed 4.7 million wage and salary workers in 2013, earning \$339 billion. What specific economic policies would you propose to grow this important segment of the American workforce?
3. Federal education law has been recently updated for the first time in over a decade. This incarnation, entitled *Every Student Succeeds Act*, lists the arts as a component of a "well-rounded education", and maintains dedicated funding for Arts Education programs. How will you help ensure that *ESSA* is properly implemented so that children in all 50 states can receive the benefits of an Arts Education?
4. There is growing momentum to incorporate the Arts into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to become STEAM, so that every child receives a well-rounded education and the foundation to spark innovation in the future. In order to generate a more creative workforce, how would you encourage state and local education agencies to nurture the next generation of students to better compete in a creative global economy driven by innovation and technology?
5. The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s and it is currently funded at \$148 million, which represents a federal arts investment of just 46 cents per American. Would you consider increasing federal arts funding for the NEA to \$1 per American so that nonprofit arts organizations in communities across the country can provide even more accessible arts programs for all Americans, including active military, veterans and their families.
6. The NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership with Walter Reed Hospital and Fort Belvoir has made groundbreaking progress in incorporating arts therapy into patient care for wounded veterans. How would you ensure that every veteran has access to the healing power of the arts?
7. The nonprofit arts & culture jobs industry generates \$9.5 billion in income tax revenue back to the federal government, but these charitable organizations also rely on critical support from individuals for tax-deductible donations in order to operate their public programs. Would you continue to protect tax-deductible incentives for individuals to donate to nonprofit arts charities?
8. As you campaign in both large and small and urban and rural communities, how have you observed the power of arts to make these communities unique?
9. How have the arts, including creative writing, had an impact on your life personally?
10. Where, when and what was the last arts and/or literary experience that you took part in or attended?