

In early August 2014, Delaware Arts Alliance (DAA) emailed a survey to all candidates in the upcoming Delaware elections (for whom valid email addresses could be obtained). Candidates were asked to state their positions on various legislative matters as they relate to the arts and arts education in Delaware. Presented below are all the responses received as of August 29.

Responses appear exactly as they were received, and have not been edited in any way. Candidate names, offices pursued, and party affiliations are based on how they appear in the [Statewide General Candidate Listing](#) in the Delaware.gov website as of September 2.

QUESTION #1:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to enhance economic development (i.e. creative districts, revitalization of low-income neighborhoods, etc.)? Please explain what option you choose and the reasons for your selection.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

As your Recorder of Deeds of New Castle County, the office collects a document recording fee which a portion of the fee collected \$24.50 per document is sent to the State of Delaware for the Arts Access Fund. I said your office because I have been elected by the citizenry to represent you as your gatekeeper since 2002. Our State Legislature has recognized the importance of the Arts by taking on a pro active role by supporting and implementing legislation to ensure that the funding for economic development is generated by collecting the land recordation fee in all three counties.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

Before I begin, it should be noted that as a candidate for Recorder of Deeds, the office has limited input on art projects across the county. Still, I appreciate being asked to comment and would like to add my thoughts.

When it comes to enhancing economic development, I believe the government has a role to play to improving the livability and prosperity in a community. One way that can be achieved is through art. Low income neighborhoods often don't have the financial ability to support art projects in their communities. Projects that can foster a spirit of pride and cooperation in a neighborhood. I believe government has a role to support local artists in these communities. And through their works, it will raise both the cultural and economic attractiveness of a region. To quote the President, "Let's never forget that art strengthens America."

QUESTION #2:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to provide a comprehensive education for all Delaware students? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

Government should always have a financial supportive role through enacting legislation since the Arts do provide our students with the necessary core social elements that mold our youth into becoming outstanding citizens. By earmarking our tax dollars for the betterment of our youth, these actions will help create and improve our social network in our community. As your Recorder of Deeds, my administration has implemented five Focal Points of Educational Opportunity that informs and educates our citizenry about the Recorder of Deeds (ROD) office. 1. ROD power point presentation for the community. 2. Brochure. 3. Newsletter. 4. Four informational web videos that you can access from deeds.nccde.org. 5. NCC Recorder of Deeds kiosk in Biz town in JA World created by Junior Achievement of Delaware. These positive actions by my administration have created the dynamics that will inform our youth and the citizenry of the important role that the Recorder of Deeds office plays in our society.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

As an engineer and active volunteer in the Committee of 100 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program at Concord High, I perfectly understand the importance of supporting the sciences in education. However, at times I am concerned that our educational system has become so focused on testing and science that we may be more focused on making better calculators than well-rounded citizens. I believe an understanding of the impact and appreciation of art is a necessary component of a good education.

Today we are surrounded by more art than at any time in human history. I think it's necessary for students to be grounded in the history of art, and especially modern art forms. Film, television, advertising, and social media. By understanding the mechanics of these art forms, how they influence emotions, the technical details, and the history of innovation; our students will be better prepared to not only appreciate the arts they are immersed in but also know how they are being affected by them. Through such classes

we can insure that the next generation of Delawareans are not just economically prosperous but live culturally rich civic lives.

QUESTION #3:

What role do you believe government should play in supporting the arts to enhance quality of life? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

One of the most interesting courses I had the pleasure of taking in college was Performing Arts. I witnessed first hand just how much this one elective course of study impacted my behavior for the rest of my life. I became a season ticket holder of the Opera House enjoying a variety of plays and concerts until my wife became disabled. The Arts have helped me be who I am today as your Recorder of Deeds. In knowing just how important it is in preserving the integrity of the Arts, the preservation of our land records is just as important. The accuracies of recording these important records provides our capitalistic society with the consistencies that benefit the citizenry and the Real Estate Industry. One of the largest investments by the majority of our citizenry is purchasing a home. So, the daily recordation transactions and accurate conveyance of title will help ensure and preserve the integrity of our capitalistic society.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

In most of my previous remarks my focus for the reason government should be involved in the arts is because it promotes an improved quality of life. Research has shown time and again that art can improve both the mental and physical health of individuals. Art spurs creative thinking, productivity, exercise, socialization and has a whole host of other benefits.

One specific example is in medical care. Art has been demonstrated to have therapeutic benefits. It's possible that state and local governments could promote art programs to the ill and infirmed to improve quality of life and help healing. Low cost art programs may help reduce high cost health interventions. I think the idea is worth further study and review.

QUESTION #4:

What specific ideas do you have for creating new revenue streams to fund arts and culture? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

Another means for creating a revenue stream is by drafting an ordinance similar to the legislation created by the State of Delaware. Local governments and municipalities can create a fee to enhance the Arts through their legislative bodies.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

One thing I'd like to see the county adopt is community participatory budgeting program. Participatory budgeting allows communities to be directly involved in how their tax dollars are spent. Working with local governments, an amount of funds are set aside specifically for the participatory budgeting program. The communities in the region form committees to propose projects in the area. Then an election is held to determine which projects go forward.

If such a program was in place, communities in the county could propose artistic and cultural projects to be voted upon. If the rest of the community approved the project, it would receive funding from the program budget. This could bring new opportunities for art projects in the county.

To learn more about participatory budgeting, visit www.participatorybudgeting.org