

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Francis Rexford Cooley

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 22

1. Do you have a connection to the arts? If so, please share.

I am the former Dean of the College at Paier College of Art when it was in Hamden. Taught there for 23 years. I am also a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol.

2. Can you share an arts experience that has impacted your life or the lives of your family members?

I have been involved in the arts my entire life and have had my own photography published and have exhibited.

3. The Connecticut legislature hosts the Arts, Culture, and Tourism Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators who champion state support for the arts community.

If elected (or re-elected), will you join (or rejoin) the Caucus?

Yes, I joined upon entering the General Assembly.

4. Studies have shown that arts and culture can deliver a 3 to 1 return on investment at a minimum if adequately funded. Despite this, Connecticut has historically under invested state funds in the arts and lags the rest of the nation in recognizing that arts generate tax revenue and support a thriving economy.

If elected (or re-elected), will you support increased investment of state funds in arts and culture?

First I would like to see a better promotional campaign for art and tourism first, to be blunt CT's has been awful and that needs to be dealt with first and foremost. Especially with the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence coming up in 2026.

5. Are there any other ways that you'd like to convey to voters how you have been supportive of the arts?

I am a strong advocate of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) in public education and currently sit on the Education and Higher Education Committees.