

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** George Austin

**What office and district are you a candidate for?**

Office: **Senate** District: 7

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

While growing up, I participated in music lessons & programs in-school and outside. I learned to play piano, guitar, and almost every woodwind.

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

Our festival jazz band won regionals in 2002. I don't remember my solo being all too consequential, but I was told that it was. It was the first time I became comfortable in the spotlight - no pun intended.

**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!

**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?***

Yes!

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

It has been some time since I practiced an instrument with any regularity, but an impromptu performance w/ perhaps high-schoolers sounds fun. To put my money where my mouth is - as it were.