

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Patrick Biggins

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 11

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

As someone who is not gifted in any artistic way, I am very appreciative of the arts. Two of my children play the Viola and all three love drawing. I appreciate art and beauty in all forms.

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

I have been a huge fan of Musicals over the last 15 years, and have had the opportunity to see many at the Bushnell in Hartford. The experience that jumps out the most to me was when I was able to take my oldest to Broadway to see Hamilton after we won tickets through the app. It was an awesome experience to see the performers and see such a wonderful piece of art.

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?

I would definitely be open to this, but my focus would be on education and I would love to make sure we are not cutting the funding for the arts in our public education. Whenever funds get tight it seems that the arts are always on the chopping block, and I would love to find a way to keep as many students exposed to arts of all kinds. Allowing children to find their passion and experience all sorts of different worlds through arts and imagination.

- 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?

I am open to the idea of expanding the funding for the arts, and making sure that we are funding the things that make our society whole, not just the bare minimum but also the things that will set us apart.

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

I am very new to this being a candidate thing, so I don't want to make promises that I don't end up keeping. I am an appreciator of the arts, and would like to continue this conversation by learning more and hopefully being a support in the state legislature.