

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Steven King Jr.

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 14

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

Yes. I have been involved in the Arts, since my pre-K days in Philadelphia singing "Germs, My Invisible Dog" in our school musical. While a student at Penn State, in 1991, I was a lead in the musical "Once Upon A Mattress" as I played the Minstrel in multiple engagements. Since moving to CT, not only did I continue my involvement in my local churches as a lead vocalist with INTERCESSION_MA, I also performed in several adaptations of "The Passion" (Crossroads Community Cathedral - East Hartford), as the Roman character: Cassius. In 2005-2006, I created the www.hartfordstepoff.com, which first opened at the University of Hartford; then after such popular demand we moved it to the Bushnell Performing Arts Center - where we sold out ticketed attendance every year of existence. Currently, I have my own Band: www.TheSKJExperiment.com and I have been a lead vocalist for www.SoulSoundRevue.com for over 10 years.

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

Multiple responses to this: 1) My daughter, Sofia, joining me to perform in The Passion several years ago. An amazing "father/daughter" moment that I will cherish forever...2) My son, Roman, performing in several choir events in Middle School and lead roles in plays during his summer months in Epping, NH.3) While performing in Waterford Beach Park, just this past August, a woman in the audience with her husband gave me a clamshell box with a baked potato in it. I didn't notice it at first, however when I looked at it after our show.... She wrote on the box: "Thank you for sharing your voice, and your smile....this was an extremely hard week for me, but your eye contact with me

through-out your show made me so happy. Thank you, thank you, thank you." 4) Every time that I perform, that my wife is in attendance? She tells me how proud she is of me, as I continue to pursue my passion of vocal music.

- 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?**

Servant leadership, by example. Since my birth....the arts, have been a constant fixture in my life. #ILoveMusic #BlessedIndeed Thank you for the opportunity and your consideration....

