

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY	KY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	Are you or have you been personally involved in any artistic activities such as instrumental or vocal music, visual art or craft, dance, theater, photography, writing, or other activities (either at home, through family, or in the community)?	Is there a specific Kentucky arts or cultural organization that you or your family particularly enjoy?	Intensive research conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reveals the following economic data: In 2020 Kentucky arts and cultural production accounted for \$5.6 billion to our economy and 2.6% of our gross state product, while the arts and cultural industries employed 46,652 workers with wages and benefits totaling \$2.8 billion (https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/) How important do you think the arts are to Kentucky's economy?	Kentucky's economy needs a workforce that is not only educated in math and science, but able to excel in 21st century skills including critical thinking, innovation and creativity, which are proven to be cultivated and enhanced by involvement in the arts. Decades of research have substantiated that arts education positively affects student achievement, discipline, attendance, and graduation rates, with a greater impact on those students that are at risk due to a variety of socio-economic factors. How important do you think it is for youth in Kentucky schools to have access to and participation in arts education?	The mission of the Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency housed in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of Kentucky state government, is to foster environments for the people of Kentucky to value, participate in, and benefit from the arts. The agency serves all 120 counties through educational programming, grants, technical assistance and programs that use the arts to stimulate economic development. How aware are you of programs or activities in your community supported through the work of the Kentucky Arts Council?	As a candidate for the Kentucky General Assembly please share your thoughts on how the arts can best help you achieve your platform goals.
Aull	Chad	Lexington	House 79	Yes - My daughter (Bella) has been in many local plays, is involved in acting, and has even been in some local commercials	Yes - Lexington Opera House, The Lexington Children's Theater, The Lexington Philharmonic,	Extremely important	Extremely important	Very aware	
Banta	Kim	Ft. Mitchell	House 63	Yes	Yes	Very important	Somewhat important - Only somewhat because kids should want to do it, not be required	Very aware	Make KY a place to visit.
Brown	Chris	Elsmere	House 69	No - However deeply admire folks with those gifting!	No	Extremely important	Extremely important	Not so aware - However am excited to learn.	As a candidate I am open to any idea that will assist with the development and betterment of public education! While I have not been as active in the art community as I would have liked, I would like to learn more. I believe it could be used as a tool to

									improve public education.
Dossett	Pam	Hopkinsville	House 8	Yes - I was in high school choir.	Yes - Pennyroyal Arts Council	Extremely important	Extremely important	Very aware	
Dowdy	Velvet	Henderson	House 11	Yes - My daughter was a dancer for many years. She studied ballet, modern, lyrical, and tap. I learned so much about the art form as a dance mom. My daughter in law is a painter. She has multiple art pieces in her home that she created. My only artistic endeavor is my love for woodworking. I love building pieces for my home, and I love creating decorative pieces with wood.	Yes - The HAAA(Henderson Area Arts Alliance) and OVAL (Ohio Valley Art League)	Extremely important - Arts provide entertainment and cultural experiences to small towns across the Commonwealth, in addition to the larger cities. The visitors that attend these events bring revenue to the communities in the form of hotel stays and patronage at local restaurants.	Extremely important - As a life-long educator, I have seen the importance of visual arts, music education, and theater and dance to students. I am a science teacher, but not all children excel in science or math. Arts education provides the vehicle for children to help discover their talents and passions. They help connect kids to their school in a way that helps them feel a sense of belonging and encouragement they may not feel in other classrooms.	Very aware - I had the good fortune to develop relationships with all of my students--not just those who loved chemistry. Two of my former students were strongly connected to theater, and made me aware of arts organizations and events in my community. I make a point to support these organizations and attend these events when I can.	One of my goals as a legislature is to improve the performance of all public schools in the Commonwealth, and that cannot be accomplished without arts education. Children need the arts to help them grown and develop, and to help them find their talents and passions. Once they know what they enjoy doing, then they can begin to plan their future after high school. Without the arts, Kentucky schools would be missing out on the talents of many Kentucky students.
Easley	Brian	Prospect	Senate 6	Yes - I played French Horn and other instruments throughout middle school and high school. I wrote poetry for many years and in 2022 published a book of poems titled The Bracken Road; it can be found online and in Carmichael's Books in Louisville. I am the singer of an indie- rock band called Exit Vehicles, we have done a few albums and	Yes - Kentucky Shakespeare	Very important	Very important	Very aware	The arts improve our society; transcend and complement other areas of learning; bring balance to our lives and the lives of our children; take us to new heights and allow us to travel to the distant shores of our imaginations. I will be an advocate for the arts, and never allow anyone to demean the study of the arts in our schools or pursuit of the arts in our society.

				<p>toured from New York to Texas over the years. I was in Wheaton Drama's production of A Few Good Men several years ago when I lived in Chicago. I have done bronze art through Falls Art Foundry in Louisville. I was a founding ensemble member of Kentucky Shakespeare with Veterans. I am currently a documentary film producer for The Man with the Big Hat, which is the story of my friend Steven Fromholz, a singer- songwriter and Texas Poet Laureate. The Man with the Big Hat will premiere in 2023, if all goes well</p>					
Foster	Sue	Louisville	House 31	<p>Yes - In my younger days as a child my parents ensured that I participated in our school bands, including marching and jazz. The love of Theatre is embedded in my soul and I am still a constant at most theatrical products, from small to Broadway. My grandsons are 4 and 7 years in age have attended numerous plays and shows,</p>	Yes	<p>Extremely important - Not only is our arts in Kentucky a vital link to the financial growth of our state, cities, and small communities, but it also provides our children with a personal inner growth carries through into adulthood.</p>	<p>Extremely important - When thinking of the whole child we must be mindful of the effects of music and art on every children and ensure that every child has the ability to participate and feel connected to the wonderful programs offered.</p>	<p>Very aware - As a 27 year employee of the public school system I have had the opportunity to witness first hand the importance of the work of the Kentucky Art Council</p>	<p>The support of the Kentucky Arts Council will be greatly appreciated, but the bigger question is once elected how can I support this wonderful program?</p>

				attend art classes and the School of Rock and have now been introduced to the Louisville Orchestra and Shakespeare in the Park productions.					
Freeland	Chris	Benton	House 6	Yes	Yes - Ky music festivals, community theater, etc.	Extremely important	Extremely important - My daughter graduated with a musical theater degree and if it weren't for our local community theaters this wouldn't have been possible.	Not so aware	It plays an important role in our state's ability to attract new businesses and people to Ky.
Grossberg	Daniel	Louisville	House 30	No	Yes - Louisville Orchestra, Speed Art Museum	Very important	Very important	Not at all aware	
Hernandez-Stevenson	Brittney	Greenville	House 15	Yes - I've been a part of one of the community choirs in Muhlenberg County and I've had my daughter involved in various art programs (theater and art contests) for several years. We enjoy variations of the arts. We participate in various activities in both Butler and Muhlenberg Counties.	No	Extremely important	Extremely important	Somewhat aware	One of my goals is to promote economic and workforce development and growth in both of my counties. One way to do this is by promoting tourism activities. These activities generate revenue for our communities so the more activities and events we have then the more money we will bring in. I am in full support of the humanities and arts and I know they play a significant role in helping our children become well-rounded citizens. They help them to think critically and expand their knowledge beyond athletics. Supporting and promoting the arts allows our communities to see that there's something for everyone. Everyone deserves their chance to showcase their talents and if we don't promote the arts it can't happen.

Herron	Ketruah	Louisville	House 42	Yes - I spend some time painting as a way to relax. I also attend events in the community to support local artist and as a way to spend free time	Yes - Speed Arts Museum	Extremely important	Extremely important	Somewhat aware	I am very interested in getting arts/music therapy as a way to heal individuals and community. I deeply believe the arts can help create social change. It would be great to figure out ways to ensure our youth have better access and exposure to art related activities in schools and community.
Johnson	Michael	Owensboro	House 13	Yes - I am very involved with instrumental and vocal arts at home and in public. I am currently the Board Vice Chair of Owensboro Public City Schools and our arts program has received countless Kentucky State Awards. I fully support the Arts.	Yes - Owensboro has KWC Symphonic Orchestra and Owensboro Theater of Arts	Extremely important - The Arts are important in a way that it gives opportunity to the creative minds of our present and future generation. It also generates revenue and jobs for the people of Commonwealth of Kentucky when full support is behind the programs.	Extremely important - We have found that a student who is involved in the Arts is more likely to succeed in life than those who are not. We must emphasize the importance of the arts in our Public Schools and Higher Education.	Very aware	I believe the Arts will play a role in bringing common sense legislation that relates to creativity and out of the box critical thinking and diversity. With this approach we can really expound on the many talents and gifts our Kentuckians have to offer our State. This will make Kentucky the best it can be.
Leonard	Katherine	Elizabethtown	House 25	Yes - I'm professionally a web & graphic designer and have a small business with two branches: freelance web & graphic design services and selling handmade arts & crafts	Yes - Hardin County PAC	Very important	Very important	Somewhat aware	The arts are intrinsic to who I am and how I'm running: I could not run on the low budget I'm managing with had I not been capable of producing all of my graphics and most of my printed materials.

Nemes	Jason	Louisville	House 33	Yes - Rep. Nima Kulkarni and I had a community arts competition in 2020 entitled "United We Stand", where we raised money and gave awards to best entries in various artistic categories. This was a huge success that we should repeat now that COVID is over.	Yes - Kentucky Center for the Arts, Shakespeare in the Park, to name a couple	Extremely important	Extremely important -My father-in-law taught Art and Music in JCPS and, in part through him, I understand the importance of arts in one's education. It helps with the student's schooling, to be sure, but it is equally important in that it improves the lives of our citizens and improves our culture more globally.	Somewhat aware	I am running for office to improve Kentucky. My principal focus is to establish an environment to improve our economy, because so much is dependent of revenues to do what we need to do as a Commonwealth. The arts are a huge part of that. But I am also interested in improving our culture and the daily lives of our citizens in areas that are not directly related to the economy. The arts make our lives more enjoyable and enable us to love one another better. And, in the end, that is what I want to push toward.
Peden	James	Louisville	Senate 26	Yes - Theater, film, music	No - Although I recently funded and helped create the Highview Arts Center so that will definitely jump to the top of my list	Extremely important	Extremely important - Kids who participate in some form of the arts have higher success rates in other disciplines in school and life	Not so aware	I believe the arts are a resource that should be available in all communities. Expanding regular performances into more neighborhoods is particularly important to me
Rawlings	Steve	Burlington	House 66	Yes - I have been involved for over ten years with community theatre. I serve as treasurer on the board of directors of Merit Theatre Company, and have been active working on the sets and in many acting roles in the productions. Hobbies include photography, and creative projects, such as working with wood and masonry.	Yes - Working on theatre productions	Very important - The numbers you presented in the question reflect the importance that the arts are to Kentucky's economy	Very important - From my time spent in community theatre I have witnessed many life-changing experiences that young people have had through their involvement with theatre	Not at all aware - I have not been exposed to the work of the Kentucky Arts Council, but look forward to learning more	An individual can be "well-rounded" through experiences with the arts. The benefits of being involved in the arts should not be underestimated. A platform pillar in my campaign is the United States Constitution, and restoring the principles of our founding documents. The freedoms we have in our country allow us to participate in the arts without government interference. The arts are an outgrowth of our liberties, and so are consistent with my platform goals.
Roberts	Rachel	Newport	House 67	Yes - Attended the School for Creative and Performing Arts, worked as a photojournalist, and	Yes - NKY Symphony, Baker Hunt, Speed Museum, Historic Society	Extremely important	Extremely important	Very aware	Art bridges communities and enriches our lives, culture, and cities. I will continue to advocate for arts dollars and public art programming throughout NKY

				am a donor to several artistic programs.					
Smith	Gary	Pineville	House 87	Yes - Attended the School for Creative and Performing Arts, worked as a photojournalist, and am a donor to several artistic programs.	No	Extremely important - The arts are very important across the board.	Extremely important - This has been proven time and time again by researchers.	Somewhat aware - I secured two artists in residence in schools where I was the principal. Both were very positive experiences on our school.	I have an interest in helping the elderly and the handicapped populations. The arts can be a huge part of that.
Sorolis	Maria	Louisville	House 48	Yes	Yes - Louisville Leopards, Louisville Youth Orchestra, Voces Novae, Louisville Youth Choir	Very important	Extremely important	Somewhat aware	Industries looking to relocate look for quality of life and the arts is essential to making a city competitive. We need creative and innovative thinkers for the jobs of the future.
Turner	Kate	Peewee Valley	House 33	Yes - I was a dancer and ice skater from ages 5-22.	No	Extremely important	Extremely important	Somewhat aware	I am a strong supporter of fully funding public education, including the arts. As an engineer with a STEM background, it was clear to me personally how important my humanities and arts education rounded out my experience as a student, and as I continued in my career. I was a stronger writer, communicator, and public speaker, and had a more diversified perspective on my work because of my art education. As a fierce supporter of fully funding public education, I will advocate including the arts as a critical piece of setting Kentucky students up for success -- as opposed to an optional curriculum that can easily be removed for budgetary concerns.
Vandegrift	Grayson	Midway	House 56	Yes - I play guitar, piano, and sing, and I occasionally play at local festivals or events.	Yes - Woodsongs	Extremely important	Extremely important	Somewhat aware	I believe one of our greatest assets as humans is our ability to imagine. The arts foster an environment where people can use their creative side for the greater good. I believe in public education and that we need to encourage more focus on the

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2022 Kentucky Legislative Candidate Art Survey

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									<p>creative arts in schools. In opening up a new world to students, we can prepare a generation for a 21st century economy, even if those students only become admirers of the arts, the skills they learn will translate into anything they venture into and improve economic development in the future.</p>
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