

South Dakota House Candidates Survey on the Arts & Government 2018



NAME	OFFICE SEEKING	PARTY	DISTRICT	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4 - additional comments	Q5	Q6	Q7	Additional comments
Jenae Hansen	State Representative	Democrat	2	Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, Theater, Culinary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts, Culinary Arts	Moderately Aware	Yes	The Arts Council does so much good for South Dakota, including bringing in tourism money through events like the South Dakota Film Festival in Aberdeen, which I have attended on multiple occasions. We should be supporting these efforts to bring various art to our communities. I would love to see more of this in the smaller, more rural communities.	The arts are so important to a well-rounded student and child. These programs help students embrace a different type of learning and thinking. I am so fortunate to have attended a small rural high school that emphasized the importance of all elements of art from music, to visual, and theater. Everyone had an opportunity to participate and I feel we were all better students because of it.	Art is one of the ways that we can connect to our past and identify with that history, grounding us in those communities. Sharing that art, that community, and using it to bring in tourism is something we need focus more on as a state. South Dakota offers so many beautiful art displaces and talented performance artists. We can encourage and develop into these talents tourism by making it a priority. Putting together a package for the Dept. of tourism to highlight these beautiful pieces. I think we can also work with local artists to help them get their art on display and I see this as one of the barriers to local art getting sold.	As a candidate and a lover of all elements of art, I believe that we as a state should offer public funding for grants and special projects for innovative ways to bring arts to students, families, and communities. Hopefully as a state we can then also set-up these programs and offer technical assistance for them to be self-sustaining and community driven.	Thank you for all the Arts of South Dakota is doing to grow and promote the amazing talented artists that we have in all South Dakota's communities!
Carl Perry	State Representative	Republican	3	Instrumental, Vocal, Theater	Music, Theater, Theater	Moderately Aware	Maybe	I will need to listen, learn and act as we go into the 2019 Legislative year.	Very important!	I would be open to reviewing past and looking at future proposals	I have always supported some level of governmental involvement	My wife and I support the arts financially. I was part of Music Man and OKLAHOMA. We have had both of our boys (now 38 and 41) involved in plays, band and music. I am in an acapella group called CCR Gospel Trio.
Drew Dennert	State Representative	Republican	3	Vocal	Music, Dance, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes		Very important, my wife is a dance teacher so I see first hand the positive impact dance has on her students.	Tourism is a thriving industry within South Dakota and I believe the arts play a crucial role in supporting that industry, as well as keeping our small towns vibrant.	I believe that the current funding that the arts receives from the 1/2 penny tourism tax has greatly benefited the arts in recent years.	
Kathy Tyler	State Representative	Democratic	4	None	Music, Theater, Theater, Film/Media	Slightly Aware	Yes	The 'none' answer to the first question is my personal experience. My husband and I follow grandchildren extensively in their arts participation.	Very important.	I would like each community of a certain size to have an arts council--also a building--typically an older building in which to display their wares, so to speak.	Absolutely...every individual needs access to some aspect of the arts.	With the funding cuts in education, privately/publicly funded arts activities are a necessity.
John Mills	State Representative	Republican	4	Instrumental, Vocal	Music, Dance	Very Aware	Yes		The arts are important to all people, but especially children. Creativity is a big part of what makes us human. It should be pursued throughout our lives.	The potential lies within individuals and local communities. It takes local initiative and grassroots organizations to make the arts flourish. I do my part where I live (I lead a regional workshop (Sioux Falls) for NSAI [Nashville Songwriters Association International]) and encourage others to do the same in their area of interest.	Public funding can serve as the catalyst for the arts, but real success requires significant local contributions of time and resources	
Hugh Bartels	State Representative	Republican	5	Instrumental, Theater	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Culinary Arts	Very Aware	Yes		Very important	I think SD does a good of cultural development and has a good funding source. Federal funding can only be encouraged by personal with our congressional members	The funding should continue and be increased if funds are available	

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<b>Cory Ann Ellis</b>	State Representative	Independent	7	Visual, Photography, Film/Media, Culinary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts, Culinary Arts	Very Aware	Yes	I would likely support this tax contribution, however need to do more research on the background of the tourism tax and the compounding benefits.	Arts are a vital part of education and offer an opportunity to reach children that are often unreachable through traditional education methods.	The potential for cultural development through art is great and we've already seen examples of this through installations like "Dignity." I would encourage this development through continued attendance, participation, and promotion of local and statewide events and programs.	We should continue supplemental public funding of the arts, while also encouraging private funding, donations, and artists contributing back to the programs and communities that provided them with support.	As a professional visual artist and marketer who has the privilege of hiring artists on a regular basis I know and promote the value of art in our communities and lives. It is my great pleasure to host the annual Brookings Holiday Makers Market celebrating 5-years and showcasing our local makers as well as attending multiple art showcases in our community. Last I am honored that so many have chosen my art to grace the walls of their homes and businesses and support the development of future artists to reach this same honor.
<b>Chris Francis</b>	State Representative	Democrat	8	Visual	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts, Other	Very Aware	Yes		Arts education is incredibly important to ensure a well-rounded and a altogether interesting South Dakotan. We are better, smarter, and happier with the arts as citizens of this state.	Through fully investing not just in arts education and arts organizations, which are incredibly necessary, but funding further into the very people of our creative communities. We need to have far more conversations on how we better fund the arts, and how we encourage and shape our communities through the arts in a respectful and sustainable way.	Every dollar invested in the arts across our state returns a great deal, not just in programming and opportunities, but enriches the very cultural fabric of our diverse communities. We must do everything we can to increase federal, state, and local support of the arts, as our country has built itself upon a foundation of culture, and that foundation must be tended and renewed with vigor each and every day.	Thanks for the work you all do - if you'd like to talk further, do get in touch - I was probably shorter than not on my responses. Then again, brief is good I've been told. - all the best, Chris
<b>Michael Saba</b>	State Representative	Democrat	9	Instrumental, Visual, Theater	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts	Very Aware	Yes		Very important	More Exposure particularly new arts entering South Dakota	Positive	More utilization and exposure of the arts and culture of the new immigrant and refugee communities coming into South Dakota.
<b>Dean Kurtz</b>	State Representative	Democratic	10	None	Music, Theater, Theater, Film/Media, Literary Arts	Not Aware	Yes		Very important. All my children participated in music and theater while in high school and benefited greatly by the experience.	We are fortunate to have many different cultures represented in South Dakota. Native American is an essential part of our history and needs to be preserved in every way possible. But we also have to remember our other heritages as well. Many of our settlers were Scandinavian, German, Russian, Bohemian et.al. descent and their stories are rich and varied.	If we can support oil companies and other business interests with tax credits and deductions I believe we can and should use public funding to support the arts as we benefit as much or even more from the arts than we do from that from that support with tax payer dollars for business .	
<b>Jeff Hayward</b>	State Representative	Democrat	12	Instrumental	Music, Visual Arts, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes	As a someone who benefitted from the arts, and continues to in my local and state community, I am grateful to the work of the many that has contributed to the ongoing arts programs in our state. I will support the continued funding of the arts in our state.	Very. Arts programming affected me at an early age: From drawing classes when I was 10, to band that I participated in through high school (and provided me an opportunity to travel Europe as a Music Ambassador). It affected me greatly. It made me a more well rounded person.	We should continue our support of arts in our communities. Current programming should continue, and I would suspect it could use additional support to flourish even more.	Our cultural heritage and arts are an important part of our American spirit and our identity as South Dakotans. Public funding of the arts should be continued and protected.	
<b>Rex Roling</b>	State Representative	Republican	13	Dance, Theater	Music, Theater, Theater	Moderately Aware	Yes		The arts are an important segment of a general education.	I do not have enough knowledge on the subject to know.	Government funding should not be the sole source of income for this organization.	
<b>Larry P. Zikmund</b>	State Representative	Republican	14	Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, Theater	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts	Very Aware	Yes		Very Important	I believe that all arts are important to all of our people-children through adult. we need to continually promote and encourage participation and support.	I believe and support individuals, businesses and government supporting the Arts.	

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Jean Hunhoff	State Representative	Republican	18	Instrumental	Music, Theater, Theater, Other	Very Aware	Yes		Arts are just as important as math and sciences to enrich the young person to fully understand life experiences and encounter their quality of life	Arts are key to tourism and cultural development. I think communities need to identify what is their culture of the community and engage their community in growth that culture. Of course we all know about Czech Days and what an engaged community of 400 can do to attract 10,000 people to celebrate their heritage. It takes the Arts Council to work with individual communities, in a way serve as a mentor to help them develop and implement their story about their community. We are a cultures of many in SD and not all have been tapped to share their history with the rest of us.	Public funding is a partnership with the private sector to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. We have the tourism tax in place. If we can initiate the communities to build their culture with some support we need to work with them to sustain their support thru community support. The national support is important but we cannot depend on that for continued growth in that support. We need to create more successful partnerships that are sustainable. Communities need to own financial support in a realistic manner. If we grow the arts and culture in the communities then the resources will follow for sustainability.	The South Dakota Arts have been a powerful voice in this state. There are so many different art and cultural options for our citizens and our visitors. We need to continue to create partnerships that brings the right resources to the table. We need to continue to engage our young people thru the schools and then into adult life. They become our supporters and leaders for the arts. Arts is so expansive as to what is and can be. We also need to remember we need to continually thank our partners and supporters. We need to continue to recognize our young individuals in their endeavors in the art and culture world. You all do an astounding job with the resources you have. Telling your story continuously and its impact on our citizens is paramount. Thank you for all you do!

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<b>Ryan Cwach</b>	State Representative	Democratic	18	Instrumental, Literary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts, Culinary Arts	Very Aware	Yes		<p>Art education is important. When I was a high school student, my younger sister died in a car accident. Afterwards, I found reading and writing poetry to be one of the few things that provided me any cathartic relief from my grief and ultimately made me a stronger, more emotionally aware person. My developed love of poetry did not come from the home but the classroom. I believe that young persons facing similar and other tragic situations, including unstable family environments, can find the same catharsis in all types of art that I found in poetry.</p>	<p>South Dakotans need to continue exploring our history and place. I believe the concept of "place" and choosing where to live are a very important and foundational element of every person's character. Therefore, it is important that a person can understand the place they live. We need to continue promoting local arts through festivals, events, activities so a person can achieve that understanding. I think that starts with strengthening our existing outlets for arts by identifying and promoting our existing artists and events. For example, in the summertime, Gayville Hall hosts one of the best music series in the Midwest every other Saturday but few people know about it. This series should be broadcast live on SD Public Radio, so the entire state can enjoy this great show.</p> <p>We also need to promote and encourage other artists to step out onto the landscape. I think this starts with arts education but needs to continue with providing opportunities outside of the classroom. As an example, I think communities should offer an "Artist-in-Residence" program where an artist from outside of the community would live in the community for a year and create art, whether that be paintings, music, or something else. I think this would be incredibly enriching for everyone. Funding is always the issue though, but if an opportunity came up where this could be funded responsibly, I think it would enrich communities.</p>	<p>Arts are a public good that merit public funding. Over the last several years, my community of Yankton has chosen to allocate public funding to concert series, art installations, and other efforts. These events and projects have enriched our community. For example, for the best two summers, community members have come together to paint a community mural that literally brings people together.</p>	
<b>Max Farver</b>	State Representative	GOP	18	Instrumental, Vocal, Visual, Theater, Photography, Culinary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Photography, Culinary Arts	Very Aware	Maybe		Somewhat important	<p>Music festivals are always fun and can tie in with local culture and other activities. Most art fairs are just craft fairs and crude ones at that.</p>	<p>It is best served at the local level.</p>	<p>I have always felt that a creative outlet is integral in my relaxation and feeling of well being. The music that we listen to is the sound track of our life, and the music we make is our anthem. I also have a studio where I make stained glass. I have been working with Celtic and Norse symbols for the past year and find them intriguing. Your logo looks very similar to an expanded Volknut. I have never received monetary support from a public source, nor want it.</p>
<b>Terry Crandall</b>	State Representative	Democratic	18	Vocal, Theater	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media	Slightly Aware	Yes	<p>I was a Theatre Major in undergraduate school. I have been a long time supporter of the arts. As a school board member, I have strongly encouraged arts education k-12.</p>	<p>I have been an advocate for this.</p>	<p>I have walked the walk on this. I was a key member of the Meade Center funding drive in Yankton.</p>	<p>Arts is an integral part to the overall climate of a community. Public funding is an absolute must to sustain arts related programs.</p>	

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<b>Caleb Finck</b>	State Representative	Republican	21	Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, Theater	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes		I believe that the arts are an incredibly important part of South Dakota's education to all children.	I would encourage continued public/private partnerships to continue bringing access to cultural development in all communities across South Dakota.	I believe that the continued public funding for the arts is an important part of economic development in our tourism industry not only here in South Dakota but across the nation.	
<b>BJ Motley</b>	State Representative	Democrat	25	Visual, Dance, Literary Arts	Music, Theater, Theater	Moderately Aware	Yes		The Arts are very important in Education, not only that it creates beauty, It create a vision inside you that takes you away from stress and creates a reality that only you can imagine the impossible. Our children need to know the meaning behind the art created by artist. How it can lift you in the time of despair. Create in you a free spirit.	The Potential is limitless. You can't put a price on beauty and the creation life image. I would encourage by giving stories of the arts being created.	I believe Public Funding is necessary because of the importance of the art's can bring to the public awareness.	I would like to say Arts in South Dakota keep striving for excellence, show the world the beauty the art creation in visual, music as well as theater. Art can also be a healing source reducing stress.
<b>Michael McManus</b>	State Representative	Democrat	29	Instrumental, Vocal, Visual, Theater, Photography	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Literary Arts	Very Aware	Yes	I believe the arts are very important to the growth and development of children, and the trend of schools to cut back on the arts is misguided. The creative process can allow children to express themselves in ways that are not available to them in standard classroom situations.	The Black Hills is rich with artists and events that rival the arts scene anywhere. By supporting and promoting art related events, People are exposed to the community features and tourist attractions in the area.	I support public funding and believe the payback for the funding is quite high.Â	I would like to thank all the artists for the enjoyment and inspiration I have received from your work. I can't image what it would be like to not have the sights and sounds of the theaters, galleries and public art we are exposed to every day.	
<b>Karen McGregor</b>	State Representative	Democratic	30	Instrumental, Visual, Theater, Literary Arts, Culinary Arts	Music, Theater, Theater, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes		Extremely important. Children have different methods of learning and art in some form might be the best way to reach a child.	District 30 has a growing arts community - with the galleries in Hill City and the art shows in the summer - sculpture, quilt shows and I'm sure there are others. Hot Springs is moving in that direction and these efforts do much to engage both area citizens and tourists visiting the area. Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park had many sold out performances this summer. Art is an important part of the economic development of this area.	I think art is a good investment of public funds.	
<b>Whitney Raver</b>	State Representative	Democrat	30	Instrumental, Vocal, Dance, Literary Arts, Culinary Arts	Music, Theater, Theater, Literary Arts	Very Aware	Maybe	As I understand it, that tax was meant to support education, which badly needs funding. Outside of artistic education, I would work to keep that funding dedicated to promoting education and innovate to get the Arts their own funding.	Vital. The two things that nations who out-perform the US have in common are free play and art/music. Art promotes the innovative thinking that will define employment success as automation continues to expand. Art and music also improve children's ability to cope with emotional stress.	The potential for cultural development in South Dakota is inexhaustive. I'd work closely with the experts to determine the best ways to encourage development.	Let's put it this way: I attribute my love of art to dedicated teachers and public opportunities. As a child, my parents didn't read to me. They weren't interested in exploring my love of music, drawing, painting, dancing. I lived in a community where most parents didn't value those things. Yet, in even a cursory study of history, it is obvious that widespread appreciation for the arts is a pillar of a civilized, progressive society. I believe public funding for the arts and any program that extends artistic opportunity to those who may otherwise be suppressed is vital to the wellbeing of South Dakota's communities.	
<b>Susan Kelts</b>	State Representative	Democratic	32	Instrumental, Vocal	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Film/Media	Very Aware	Yes		I believe the arts are extremely important to the education of South Dakota's children. My own children received excellent education in music, theater and art in the Rapid City Public School system.	South Dakota could do much more in conjunction with our nine Native American tribes to promote Native American arts and culture. This would benefit our own citizens and also attract more tourists to our state.	I strongly support public funding for the arts at all levels and believe it is essential to enrich the lives of people in remote, rural and reservation communities as well as our largest towns.	

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<b>Bill Knight</b>	State Representative	Democrat	32	Instrumental, Vocal, Theater, Photography	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Culinary Arts	Very Aware	Yes	The arts are a fundamental aspect of any society. The economic impact of having a thriving arts community is obvious in every community, to have this drives not only community excellence, but also directly impacts all aspects of a community, to include education, economy, and general well-being. Arts are vital to any community and culture in South Dakota.	Extremely important. As a child growing up in South Dakota, I had the opportunity to be part of various different artistic endeavors. Theatre taught me how to relate with other individuals of different backgrounds. Music taught me how to combine the mathematical mind with the creative mind. Arts teach our children to think in a way that allows for open understanding of other people.	The new civic center will be a boon, however, having grown up here, we had a music program that was second to none. Our theatre programs were also second to none. We need to reinforce any and all music, theatre, arts and creative thinking and remove any barriers at the public school level that prevent students from having access to that.	Public funding is necessary and fundamental.	The arts are a fundamental aspect of living and growing in a community. They provide so many different avenues of living and understanding others.
<b>David Johnson</b>	State Representative	Republican	33	Instrumental, Vocal, Literary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Literary Arts	Moderately Aware	Yes		I believe arts training and education is an important part of SD's public education system, both for students at risk and others. I strongly support the arts in our schools.	I, too, believe the arts play a critical role in a healthy and sustainable community. I've seen cultural and artistic development improving in our western SD communities. We have great potential, and our western SD communities are supportive.	Tourism is SD's 2nd largest industry. State and federal funding for the arts and for cultural development, at appropriate levels, is proper and essential. The arts and the proud display of our culture and heritage play a very important role in our state's tourism economy. The arts and the proud display of SD's culture and heritage, in fact, stand alone as a crucial part of a sustainable and healthy community.	
<b>Tina Mulally</b>	State Representative	Republican	35	Vocal, Literary Arts, None	Music, Theater, Theater, Photography, Film/Media, Other	Moderately Aware	Maybe	I would like to do more research.	Extremely	To keep free speech alive even if you disagree with it	Answer cut off	
<b>Lilias Jarding</b>	State Representative	Democrat	33	Instrumental, Vocal, Theater, Photography, Literary Arts	Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Theater, Film/Media	Slightly Aware	Yes		The arts enrich the lives of all South Dakotans of every age. The arts also reach children who might not be reached by other means of education. K-12 education should include arts education.	Cultural development is an important aspect of sustainable community and economic development in the diverse communities within South Dakota, and there is clearly potential for more of this type of community development. This would include increased funding for sustainable activities and technologies, as well as a focus on local citizens' civic and economic participation in local development. This would create greater opportunities for artists. Cultural development should also be encouraged through continued state and federal support.	Public funding should be provided for the arts at all governmental levels.	