

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15261**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Michael Diedrich

**Candidate Email**

[mike.diedrich@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:mike.diedrich@sdlegislature.gov)

**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

34

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Visual
- Photography

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

As a small state with limited resources, we should optimize opportunities to leverage local support to increase outside support.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Arts education is an important element of providing future generations with a balanced education. The exposure and participation in the arts helps children develop social skills, introspection, exploration of context, and development of motor skills. It also provides opportunities for development of social skills while giving the opportunity and confidence to be creative in self expression.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Cultural development opportunities will always present themselves as we think of the overall positive impact on children and adults. With tourism as the number two industry in South Dakota, it is important to create and share opportunities for visitors to learn about the rich and diverse cultural history of communities and the state as a whole. Those who explore our state - residents and visitors - will have a better experience and understanding and appreciation of the arts and our cultures.

I encourage the cultural development in all communities and environments. It will benefit those who actively participate in the creation of the experience as well as those who enjoy the various methods of presentation of cultural development. It is beneficial to learn different interpretations of our history and culture. It brings people together to enjoy, share personal views, and engage in personal introspection.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I support public funding for the arts at the national, state, local, and personal levels.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14675**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Becky Drury

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

32

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Vocal
- Visual

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the**

state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

I believe that ensuring students have access to a well-rounded education is crucial to making sure we build strong leaders for tomorrow.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Our world is changing and keeping South Dakota strong is going to require future leaders that are innovators and bring the results we need for our communities. When it come to at-risk youth, it's great to have programs in place that can provide support to make sure all kids have a shot at success in our state.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I authored the resolution to certify the Star Quilt as the official quilt of South Dakota. This was a three pronged resolution. First, it recognized the importance of the Star Quilt in our Tribal communities. Second, it recognized the thousands of people who quilt in South Dakota. Third, it recognized the importance of art and creativity when sewing quilts.

Cultural development is important to our state. I believe if we can show the nation that there's something special to offer for everyone who wants to come to South Dakota, we can further our economy and build a culture-rich state for generations to come.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

On all levels, I'm proud to have a record of supporting the arts. I've voted for things like the improvements to the USD National Music Museum, and look forward to examining similar opportunities based on the budgets we have in the coming years.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15454**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Helene Duhamel

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

32

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Visual
- Dance
- Theater
- Photography
- Film/Media

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Dance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize**

**the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I agree that arts education is critical, stimulates creativity and is an essential tool for reaching some children. I believe it's part of a well balanced education.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Why do people choose to live in Rapid City or South Dakota? Quality of life is a complex definition unique to an individual, but for many, access to the arts is critical. We always encourage the arts and know its significance in economic development.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

Right now South Dakota's tourism tax provides public funding. It's a combination of public and private funding. The Department of Education funds programming for arts in the schools. Hopefully local school district support and promote arts programming.

I took arts classes growing up through the Dahl Fine Arts Center and the city of Rapid City. I took more than a decade of dance lessons at Academy of Dance. My children did the same. There are many arts opportunities at the local level. Scholarships and work opportunities allow many to participate as well.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Thank you!

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14619**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Erin Healy

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

10

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Art is so incredibly important for children--especially during their early development. I know there are so many benefits to introducing kids to art at an early age--it promotes creativity, helps to build fine motor skills, and even supports cognitive, social-emotional, and sensory skills.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

We come from a state that is rich with history and cultural art. I think art plays a role in shaping (and even renewing) culture and is a way to express wisdom, knowledge, and experience. Art is often created to reflect on the past and to express hopes or aspirations. When I think of potential cultural development in South Dakota, I think we must ensure that all artists have the ability to flourish and to be celebrated regardless of culture, race, socio-economic status. When it comes to encouraging that development, I think we all need to embrace inclusion and opportunity for all.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I support any public funding for the arts at a local, state, or national level. The arts are an important community builder--and I think the arts can even be seen as an economic tool to encourage development and/or prosperity in a town/city. The arts/culture strongly benefit society--it's great to use for education, it helps with health and wellness (mental, emotional, and I think even physical health), and it encourages people to gather and spend time together as a community. I feel so lucky to live in Sioux Falls where there is always an event to attend where art/music is available for me and my family/friends to enjoy.



**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14565**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Mellissa Heermann

**Candidate Website**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

7

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater
- Culinary Arts

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Slightly aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Maybe

**Additional Comments:**

While I have been a long supporter of the arts, it is difficult for me to make a financial decision without seeing the budget as a whole. I am looking forward to learning more about the great work of the South Dakota Arts Council.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

The arts are incredibly important for youth in education. It allows students to utilize different sides of their brain, expand their opportunities, be part of a team, have a feeling of belonging within the arts communities and a greater appreciation for beauty and the world around them.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

The arts create a more rich and well rounded community and I have supported the arts in the different communities we have lived in. We enjoy bringing our family to plays, musicals, dance performances and live music, and we are spoiled in Brookings to have a lovely venue to be able to enjoy the arts.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

During the last six years on the Brookings School Board, I have always supported the arts and music programs for our students. I have had many conversations around safeguarding the funds allocated to the arts programs and securing the future of the arts in the Brookings School District. This has been a consistent area of focus for me during every annual budget conversation.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

In my youth, I grew up around music and fell in love with the sense of community within the music groups I participated in. I was very passionate about band, but also participated in choir, was the student director, many school musicals, and have taken lessons in the cello. There is something incredibly special about learning music, and the gift that it brings into your life and the lessons you learn can also translate into many other areas. My music teachers in the past have been a huge influence over me and all hold special places in my heart. I feel truly grateful for their lessons and inspiration. My oldest child is

now using my flute in marching band and finding a love of music all her own. There is just something special about the arts.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14459**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Lora Hubbel

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

District 13

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Visual
- Dance
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Theater

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE**

**STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Arts are foundational. Even Medicine at its finest is considered an "Art" as well as a science. Who would not want a surgeon that had practiced the delicate art of cross stitching or sewing as an added bonus before he/she became a facial reconstruction surgeon?

I believe we are made in the image of our Creator and hence, we too, are meant to create and express and also heal through our artistic creations.

Even our American founding fathers gave up their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for America to survive and be a beacon of self-governance to the rest of the world...realizing the pinnacle of a civilized society is one that studies art. Here is John Adams' quote, The 2nd president of the US:

"I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture in order to...GIVE THEIR CHILDREN a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain." (emphasis mine)

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I also believe the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism....so I'm a little confused when the question is, "What do you see as the potential for cultural development...?" We don't have a potential for cultural development in SD we HAVE cultural development in SD...in part thanks to the arts and our love of them.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

Funding of cultural art, art that heals, encourages, expresses and is elevating will always be in demand and as long as the government does not hinder its people or become oppressive to the point where the people become discouraged or broken. Art is in our DNA, put there by our Creator and it will always be a part of a vibrant society. The public will demand it for their children just like our founding fathers did for us. My job in representative government is to keep the people free and assure them the right to pursue happiness. I cannot legislate happiness, but I am obligated to defend our right to pursue it.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Just as a disclaimer, I am registered as a Republican but I am running as an Independent because I will not be controlled by the Leadership in a Party that has had absolute power in SD for over 40 years. We all know that absolute power corrupts absolutely and I will not be associated with the corruption that has deemed SD one of the most corrupt states in the nation for several years in a row.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14756**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Jean Hunhoff

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

18

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

I have served in the Legislature for 22 years if you check my voting record and attendance at past Arts Council Events during session I have attended and supported. I attend arts events in the Yankton Community as much as possible . I support our local arts.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe arts are a basic foundation in the education of our children. Many opportunities exist in our schools for children to experience the many aspects of art. Their experiences shape their future as they pursue their personal and work life.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Art comes in many shapes and experiences. We need to develop the culture of arts in all the communities in South Dakota. We need to work with tourism to continue to recognize and promote the many cultural experiences that each of South Dakota communities have which include cultural celebrations, music , theater, arts in the park, farmers markets and vendor shows, the list is endless. Their needs to be a statewide directory or resource center that highlites all the activities that go on every day in this state. Partnerships need to be created with the arts and communities that develop year long programming promotion. Schools have much programming that showcases students in various type of artistic programming. More collaboration in the communities with those promoting the arts of all types are important to draw in the people those communities to see the impact of art and the growth that results in tourism and economic development. A healthy artistic community draws people to relocate or stay in that community.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

The current public funding is providing dollars that the state can sustain thru the tourism tax. We need to continue with private and public collaboration to grow the dollars that come from tourism to increase the returns on those taxes. Funding thru DOE to education especially with all the federal dollars that have come into the state can go into programming for arts in the schools. Those at the local school district level need to voice their support and engagement in building art programming that engages their community. Communities need local art stakeholders to engage in promotion and sponsorship of cultural events that generate revenue to support arts locally. I am someone who has spent over 50 years in supporting, working and promoting the Czech culture and our events in the Town of Tabor. It does work. There is so much opportunity to work with Tourism to build every communities artistic basis.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

I spoke about what a town of 400 can do to bring 10K people to celebrate our Czech Culture. This is an example of people working together and committed to making the arts work. Thank you

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14475**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Sheryl Johnson

**Candidate Website**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

11

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Visual
- Theater
- Literary Arts
- Culinary Arts

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Film/Media
- Culinary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes



## South Dakota Arts Council

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Additional Comments:**

Arts can increase the life value for all our citizens. It brings out the best in humanity and ties people together. I am very concerned that certain legislators want to cut budgets of the arts in our local schools. Arts make a well rounded person. Working at RHS for over 12 years I talked with many students who might have skipped school except that they had an art or music class that they just loved and looked forward to.

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe the arts help develop the empathy of all children and make them better humans because arts often are used to express feelings and they learn to understand how others feel and develop an empathy and understanding of other cultures as well. Expressing oneself artistically can bring out the best in a person. Arts can reach across barriers and connect people in happy ways.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

We have many younger people leaving our state for bigger cities because they want the 'culture and arts' available. More plays, symphonies, art galleries, art education and entertainment venues is important to them as well as to many older citizens. SD Citizens WANT access to the arts and entertainment venues and we will be a more attractive state to move to if we can provide this. I think SD has a huge capability for arts especially in the larger cities but small areas like the Worthing Dinner theatre can bring people in as well if supported properly.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I believe public funding is crucial for arts at all levels. Fundraising can only go so far and the arts benefit everyone. Public funding helps venues keep prices down so more people can attend. I love the Washington Pavillion and how it is open to field trips for our children. So many kids do not have access to that otherwise.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

I believe the arts make for a better well rounded, empathetic person. It is vital for our children's education and not just an 'extra'. Unfortunately some school districts look to cut the art programs first thing. I am a huge supporter of public education and that means keeping the arts a vital part of education. The 'arts' is the one area that can truly reach across cultures and bring people together.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14653**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Jack Kolbeck

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

13

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Visual

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and**

**generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

These matching funds should be based on what the appropriations and Department of Tourism have for a budget each year. Matching funds should be looked at each year. A percentage as to what can be matched should be determined thru the budgeting process. As you all know it is our constitutional duty to balance our budget in South Dakota.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I am a firm believer that music and art are very important to the development of our youth. If it is taught in a way to expand their learning ability, I believe it is very essential tool for reaching our youth.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Cultural development to me means to learn and understand different cultures as they are today. Cultural Development when it comes to music and art is different in all cultures and people should have access to this thru education if so desired. Arts of South Dakota is one way this can be delivered to our population that want to learn this music and also see the art that has come from the different cultures in our state and country.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I believe that public/private funding is the avenue to pursue when funding arts at all levels. This would be a win, win for all involved who want to as individuals, businesses and government invest in the arts.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

I have been on Appropriations for four years. I have had the privilege of listening to the testimony of the Arts Council. I am looking forward to again being re-elected to the Senate in District 13 so I can again be a part of this organization thru the Department of Tourism and the State in our appropriations meeting.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14496**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Margaret Kuipers

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

11

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Vocal
- Photography

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Visual Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe the arts education is important for all children, especially at risk youth, by helping them express themselves and their feelings in a unique and safe way. It can help them build confidence by learning a new skill such as learning to play an instrument, singing, or other medium such as creative writing, drawing, paint or sculpture.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I believe that the arts are important in our economic development and tourism. We have a beautiful state and depicting that in artistic ways help to promote tourism for SD.

My granddaughter participated in a SD Tourism Art Contest in High School. She painted a bison in some grass. It was representing the South Dakota Landscape. She is now a graduate of Southeast Technical College with a graphic arts degree and working as a news photographer.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

The arts are a very important part of our communities, state and nation. Any and all forms of support should be encouraged, public and private.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14476**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Trish Ladner

**Candidate Website**

<https://www.trishforsouthdakota.com>

**Candidate Email**

[trishforsd@gmail.com](mailto:trishforsd@gmail.com)

**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

30

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Theater
- Photography
- Culinary Arts

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Theater
- Photography
- Attended a children's school performance
- Other

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the**

state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

I would support this if the monies generated are used solely to promote South Dakota arts.

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

The arts are very important to the overall development of our children. Providing arts education programs help to develop fine motor skills, gross motor skills, non verbal and communication. In the case of theatre and music, the arts help to develop focus and perseverance.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Art is a bridge that helps to provide a deeper cultural connection to historic cultural elements and traditions. It teaches others about their cultural values through art, stories, jewelry, painting and poetry to name a few. In order to help promote cultural development in South Dakota, I'd like to see our artists and their art marketed in a way that not only educates others, but promotes the artists themselves.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I am in favor of including the public funding sources. With public participation, you have local buy-in and the support of the communities. In some cases, the public funds donated encourage the participation of the national, state and local government entities.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Thank you for your dedication and for support the Arts in South Dakota!



**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14495**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Gary Leighton

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

2

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize**

**the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

With my background and career in K-12 education, I have an in-depth understanding in the role the arts play in enhancing a student's education and appreciation of the our society and culture. I fully support the work of the SD Arts Council.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Fully educating the students of our state requires much more than basic education in reading, writing and math. All activities including the fine arts is as much a need to students in completing their education as is other activities such as athletics. Motivating children to learn is enhanced by interest and involvement in the fine arts.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Because of the geographic vastness of our state and the concentration of the population in and around the state's two major cities, large parts of the state are lacking in the availability of fine arts activities. Great potential exists for developing fine arts. People will attend these activities and come from all over the state and region in their support. Prairie Rep. Theater at SDSU is an outstanding example of this.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I believe there is a role in government to earmark public funds to support the arts much as some public funding is made available to use by South Dakota Public Broadcasting. Arts should be supported at all levels of government.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14450**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Jessica Meyers

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

12

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize**

**the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Exposure to the arts education is crucial to the development of children. Research continues to show that children that participate in the arts throughout school in any capacity score better in math and science. The arts should also be accessible to all children no matter the age or economic status of a community.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

There are so many talented people that live in South Dakota. From the beautiful Native American art, music, dance and performance, we as South Dakotans get to celebrate everyone who chooses to make their home here. As a Senator, I would encourage and vote for funding of the arts throughout the state.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I am a strong supporter of the arts and because the public benefits from beautiful spaces we should have some support from the state government.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15260**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Reynold Nesiba

**Candidate Website**

<https://www.nesibaforsdsenate.com/>

**Candidate Email**

[Reynold@nesibaforsdsenate.com](mailto:Reynold@nesibaforsdsenate.com)

**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

15

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Culinary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Education in music, drawing, painting, dance—the arts generally—are essential to what it means to be an educated person. It isn't just that arts education enhances and complements K-12 and higher education core subjects, they are essential in themselves to help all of us, including our children, see, think, hear, move and otherwise experience lived reality.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

District 15 in downtown Sioux Falls has seen the concrete benefits of the arts in enhancing our quality of life and being a source of economic development. The Washington Pavilion's stage, SD Symphony, Center for Visual Arts, Sculpture Walk, Levitt Shell, Municipal Band, in addition to all of the great food and drink, live music, and private art galleries make it a great place to love and for others to visit. We can encourage more of this through additional grant funding through the Arts Council, and by ensuring that municipal sign or advertising ordinances do not prevent murals from being painted. (Remember Eyob's 2009 mural at Black Sheep Coffee) Perhaps we can do more to ensure that there is some sort of online directory or murals, sculptures, and other art destinations and events can be easily found through SD Tourism.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

Art matters. It enhances education and our quality of life, while at the same time stimulating economic development. Federal, state, and local governments should work together to encourage and promote the arts across SD through the prudent use of federal, state, and local public funds so that all South Dakotans can benefit from producing, participating, watching or otherwise engaging in the arts.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Kudos to those in Sioux Falls, decades ago, who successfully advocated for the creation of the Washington Pavillion. It is our anchor for the arts in Sioux Falls with its Center for the Visual Arts, the SD Symphony, and world class touring shows. Since its creation we have added the Sculpture Walk, Levitt Shell, The Arc of Dreams, and enhanced programming at the Orpheum Theater and from our Municipal Band. That decision decades ago has made Sioux Falls a regional arts center enhancing education, our quality of life, and spurring economic development. What will we do over these next few years that will inspire

future takers of this survey to thank us in 30 years?

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14772**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Kay Nikolas

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

1

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Vocal
- Visual

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and**



generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I think that STEM education should really be STEAM education - Arts are an important avenue for learning and expression for everyone - children and adults. The arts are a means of fostering communication and growth of people and communities. Children learn in different ways and the arts open up an avenue for further learning and growth.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

The arts provide an opportunity to learn about others in the community - their history, values, and the way these values are expressed and passed on to future generations. In learning about other cultural influences, we often learn that we have more in common than what we may have believed and that there are various ways to express and celebrate those commonalities.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

The arts provide all of us with a means of understanding the world and communities around us. All of us benefit from the contributions from the arts - young, old, rich and poor. Public funding to encourage this resource for the development of our communities is vital.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14701**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Kim Parke

**Candidate Website**

<https://kimparkeforsouthdakota.com>

**Candidate Email**

[kimforsouthdakota@gmail.com](mailto:kimforsouthdakota@gmail.com)

**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

11

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Visual
- Photography

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Theater
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

While math, science and english are the backbones of education, arts education is also important because it provides opportunities for self growth, self awareness and appreciation of diversity. Studies have shown that students achievement and well being are associated with a well rounded education including arts programs. I strongly support the arts for all students in public education.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Native American traditions have gained awareness and acceptance through arts programs in recent years. Community playhouses are essential to providing access to theater productions for everyone. South Dakota has a unique and vibrant history that should be highlighted through the arts. This, in turn, helps economic growth through tourism and education.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

South Dakota is conservative in nature, especially in terms of economics. But I believe in supporting the arts as long as the programs are logical, feasible and beneficial to the state and its people.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14458**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Carl Perry

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

[cperry91@abe.midco.net](mailto:cperry91@abe.midco.net)

**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

3

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Vocal
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

**Additional Comments:**

Keep me posted of your needs and bills.

**Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

This is one of the important parts of youth to participate.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Music, theater, sculpture, paintings are all important to our local and state.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I am not part of the national but am part of the states process. I support local efforts.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Be sure to contact Senator and Representatives that are primary winners with no general ...like Brandei Schaeftbauer in District 3.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14532**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Neal Pinnow

**Candidate Website**

<https://pinnowforhouse.com/>

**Candidate Email**

[campaign@pinnowforhouse.com](mailto:campaign@pinnowforhouse.com)

**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

28B

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Photography
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe that providing the arts to the education of the youth in South Dakota is vital to the overall educational advancement. The arts provide many avenues for life lessons to be learned by our youth. As a former musician and vocalist in elementary, high school and college, I was afforded to be part of the arts and am a better, well rounded individual due to that education. I will support advancements in arts education for all residents of South Dakota.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

We have many different cultures in South Dakota and I would like to see those available for the education and enjoyment in all our communities. As Mayor of Lemmon, we were able to bring several artists to our public library through matching grants through the SD Arts Council. Those events were fabulous for our youth as well as many adults and I would encourage that every community in South Dakota takes advantage of the artists available for cultural development. We are very blessed with all the talented artists and must continue to support their development.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I think public funding should be used as an avenue to assist communities the opportunity to bring cultural development to their city. Public funding should be used in conjunction with matching funds from either the local or national level. Communities need to be vested in to the education and cultural development of their residents and the SD Arts Council does a great job of helping bridge the artist and the communities together and as a legislator I will continue to support that effort.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15099**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Erin Royer

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

12

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Photography
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**



Moderately aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Arts are an important creative skills, community building space, and a way to apply lessons from other subjects. Having the arts in schools and available to children is important to their growth, development, and mental well being.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

SD has a rich history of arts including home crafts, traditional Native American arts, contemporary arts, and handicrafts. I would support programs to encourage participation in the arts as well as promotion of the arts of South Dakota to both SD audiences and visitors. There are so many things that we may not always recognize as "arts" that so many of us participate in routinely.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

The arts are an important part of national, state, and local cultures and societies and should be supported by those communities through public funding.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14806**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Brandei Schaeftbauer

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

3

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Literary Arts
- Other

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Undecided

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Slightly aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe if a child has the opportunity to explore the arts as well as athletic activities, that child could possibly be given the opportunity to open other "doors" that might have been closed or unknown.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I believe the arts can bring other parts of the world to our hometowns. Arts bring other perspectives, cultures and imaginations that one might not be given the opportunity to experience on a daily basis by where that person chooses to reside.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I am ok with public funding to promote our state of South Dakota and the towns in South Dakota through the arts if the state has the money set aside to do so.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Arts open up pathways to the world and beyond. Giving students the opportunity to explore the arts also offers other avenues of interests that one didn't know existed. Arts tell history, perspective and show beauty that otherwise one might never get to experience.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15104**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Jamie Smith

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

[info@smithforgov.org](mailto:info@smithforgov.org)

**Office seeking:**

Governor

**Party:**

Democrat

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Vocal
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

As a father of two young men were very involved in music and theater, I know firsthand how important the arts are to the education of all South Dakota children. The arts help our children grow as people, learn valuable life skills, and become more involved in their communities.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I believe South Dakota has unlimited potential when it comes to cultural development. I would encourage this by using my office to advocate for inclusiveness, encourage tourism, and recruit people to our state who can help us grow.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

At the state and local levels, I advocate for public and private funding for the arts. The public-private partnership is key to making sure that cultural vibrance and funding for the arts is sustainable and the best I can be.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14752**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Christine Stephenson

**Candidate Website**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

32

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Culinary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Extremely important. Especially in Rapid City, too many kids are dropping out of high school the minute it becomes a possibility. They are succumbing to addiction and crime, and we are seeing the consequences with increased violence among young adults. I believe it's because many of these young people don't see a place for themselves in our school system, and that may partially because we don't have sufficient arts education in our schools.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I would love to see arts-based tourism develop on our reservations to promote cultural understanding and awareness as well as to promote economic growth in those areas.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I believe public funding for the arts at the local, state and national level is vital to our communities. The arts deepen our understanding and appreciation of the human experience. In our multi-cultural society, the arts help us understand each other and connect as community members. Now more than ever, we need as many people as possible to experience the arts.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14516**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Mike Stevens

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

18

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Visual

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware



**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

I believe it is not only necessary but essential for our children. As a former school board member and a current legislator, I have always supported the arts and was recently inducted into the Yankton High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame as a result of my support for the arts.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I think that process begins by recognizing the arts as an equal contributor to the success of our state. I think the words of former President John F. Kennedy said it best when he said: "I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft,"

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

The State spends money to help building sports stadiums; to encourage hunting and other outdoor sports; as well as many other activities. The arts should be treated equally.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15404**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Tamara StJohn

**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

1

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Other

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography
- Film/Media

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Arts are a unique way of impacting all persons from various walks of life. The value of learning more about the world around them is critical and shaping their future roles in many different ways.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I'm a huge advocate for tourism and as a curator of a large Native American arts collection it's my goal to share the messages the paintings and arts can provide to people who visit our communities. Sustainable tourism is a part of a great vision for any region and it can provide financial benefits and economic development for many.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I believe the arts are a vital part of who we are and how we interact in South Dakota. I will continue to be a huge advocate for supporting the arts with funding and other resources

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14563**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Tyler Tordsen

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Republican

**District:**

14

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Photography
- Film/Media
- Other

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Other

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Very important.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

There is a lot of potential for more cultural development, arts, and tourism in South Dakota. I'd like to see more growth in partnerships such as the South Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (SDNTA), a partnership of tribal, state, federal, and local stakeholders.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

I think there is a supportive role national, state, tribal, and local governments can play in promoting arts.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

Thanks for all you do in promoting Arts across South Dakota! - T

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14758**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Vince Vidal

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

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**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

33

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

## South Dakota Arts Council

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### Additional Comments:

First off, as you pointed out, art is a solid economic investment. It always has been. Tourism is South Dakota's second largest industry – and when we provide talented local artists with the funds to create, visitors will want to come to South Dakota to see that art. Your statistic shows that investment in the arts repays itself tenfold. But it's about more than just the economy. Most of all, arts funding is in investment in our community. It's about investing in our neighbors who want to share their talents with the world and make our homes more vibrant and colorful. Creating and consuming art enriches our lives and makes for a happier, healthier public.

### Arts South Dakota

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

The purpose of education isn't just to prepare students to enter the workforce – it's also about providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to become flourishing, well-rounded members of society. Arts education is vital to this role. I'm the proud parent of two artists myself – a musician and an actor/playwright – so I know firsthand the value that arts education can bring to a young person's development. Unfortunately, as South Dakota public schools continue to go underfunded, the arts are usually the first to go – especially in underserved communities. This is a travesty. The arts provide an outlet for young people to express themselves in a constructive way and connect with their own community. Access to this type of creative learning should be free and open to ALL South Dakota students – not just those who can afford it.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Continuing off of the previous answer, one of the most important ways to foster cultural development in South Dakota is to teach and encourage the next generation of artists. It's also important to promote the styles and artforms unique to our area – art that celebrates our stories, our beautiful landscapes, and, particularly, indigenous art. It is an unfortunate fact of American and South Dakotan history, that our Native peoples have long been subjected to efforts to strip tribes of their culture – their languages, religions and artistic contributions. It is of the utmost importance that the South Dakota government take an active role in promoting the work of our indigenous artists, and work to preserve the artforms and cultural contributions of area tribes for generations to come.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

Over the course of the last few questions, I've demonstrated the importance of the arts to the well-being of our people and our communities. The purpose of taxpayer funds is to allow the government to provide essential services – education, safe roads,

a strong military, etc. And I would argue that the arts are just as essential. Many government services aim to protect our country, ensure our survival, and maintain our way of life. But what good is all of that, if we're unable to take part in the beauty, self-expression and sense of community that the arts provide? I'd argue that the arts are essential to the public's quality of life and should be funded as such, at all levels of government.

**We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:**

The arts are such an important part of my life and my family's lives. If elected and sent to Pierre I will be a very strong advocate of the arts in all forms, including teaching our children the importance of the arts in their daily lives.

Thank you so much for your time and the opportunity to share my thoughts through this survey.



**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14922**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Susan Wismer

**Candidate Website**

<https://www.facebook.com/SusanforNESD>

**Candidate Email**

[swismer@brittonsd.com](mailto:swismer@brittonsd.com)

**Office seeking:**

State Senator

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

1

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the**

**state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

### **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Arts education is necessary for the education of a well-rounded, literate, citizen.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

Support for the arts in the schools, which means adequate funding for schools in general. I am also concerned about the effect of school academic and athletic scheduling adverse to arts and music programs, which discourages participation and quality of the music programs offered.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

Public funding for the arts at the national and state level must be maintained at current levels, and in South Dakota, it ought to be paid for with general tax dollars, not dependent upon the designated tourism tax.

**STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14515**

**BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

**Name**

Kadyn Wittman

**Candidate Website**

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**Candidate Email**

[elect@wittmanforhouse.org](mailto:elect@wittmanforhouse.org)

**Office seeking:**

State Representative

**Party:**

Democrat

**District:**

15

**Basic Arts Background of Candidate**

**Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?**

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?**

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

**Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?**

Yes

**South Dakota Arts Council**

**Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?**

Very aware

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota**

Yes

## **Arts South Dakota**

**We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?**

Involvement in the arts is crucial for the success of South Dakota children. Years of research shows that integrating arts into public school leads to high levels of academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunities - all things that we want for our state's children. Additionally, studies show that involvement in the arts is correlated with elevated understanding of math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also be linked to improved motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork in children.

**We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?**

I see an opportunity to engage with more of our indigenous community members to support and uphold historical and traditional art forms. In particular, I would like to see more indigenous arts (taught by indigenous instructors) incorporated into all South Dakota public schools.

**We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?**

As a state legislator, I will always advocate for the support and expansion of arts in our public schools, as well as be a vocal champion for public funding of our arts institutions.