

Candidate: Bill Durston
M.D.
Party: Democrat
State: CA
District: 03



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

Music Theater Visual Arts Dance Literary Arts Other None

Additional Comments
(optional):

Our campaign regularly incorporates music and dance in our political events. We also hosted several art auctions and allowed artists to participate in creative ways make a difference in our district.

2. **Background:** The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$144.7 million, the NEA spends just 48 cents per American—about the cost of a pack of gum.

Question: Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments
(optional):

We would support local artists and arts organization in our district.

3. **Background:** Prior to the budget cuts of the 1990s, the NEA partnered with local arts agencies to re-grant funds in their communities, ensuring strong local input and control over artistic programming, especially in rural and underserved areas. After the cuts, however, the re-granting partnership ended because of insufficient funds.

Question: Do you support dedicated funding for an NEA re-granting program for local arts agencies?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments
(optional):

4. **Background:** The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts education instruction. However, implementation of NCLB has dramatically reduced the time spent teaching the arts around the country and increased the need for federal-level research measuring the status and condition of the arts.

Question: Do you support strengthening arts education and research through the reauthorization of NCLB?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments
(optional):

We believe the arts are important as stand alone subjects and also, in light of current brain research, very important in integrating arts experience into other subject areas. We favor strengthening arts education but the No Child Left Behind arrangement has problems beyond just needing strengthening. It has had adverse affects on teachers in general forcing them to teach to the test rather than train students to think, problem solve and develop creative thinking skills.

5. **Background:** The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has been level-funded at about \$400 million for several years, is a major provider of arts programming on public television and radio.

Question: Do you support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments
(optional):

National Public Broadcasting is the best educational opportunity for children and adults . It should be funded as long as it remains independent from political right leaning sensors.

6. **Background:** Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created.

Question: Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments
(optional):

It is a challenge to estimate accurate value unless there is an appraisal procedure which is consistent Artists themselves often over value their work and this is a tricky area, but certainly artists should be able deduct more than the value of the materials used in a work.

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:

www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities