

Candidate: Christine Jennings
Party: Democrat
State: Florida
District: 13th



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):

I have long been an avid supporter of the arts in the Sarasota area. In addition to attending events whenever possible, I have served as past president of the boards of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Board of Trustees, the Sarasota Ballet and the Sarasota Film Festival. I still serve on the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Board of Trustees, of which I have been a member since 1995.

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):

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):

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):

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):

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

www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities

Completed By: Christine Jennings

Date: 6/25/08



During the past 24 years, Christine has served as:

- Founder and President/CEO/Chair of Sarasota Bank
- President, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Board of Trustees
- Member, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Board of Trustees
- President, Sarasota Film Festival
- President, Mental Health Association of Sarasota County
- President, Sarasota Ballet
- President, Downtown Association of Sarasota
- Graduate, Leadership Manatee
- Executive Committee, United Way of Manatee County
- Director, Community AIDS Network
- Director, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Sarasota County
- Honoree, National Council of Jewish Women
- Honoree, United Negro College Fund
- Member, UNIFEM
- Member, International Women's Forum
- Member, Sarasota Tiger Bay Club
- Member, Sierra Club
- Member, S.T.A.R.T.
- Member, Florida Women's Alliance

ABOUT CHRISTINE JENNINGS

Christine Jennings has been an active community member in Sarasota and the 13th Congressional District for 24 years, sharing her considerable skills with both the corporate and non-profit community.

Born and raised in New Boston, Ohio, she learned the value of hard work and developed her strong work ethic from her parents. Her father was a steel mill worker, a disabled WWII veteran and a minister. Her mother ran a beauty parlor out of their home.

Right out of high school, at age 17, Christine got a job as a bank teller. The self-discipline and decision-making skills taught to her by her parents helped Christine work her way up from bank teller to founder and president of Sarasota Bank, at a time when women executives were rare. On her way to the top within the financial industry, she served in numerous leadership positions with various banks before serving as President, CEO, Chairman of the Board and Director of Sarasota Bank.

Since 1984, when Christine moved to Sarasota, she has been actively involved in the community. She has worked with families and neighbors to help them achieve their needs and their dreams. Working with small start-up businesses to large corporations, Christine has always offered integrity, dedication and service as she helped make those dreams a reality.

Her skills in community insight and consensus building have been finely tuned during her professional career and through her work in community service. She has served in the capacity of President for five community organizations, including the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota Film Festival and the Mental Health Association of Sarasota County.

In addition, she is a graduate of Leadership Manatee and served on the Executive Committee United Way of Manatee County. Her board affiliations are numerous and include the Community AIDS Network and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, among over a dozen other community memberships and leadership roles.

She was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to chair the Real Property-Lease Procurement Task Force and has been honored by many organizations, including the United Negro College Fund, the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Association of Fundraising Executives.

Christine Jennings retired from the banking industry in 2004 and remains involved in the community as she runs for Florida's 13th Congressional seat.

Christine Jennings for Congress * PO Box 49136 * Sarasota, FL 34230 * 941-366-8121

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