

Candidate: Stephen Blythe
Party: Democrat
State: Florida
District: 15



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): .

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 definitely need more support for classical music and live theater. In some parts of the country there is little access. In many areas where it is available, it is financially unavailable to many.

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): In theory it is good, but the focus needs to be on emphasizing teaching the arts.

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): I lived for many years where public radio and public TV were the majority of the media available, and so were vital parts of the community/society.

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 makes sense. Easy enough to have a piece of art appraised. However, I know of no other endeavor where the product is tax deductible at face value - the rule is always that you cannot deduct money you have not yet earned. Changing this, though, could benefit many charities if it were broadly changed. Doctors could deduct the value of charity care they delivered through non-profit agencies, for example. Might make society a better place.

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:
www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities

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