

Candidate: Robert G. Abboud
Party: Democrat
State: IL
District: 16



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):

I strongly agree that we need to increase funding so that art organizations can remain in my district. My opponent on 7/14/93 voted to eliminate the NEA and on 6/16/04 voted against an increase of \$10 million for NEA. These votes not only hurt the NEA but all the 16th district residents who benefit from these programs that the NEA funds.

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):

I have been running my campaign in the 16th district, which is very rural and has many undeserved areas. By re-granting funding and reinstating NEA programs the residents of the 16th district can have programs that impact their lives for the positive and include them into the community once again.

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):

Yes, it has been proven that those students who take part in art and music programs perform better in their academic subjects. We also need this funding to do a more updated study so we can learn from the results where positive and negatives are when it comes to the subject of NEA and our children's education.

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):

Coming from a very rural district, PBS is watched by many households. It has been said that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is one of the most trusted news institutions in the country. How can we cut funding to a national institution? Cutting funding would not only rob the viewers of quality programming but rob the individual stations also when it comes to their operating budgets.

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