

Candidate: Bert Copple
Party: Republican
State: MI
District: 12



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 am a huge fan of the arts. I am a published author, song writer, actor, and a member of Alpha Psi Omega.**

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 believe that we need to lower federal taxes. By doing so, states and localities will have the power and option to fund and support Arts projects within their own states and cities.**

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 would support this so long as federal taxes are not raised. If the money can be moved or shifted for this kind fo funding, I would support it.**

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): **I do not support NCLB. In fact, I do not believe the federal government should be funding public education or setting mandates. This should be a state issue and each state should have the right to educate their children as they wish. I do believe, however, that the federal governemnt should continue to provide student loans for those pursuing higher education, and that a system of Impact Award Grants should be offered to students, teachers, schools, and districts who think and teach outside of the box to set an example for the rest of the country.**

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 believe that we should maintain funding for Public Broadcasting, not increase it.**

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): **Artists deserve this tax deduction.**

Completed By: Bert Copple

Date: 8-8-08