

New York State Governor

Name: Andrew M. Cuomo

Office Sought: New York State Governor

Current Occupation & Employer: New York State Governor

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: As Governor, I have tried to address economic, social and cultural issues facing this state. I worked to create jobs throughout the state and worked with the private sector to create more private sector jobs in this state than any other state (with one exception) since the recession, and advanced legislation to allow same-sex marriage, as well as break down barriers faced by minorities. I will continue to push real reform for ordinary New Yorkers both upstate and downstate.

2. What is the role of arts and culture in New York State? Arts and culture is key to New York's identity. New York is the epicenter of the arts and culture economy in this country. Our institutions drive national and international conversation on the role of arts and culture in our lives and we are reminded that without the arts we are incomplete. I continue to believe that we must support the arts and culture in our schools, institutions and our lives, for it enriches us as New Yorkers and keeps us on the cutting edge of innovation and creativity.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development throughout the state and specifically in Western New York? NYS has long been a steward of the arts community, supporting over 3,000 arts, culture, and heritage institutions through grants from the NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA). NYSCA is now promoting new performances by groups like the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as new cultural venues such as the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Western New York and across the state. New York's tradition of artistic, cultural excellence is key to our development. I will continue to support such programs.

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism throughout the state and in Western New York? Similar to what we have done with the New York Tourism advertising campaign in the State, I would explore ways that we would highlight Western New York's arts and culture scene to attract residents and non-residents of this State to the region. We

have been successful in generating interest and support in other parts of the State and are excited about exploring ways to expand our reach in a new term.

5. Would you propose in your budget to decrease, hold steady, or increase grant funding for cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts if elected, and why? It is premature to evaluate budgetary issues, but preliminary I would support at the very least holding steady cultural organizations grant funding in New York State.

6. The Governor of the State of New York has the power to prioritize or highlight issues through their public appearances, speeches, and interviews. If elected, how vocal would you be in promoting arts and culture through your public appearances? I have and will continue to support arts and culture in my public appearances and remain open to how my Administration would be even more vocal in our support for arts and culture in New York State.

Name: Rob Astorino

Office Sought: New York State Governor

Astorino did not respond to the survey.

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY & SENATE QUESTIONS:

- 1. Please list your top three priorities if elected.**
- 2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community.**
- 3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in Western New York?**
- 4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Western New York?**
- 5. Would you vote to decrease, hold steady, or increase grant funding for cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts if elected, and why?**
- 6. Several of the Regional Economic Development Council plans throughout the state**

include arts and culture as a priority or targeted industry, but the WNY plan only mentions it in the context of tourism. If elected, would you advocate for the inclusion of arts and culture in the WNY REDC plan and for a cultural representative to sit on the council, and why?

New York State Senator - 59th District

Name: Patrick Gallivan

Office Sought:NYS Senate - 59th District

Current Occupation & Employer: NYS Senator - 59th District

1. Fiscal Responsibility Economic Development Equitable Distribution of Aid to Education
2. Enrichment of quality of life
3. Various communities have included arts and cultural projects in their economic development plans and I have been supportive. In my role as a representative of numerous communities in WNY, I will continue to advocate for the priorities of my constituents.
4. Continue to support projects identified by constituents that advance cultural and heritage tourism.
5. I have and will continue to support funding recommendations put forth by the NYS Council on the Arts
6. I am supportive of a cultural representative sitting on the REDC to ensure arts and culture are properly considered as an economic development tool/strategy.

New York State Senator - 60th District

Name: Mark J. Grisanti

Office Sought: New York State Senate 60th

Current Occupation & Employer: New York State Senator and Attorney

1. If reelected to the State Senate my priorities would be bringing good paying jobs to Western New York, continuing to lower taxes on our middle class working families, and ensure Western New York receives its fair share of aid from New York State.
2. Arts and Culture play a vital role in our community, throughout history both arts and culture have been indicators of the successes of various cultures. I believe having support in arts and culture is reflective of a community that is supportive of one another. Arts and culture serve as linchpins to the educational process not only for adults but for our children as well. Arts and Culture help to shape the positive outlook a community is facing, and as such should be supported.
3. I believe arts and culture need to play a pivotal role in the economic development of Western New York. As Western New York considers undertaking new projects I feel the needs of the cultural community should be listened to closely. As we have an opportunity to reshape Western New York we have the possibility of incorporating aspects of arts and culture that could serve and shape many future generations and as such the needs of this community should be considered as we move forward.
4. I would help to develop cultural and heritage tourism in Western New York, by supporting groups that promote these causes. I would gladly work with them and act as a liaison between them and New York State to ensure that their voices were heard. I would have an open door policy and ensure that these groups know they could pick up the phone at anytime to express to me their needs and concerns on issues that I can be helpful with therefore removing bureaucratic hurdles to their worthwhile endeavor*
5. I would vote to increase funding for projects funded through the NYS Council on the Arts. I currently serve on the New York State Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation and have had the opportunity as such to meet with*

6. I would gladly advocate for the inclusion of arts and culture in the WNY Regional Development Councils plans, as well as for the inclusion of a cultural representative. Other REDC throughout New York have seen fit to include arts and culture in their*

Name: Marc C. Panepinto

Office Sought: New York State Senate – District 60

Current Occupation & Employer: Partner Dolce Panepinto- Lawyer

1. My top three priorities are to raise the minimum wage turning it into a living wage, pass the Women's Equality Act (WEA) and to fully fund our public schools and reform the Common Core. I will also fight to end corporate welfare that places an unjust tax burden on the middle class and for IDA reform that promotes local job growth.

2. Arts and culture are the fabric that tie our community together. Whether a sporting event, a gallery opening, or a free movie night, without the culture industry our community would be left depleted and wanting. Furthermore, our cultural economy in Western NY is an engine of job creation.

3. As a private citizen I have funded the Road Less Traveled Theatre, sponsored the Elmwood Concert Series, and given to countless cultural events throughout Western New York. I*

4. I believe the waterfront is a wonderful asset within the 60th district. Our State's waterways provide for us an excellent opportunity to continue the development of cultural and heritage tourism here in Western New York. I would also hope to work with the arts community to develop new methods to continue the growth of our local cultural offerings on our waterfront, beyond the limited scope of tourism.

5. I would vote to increase grant funding for any and all cultural institutions that can create good paying, local jobs while enriching our communities.

6. I believe including an advocate or arts and cultures in the WNY REDC plan is a great idea. The cultural economy in our district is more comprehensive than just its tourism aspect. And in strengthening our economy its important to search all avenues and aspects of our Arts and Culture communities for opportunities to do create jobs.

Name: Kevin Stocker

Office Sought: New York State Senator – 60th District

Stocker did not respond to the survey.

New York State Senator - 61st District

Name: Elaine Altman

Office Sought: State Senate

Current Occupation & Employer: Director of Staff Development, Ken-Ton UFSD

1. Equality for Women inclusive of Reproductive Rights

Public Education and Fair Funding for all schools inclusive of restoration of valuable programs for students Returning control to Municipalities to form coalitions which support workers, students and communities

2. The arts represent a recapitulation of what humanity is capable of creating. Works of art provide a historical representation of creativity which is thoughtful, expressive and original. This is my 24th year in public education. I can tell you with certainty that students who are fortunate to participate in art and music classes throughout their educations understand the importance of practice, completion of work from "draft to masterpiece" and the value of creative expression.

3. We need to explore avenues which will expand the importance of arts and culture in our community as well as continue to support cooperative endeavors between the arts and our public schools.

4. I will work to support the valuable resources which frame the culture and uniqueness of the communities I hope to serve.

5. Ideally, I would want funding to increase under the auspices of the NYS Council on the Arts. The varied types of opportunities which they fund very often become part of our culture and heritage.

6. I feel that all community stakeholders inclusive of the arts and culture should be represented on the council. The arts are an integral component regarding economic development for our region.

Name: Michael H. Ranzenhofer

Office Sought: New York State Senate – 61st District, Incumbent

Ranzenhofer did not respond to the survey.

New York State Senator - 62nd District

Name: Johnny G. Destino

Office Sought: Member, NYS Senate – 62nd District

Current Occupation & Employer: Attorney - Self-employed

1. 1. Creation of jobs for working families by reducing the local energy costs and investing in infrastructure redevelopment.2. Immediate restoration of funding for public education by ending the Gap Elimination Adjustment and increasing Foundation Aid.3. Creating a

Student Loan Relief program for NYS families so that they can affordably refinance the high-cost student loans their children incur in furtherance of their education.

2. The role of arts and culture in Niagara and in WNY is to amplify the quality of life for its citizens, tourists, and visitors. We are fortunate to host many cultures from around the world as they come to see Niagara Falls. It is important to show these visitors that we appreciate them and their culture through art and through events that we can celebrate together.

Niagara Falls is also home to many talented musicians, artists, writers, dancers, sculptors and more- who want nothing more than to *

3. Innovation is the key to growth. This also holds true for economic development. There are endless opportunities for advancement when you support the arts. Supporting artists and their chosen form will lead to opportunities that will benefit a region. Imagine a dance company that has it's own forum, or a street festival that becomes synonymous with an area- People will come from far and wide to participate and enjoy the art. Those people need places to stay, eat, and shop, therefore benefitting a*

4. I think first and foremost, there needs to be a smart and detailed marketing campaign to promote the diversity and talent of the area. This would be a combined effort in promoting the historic value of our landmark sites. Making our history exciting and fun will draw more families to stay in our region longer and learn about the vivid and diverse history of Niagara. Everything from our rich Native American Culture, to ur daredevils, to how much energy Niagara Falls really contributes to the*

5. I will encourage art and culture in Niagara and provide funding for cultural organizations, activities, school and after school art programs, and also work to initiate cultural and art programs for senior citizens. I will explore ways to increase budgetary allocations for a variety of cultural organizations to further improve the quality of education and experience for those they serve.

6. It is imperative to hear a voice and advocate for the artists. As we know, art and music are the first programs to be cut when school budgets are slashed. We cannot afford to disregard the importance of local artists and their contributions to not only the quality of life of local citizens, but for the quality of experience for tourists and visitors. Their contributions have an effect on local business, job creation, and with the identity of a region.

Name: Robert G. Ortt

Office Sought: New York State Senate

Current Occupation & Employer: Mayor, City of North Tonawanda

1. 1. Improving the economic and business climate through comprehensive tax and regulatory reform. Less taxation means more private investment and jobs. 2. Protecting our Constitutional rights. This includes but is not limited to repeal of the NY SAFE act. 3. Public education. Repeal of reform of Common Core and making sure that our public schools are funded to the greatest extent possible.

2. I believe the arts and culture have a significant role in attracting families, as well as businesses. They bring in revenue to our communities and can act as economic engines as well as improve quality of life. As Mayor of North Tonawanda we are blessed with The Riviera Theatre, Alan Herschel Carousell Museum, as well as the Carnegie Arts Center, all of which have undergone renovations. Hundreds of thousands of people visit these destinations, and by extension, North Tonawanda, every year.

3. I believe that we need to promote culture and arts wherever we can. Again I have seen where arts and culture can act as an economic engine for local communities.

4. I would work with my constituents and local officials to see that more cultural and heritage institutions are submitting WNY REDC CFA applications as well as working with them to identify other funding sources.

5. There are many competing priorities that the public expects us to provide for. I will work to ensure that the arts and culture receive the greatest funding possible. If we can maintain current levels, I think that would be appropriate.

6. Yes. Because, as I have stated, I have seen how arts and culture can bring jobs and additional development to a community. The purpose of the WNY REDC is to spur development and help create jobs. I believe that arts and culture are part of that.

New York State Senator - 63rd District

Name: Timothy M. Kennedy

Office Sought: New York State Senate, 63rd District

Current Occupation & Employer: New York State Senate

1. 1. Putting Western New Yorkers back to work by attracting new businesses to the region that create jobs. 2. Arming our workforce with the skills and knowledge they need to fill the jobs being created. 3. Pushing aggressive reforms to our Child Protective Services system and increasing penalties for those abuse children.

2. With world-class museums, art collections and our celebrated and historic architecture, Western New York's arts and cultural institutions play a major role in our thriving tourism sector. They not only enrich the lives of those visiting or spending time in Western New York, but they also enrich the lives of those who live here. Arts and cultural tourism will long remain an important force driving the economic success of Buffalo and Western New York.

3. Funding for arts and cultural institutions is a vital component of our region's plans to bolster tourism and foster sustained economic growth. We accomplish this by providing support for projects like the Richardson Olmsted Complex, by continuing the investment in arts and culture along our waterfront, and by taking advantage of the rich cultural history Buffalo and Western New York have to offer. Our community is already seeing the benefits of these strategic investments.

4. I will continue to support funding for arts and cultural institutions that build upon our region's unique cultural heritage, and I'll remain a fierce advocate for historic preservation tax incentives. Preserving our history presents Buffalo with a path toward an even stronger economic future, and I'll continue to work with our community to capitalize on our region's cultural and heritage tourism opportunities.

5. I have supported numerous cultural organizations in their pursuit of New York State Council on the Arts funding. I support continuing to increase grant opportunities for arts and cultural organizations in our community.

6. Yes, arts and cultural institutions play a key role in our economy, and individuals who represent the industry should have the opportunity to offer their expertise to help Western New York utilize and build upon our region's cultural assets.

Name: Ricky T. Donovan

Office Sought: New York State Senator – 63rd District

Donovan did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly – 140th District

Name: William Reece

Office Sought: NYS Assembly , District #140

Current Occupation & Employer: Coppersmith, Glencroft Copper, Skilled Artisan- Arment

1. If elected, My priorities will include maintaining and growing the current level of funding to the WNY arts community, Working to improve the flow of information to and from Albany, and working non-stop to ensure Buffalo isn't left out of New York State's recovery.

2. I couldn't imagine a Christmas season without seeing the Buffalo Chorale Arts Society at St. Joseph's Cathedral, led by the amazing Marcia Giambone, or of ending the summer without visiting the Elmwood Art Festival. Buffalo has a long and glorious history of fostering art and artists and I will keep the arts in the forefront of any decision I have the opportunity to make on your behalf.

3. Economic Development can't take place in a vacuum, and we need to have a well rounded arts community to draw the types of companies that will provide the jobs we need. So all requests that pass through my office will have to show how they will incorporate the arts in their plans.

4. I would work with successful ventures like City of Night , Explore Buffalo and the Art festivals to expand and grow the vibrant cultural tourism that has sprung up and strive to provide funding to continue growing WNY as a destination.

5. I would vote to increase grant funding, because it's the right thing to do.

6. It should be included as not only a tourism draw, but as a means of bringing people back to the urban core to live and thrive. I believe a cultural representative sitting on the REDC would be a good step to achieve that goal.

Name: Robin Schimminger

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 140th District, Incumbent

Schimminger did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 141st District

Name: Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 141st District, Incumbent

Peoples-Stokes' survey was not received.

Member of Assembly - 142nd District

Name: Michael P. Kearns

Office Sought: New York State Assembly 142nd District

Current Occupation & Employer: Assemblyman, New York State

1. a. Leadership change in Albany with accompanying rules changes making the Assembly and state government more responsive to the people. b. Improving and enriching the lives of all Western New Yorkers. c. Making sure the needs and concerns of all constituents in the 142nd District are met.

2. The arts inspire all aspects of the community and economy, creative thinking and discipline are one of the primary pillars of civilization and community. I think President Kennedy said it best, "I LOOK FORWARD TO AN AMERICA WHICH WILL REWARD ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS AS WE REWARD ACHIEVEMENT IN BUSINESS OR STATECRAFT. I LOOK FORWARD TO AN AMERICA WHICH WILL STEADILY RAISE THE STANDARDS OF ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT AND WHICH WILL STEADILY ENLARGE CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

3. As a former professional fundraising consultant for the not for profit industry, I believe the arts can have a major role in economic development in Western New York. States and local governments have realized the arts are an economic engine in revitalizing communities, improving urban quality of life and enhancing the community image. Finally, we can harness the power of the arts and cultural tourism to promote Western New York.

4. Partnering with the Gaelic Athletic Association, I will be visiting Ireland to develop cultural and heritage tourism in Western New York. I will have the honor to meet with the Minister of Tourism and other Irish dignitaries to promote the arts in WNY. One example is housed at the University of Buffalo, the James Joyce Collection which contains more than 10,000 pages of the author's working papers and he is regarded as one of Ireland's greatest authors.

5. I would vote to expand funding for the Arts Council because we know through past successes that investment in the arts leverages additional development.

6. Yes. Ireland is investing in Toronto to promote tourism. Buffalo and WNY has an opportunity to be part of this conversation and foster relationships which can boost tourism with the support of the State and Regional Economic Development Council.

Member of Assembly - 143rd District

Name: Camille Brandon

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 143rd District

Brandon did not respond to the survey.

Name: Mark M. Mazurek

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 143rd District

Mazurek did not respond to the survey.

Name: Angela Wozniak

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 143rd District

Wozniak did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 144th District

Name: Jane L. Corwin

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 144th District, Incumbent

Corwin did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 145th District

Name: John D. Ceretto

Office Sought: NYS Assembly

Current Occupation & Employer: Member of NYS Assembly for the 145th District

1. If elected my top priorities always include bettering my community; whether it be through improvements in jobs, taxes or education. Ensuring the community has access to a diverse and quality education, including that of the arts, is incredibly important to me.
2. The arts are an invaluable part of our culture and helps shape who we are as a community.
3. I attend and support fundraisers for NACC in Niagara Falls and encourage arts to be part of the economic development of the community.
4. My wife, Beth and I are members of the Lewiston Council of the Arts. Through the volunteering and work we do with them, along with input from cultural and tourism leaders in our community, we can confidently ensure that cultural and heritage tourism develops in Western New York.
5. The arts are incredibly important and should be created and supported by our community in Western New York and across the state.
6. The arts should be represented by leaders in the community that are passionate about their development.

Member of Assembly - 146th District

Name: Steven G. Meyer

Office Sought: NYS Assembly, District 146

Current Occupation & Employer: Full-time candidate, because the people deserve full-time work on their behalf

1. As the only candidate for State Legislature in the entire nation who absolutely refuses to accept any campaign contributions from corporations and lobbyists, a major plank of my platform relates to government ethics reform. I believe that politicians who are convicted of corruption should be forced to give up both their pensions and benefits, because the hard working people of WNY deserve better than that. Another top priority of mine will be to reform our tax code, because I believe that it*

2. I firmly believe that art and cultural expression unites communities through a mutual appreciation and understanding for human expression. Art, in all of its forms, serves as a mechanism for communication between humans who may otherwise have no means of communication. From a philosophical standpoint, it liberates the human mind by allowing people to express opinions, thoughts, and statements through a dynamic perspective. From a practical and political standpoint, arts and culture build str*

3. Myself, I live in the Village of Williamsville. Every Thursday and Saturday, I take advantage of the ability to meet neighbors, friends, and family for a drink and a good meal all in the presence of live music. "Music on Main", as the recurring event is called, has turned out to be of tremendous value to the village- local businesses in the village, from my observation, seem to be benefiting from arts and culture tremendously. That being said, I plan on investing myself in WNY Arts and Cultur*

4. I would develop a short-term and long-term strategic plan to encourage local communities to launch their own unique arts and culture initiatives. First, I would need to reach out to local leaders (mayors, board members, etc) to make sure that they understand the need for artistic expression within their community. Next, I would propose village-specific arts plans for each communities, and ask one leader from each locale to pursue the project on their own. Aside from my strategic arts plan, I*

5. I would consistently vote to increase grant funding for cultural organizations through the Council on the Arts because I strongly believe that the foundation of any successful society exists within the fabric of it's community. There is no doubt in my mind that strong communities build a strong economy- and I believe that in order to build a strong community, we need to encourage cultural and artistic expression as a means of connections among residents.

6. Western New York has a very dynamic artistic culture, one that I honestly believe cannot be found anywhere else in the country. For those here who are involved in the arts, they know exactly what I mean when I say that this community that has bee*

Name: Raymond W. Walter

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 146th District, Incumbent

Walter did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 147th District

Name: David J. DiPietro

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 147th District, Incumbent

DiPietro did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 148th District

Name: Joseph M. Giglio

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 148th District, Incumbent

Giglio did not respond to the survey.

Member of Assembly - 149th District

Name: Sean M. Ryan

Office Sought: New York State Assembly 149th District

Current Occupation & Employer: New York State Assembly

1. Reform the practices of the Industrial Development Agencies. Make sure that the waterways in WNY are clean and accessible to everyone. Continue the economic progress in Buffalo.

2. Arts and culture make a community more attractive to outsiders, whether those be businesses looking to move here or simply individuals looking for a new start in a new city. Like having beautiful park space, having a thriving arts culture increases the livability and overall satisfaction with a community.

3. Western New York has some of the best historical culture anywhere. This history is the foundation upon which our culture develops. We must make sure that this history is preserved and protected. We must also, however, make sure that we do not stagnate in the past and continue to look forward. We can do this by developing new cultural institutions and producing new art. By doing this, we ensure that Western New York will have a role to play in the development of the culture of the next generation

4. Western New York has made great strides in developing cultural tourism. We have cultural institutions of the highest quality -- museums that are known throughout the nation and the world, unique festivals that attract people from all over, and a history that has been preserved and remains interesting to all visitors. We must not settle for what we have now. In order to move forward, we must not be satisfied, but continue to build on the already thriving community that we have.

5. Increased funding for the arts has a net benefit to communities across New York. Increasing the funding to these organizations is an important part of continuing the progress made in Western New York.

6. Art should be a consideration for the REDC. I would support the call to place a cultural representative on the council. This is an important segment of our community. To not have it on the council is to ignore a large part of what makes us great.

Name: Jacob Bratek

Office Sought: New York State Assembly – 149th District

Bratek did not respond to the survey.

Representative in Congress- 26th District

Name: Brian Higgins

Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives, NY-26

Current Occupation & Employer: Representative, NY-26

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: Creating jobs & economic growth is the foundation of my service. I support a robust investment in infrastructure to put people back to work & make our transportation system more efficient. Increasing funding for medical research promotes job growth at the BNMC. Cleaning up the Great Lakes protects the investment we are making at our waterfront. This supports WNY's vibrant arts community as evidenced by Main St. work supporting our Theater District & new cultural offerings on the waterfront.

2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community? Arts and Culture are clear economic drivers, with a annual local impact in excess of \$150 million. The arts also play an important role in enhancing the truly extraordinary quality of life we enjoy here in

Western New York. The entire region benefits from collaboration between the public sector, private sector and arts community.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in Western New York? With the continued development of Buffalo's waterfront comes new opportunities to expand public access to art and culture at the water's edge. The federal work returning cars to Main Street draws new traffic to the Theater District. The Niagara Falls Train Station project creates a new Underground Railroad museum at the historic Custom's House. The Cobblestone District National Historic designation encourages private sector investment in an area supporting smaller music venues.

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Western New York? Western New York's history should not be seen as a challenge but as an opportunity. From our proximity to Niagara Falls and the Erie Canal to our rich architecture and parks, this community's place and past can remake our future. We are just starting to embrace this idea. As we, as a community, continue to build on the excitement for what is naturally ours other from outside the area are taking note and will continue to do so.

5. Would you vote to decrease, hold steady, or increase funding for cultural organizations through the National Endowment for the Arts if elected, and why? I have consistently supported increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts because its grants have a positive economic multiplier effect, especially in communities with many significant cultural institutions like Western New York.

6. If elected, would you support the passage of the Artist Museum Partnership Act (HR 4282), which allows artists to deduct from their income tax the fair market value of their work when they donate their work to charitable collecting institutions? Yes. I am a cosponsor of this legislation.

Name: Kathy Weppner

Office Sought: House of Representatives

Current Occupation & Employer: Dennis M. Weppner PC

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: Bring millions of fulltime jobs back to the U.S. so citizens can put food on their tables and raise their families. Help people get off public assistance. We must get our healthcare system back from the federal bureaucracy that has hijacked it. Adding more administrators and processors that extract incomes from premiums does not deliver actual care. Insurance and care are two different things. Get the federal government out of our children's classrooms.

2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community? I spent endless hours at the Museum of Science, Buffalo Zoo, Tift Nature Preserve for summer programs, TOY, the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo Philharmonic and every other venue for families while my children were growing up. They were a VITAL part of what it was to live in Western New York and we had season passes so we went OFTEN! It is VERY important and is what families look for when they decide to relocate. It is a way that children become inspired.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in Western New York? When we travelled we always looked ahead at what the kids would like to do. If we couldn't find enough things we looked elsewhere. Families travel in the summer and I think family packages that are put together by the trade would be helpful. We are an area that has so much to offer from rural to city, farming to plays and concerts to boating and hiking. Very diverse! We would go to Toronto and see three performances/plays/musicals and dining and hotels and the kids loved it!

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Western New York? I would say we would be a great getaway from the hustle and bustle of city living. Where you can easily get anywhere in 20 minutes. Tour a dairy farm, see Shakespeare in the park, go kayaking, sailing, jet skiing and the greatest food venues in the country. We have summer festivals that beat every city. I have been at most of them! We also have Niagara Falls which I mention last because it is obvious.

5. Would you vote to decrease, hold steady, or increase funding for cultural organizations through the National Endowment for the Arts if elected, and why? It would be fantastic if we didn't need them! We should be a thriving community with so many patrons that they are self sustaining. Half of the NEA budget is payroll, spending 75 million dollars on paying people to process requests from us!

6. If elected, would you support the passage of the Artist Museum Partnership Act (HR 4282), which allows artists to deduct from their income tax the fair market value of their work when they donate their work to charitable collecting institutions? We shouldn't single out one profession to do this. If it is fair for artists then it should be fair for anyone making anything and donating it. I would agree to that!

Representative in Congress- 27th District

Name: Chris Collins

Office Sought: Representative in Congress – 27th District, Incumbent

Collins did not respond to the survey.

Name: Jim O'Donnell

Office Sought: Representative in Congress – 27th District

O'Donnell did not respond to the survey.

Erie County Legislator - 3rd District (To Fill Vacancy)

Name: Peter Savage

Office Sought: Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Current Occupation & Employer: Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: My top three priorities are:1. Budget responsibly to ensure that Erie County's finances remain stable so we can fund critical investments and provide services to our residents;2. Ensure that we provide funding to

support our cultural institutions, libraries, and infrastructure;3. Be accessible and responsive to the needs and concerns of the constituents of the 3rd Legislative District.

2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community in general, and specifically in Erie County? Arts and culture play a pivotal role in our community and Erie County. They not only generate tourism, serve as a catalyst for economic development activity, but perhaps most important represent a significant aspect of our identity, heritage and pride as a region.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in Erie County? Arts and culture play a significant role in economic development activity in Erie County by creating critical mass through tourism and local activity which drives projects and creates jobs for our community. I am a strong proponent of building off of our strengths, and we have many cultural assets in the 3rd Legislative District, which serve as anchors, that stabilize our neighborhoods, and encourage investment.

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Erie County? Through education, awareness, and promotion of our great assets in Erie County and by continuing to tell the great story of our community. We are generating a new and exciting interest in our community and we have a tremendous opportunity to incorporate Buffalo's rich cultural heritage into this vision.

5. Would you vote to decrease, hold steady, or increase operational funding for cultural organizations if elected, and why? As a member of the Erie County Legislature, I am committed to working with my partners in government to explore opportunities for additional funding for cultural organizations if available, and will strongly oppose any effort to cut cultural funding.

6. Would you support the creation of a committee to discuss dedicated funding for the cultural sector? I am open to working with my partners in government and community stakeholders to explore and discuss opportunities to aid in funding for the cultural community.

Buffalo Common Council Member - University District (To Fill Vacancy)

Name: Rasheed N. C. Wyatt

Office Sought: University District Council Member

Current Occupation & Employer: Council Member City of Buffalo

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: Community Engagement CrimeJobs

2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community in general, and specifically in

Buffalo? I believe arts and culture provide an insight into the heart and history of our City.

They are necessary ingredients to give our city a uniqueness and life.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in

Buffalo? I am currently supporting the establishment of the University Heights Arts Association in my district in hopes of its development into an economic engine. The organization put on it's first event this past August which was very successful. I am looking forward to supporting them on future endeavors bringing the community together and showing the vibrancy of the University District and the City of Buffalo.

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Buffalo? Although this

would probably be more of an Administrative role under the Mayor I would support increased cultural heritage and tourism for the City of Buffalo.

5. If elected, will you decrease, hold steady, or increase operational funding for cultural organizations and establish a merit-based, peer review process for cultural funding allocations such as the Buffalo Arts Funding Advisory Committee?

I would hold steady the current funding for cultural organizations, and look for opportunities to increase as the City budget allows.

6. Will you enforce the One Percent for Public Art ordinance already on the books that requires all projects receiving city funding to allocate one percent of the total project to public art? I support the one percent for public Art ordinance.

Name: James E. Rozanski

Office Sought: Common Council member - University District

Current Occupation & Employer: Architect - retired from the University at Buffalo

1. Please list your top three priorities if elected: Most will say jobs, crime, and education. But I want to be realistic about where I would concentrate. Enhancing communication between City government and citizens and businesses. People should know what is going on. Encouraging more community engagement and participation in City government. Get people involved in governing process. Improving our built environment. Our physical environment plays a large role in affecting our everyday life. This includes our buildings, streets, and open space.

2. What is the role of arts and culture in our community in general, and specifically in Buffalo? Arts and culture (A&C) consists of many things. People participate in A&C in varying levels as creators, performers, consumers, supporters. A&C helps define our community identity. It encourages participation in civic life. It cuts across demographic and socioeconomic lines. It is a strong educational arena. A&C enhances people's lives.

3. What is the role of arts and culture in your plans for economic development in Buffalo? Arts and culture can not be separated from economic activity. If we want to attract people and businesses to live in, invest in, and visit our City, we need a strong A&C environment.

4. How would you develop cultural and heritage tourism in Buffalo? The people and groups promoting tourism appear to be doing a fine job. I do not see myself leading the charge. But I would try to help however needed. Naturally, funding is always an issue.

5. If elected, will you decrease, hold steady, or increase operational funding for cultural organizations and establish a merit-based, peer review process for cultural funding allocations such as the Buffalo Arts Funding Advisory Committee? The main goal is for cultural organizations to be successful. The Arts Committee was formed by the City Charter in 1991. Seven members are selected by Common Council. Need to work together in open and fair process. The committee needs more visibility.

6. Will you enforce the One Percent for Public Art ordinance already on the books that requires all projects receiving city funding to allocate one percent of the total project to public art? The mayor enforces laws. I am presently trying to get the City to adhere to the Charter requirement on current and future projects and will continue to do so.