

District	Office	Party	Name	Studying music and other fine arts subjects helps improve student performance in other academic courses?	Student involvement in music and other fine arts subjects reduces the drop-out rate by keeping some at-risk students interested in school?	Music and other arts education courses are especially important now for supporting students' social and emotional needs?	Music and other fine arts instruction provides students with learning skills that enhance college preparedness?	Creativity and collaboration fostered by a fine arts education are traits highly valued by employers in building a 21st-century workforce?	Should students be removed from music and other fine arts courses for STAAR test preparation and remediation?	Would you be willing to become a member of a legislative fine arts caucus during the 88th session?	We welcome your comments. They will be published for our members to read.
4	House	LIB	Matt Savino	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Undecided	STARR testing is a waste of everyone's time, students and teachers alike. I would to see it completely removed. Fine Arts should be available as long as there is an interest for it. ie. if there are enough students interested in playing in a band then the school needs to hire a band teacher. Same if there is interest in drama or plays. Fine Arts are a great addition to growing up. Even if the student doesn't stick with it, I'm sure they still got something out of it and it helps give them a rounded education.
6	House	DEM	Cody Grace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	My daughter is a theater student at an arts magnet school and we are heavy supporters of arts programs. I think arts curriculum is incredibly important.
13	House	DEM	Cedric Davis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Yes	As a former public educator, first responder, and Desert Storm Veteran; I thank you for your public service to your communities. Hon. Cedric Davis Sr., CPM, CSCP, CPFIO City Manager Marlin, TX
13	House	REP	Angelia Orr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	My children were members of the Itasca Wampus cat band for many years. We always enjoyed going to marching band competitions and escorting the children to games around our area. My kids graduated 9 years ago and my husband went to a game Friday night just to support the two band directors that had their bands marching during halftime.
14	House	LIB	Jeff Miller	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	No	Yes	Theater and Broadcast Journalism were definitely big reasons I found high school worthwhile! Parents, teachers, and students should be able to participate in whatever fine arts programs they wish, without government interference.
17	House	DEM	Madeline Eden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thank you for your interest in my campaign. Additional funding and support for music and fine arts education is something I intend to champion during the 2023 legislative session. Please feel free to send me any additional information/resources you feel may be helpful in that regard. (info@edenfortexas.com)
17	House	IND	Linda Curtis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	No	Want more info	I am so grateful that my under-educated parents had the smarts to allow me to take band and to pay for piano and dance lessons. I know how important that was to my development and even math skills. I'm with you guys. I will be honest that education has not been my focus due to the stress my district is under in HD17. Our water resources, the basis of our wealth in a working class community, are the target of profiteers inside and outside government. That said, I'm sure the Speaker will not put me on the Natural Resources Committee. I might wind up on a committee that's geared towards your issue(s). Happy to try to help IF I'm lucky enough to get elected. I'm running as an independent but with a shot. Good luck to you all. Linda Curtis
19	House	DEM	Pam Baggett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine arts education not only improves standardized test scores, it also increases the quality of understanding and enjoyment throughout a student's life. It also helps them help their own children in the fun and pleasure of these arts.
22	House	REP	Jacorion Randle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As a musician myself, I advocate students to learning a string instrument at an earlier age. The scientific evidence shows that it helps develop the frontal lobe of the brain, but also it helps with building friendships and belonging.
24	House	DEM	Michael Creedon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Public Education is a core value for me. And, the arts are essential for a quality public education. I look forward to progressing the agenda of safeguarding the arts in schools and providing the opportunity for our students to discover their passions and in turn enrich the world with their work.
24	House	LIB	Ryan McCamy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Growing up, I was one of those students that poured into the fine arts extracurricular activities. Fine arts are just as important as athletics to help develop social and learning skills in children.
26	House	DEM	Daniel Lee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	We are fans of the arts, in fact, we support young arts and promote their craft at shows. We believe that creative young people are the motor that drives our future and our future is so bright from the many young artists that come from Texas.

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27	House	REP	Sohrab Gilani	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I support Fine Arts Education as part of a well balanced educational curriculum to prepare today's students for future success in their social, personal and professional lives.
28	House	DEM	Nelvin Adriatice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine arts, improve and encourages our children's confidence, creativity and above all perseverance. I am a proud product student of fine arts, it was thru these extracurricular engagements that I found my voice, during participation I was able to seen. Thank you for continuing on building this platform across Texas.
31	House	DEM	Martha Gutierrez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
33	House	DEM	Graeson Lynskey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I grew up in Texas public schools and in fine arts programs. I actually competed every year for the TMEA All State Choir in High School, and I eventually went to college to pursue a degree in the fine arts. So much of who I am is born out of a commitment to artistic excellence and expression that eventually translated to other personal and professional endeavors. Arts education absolutely must be protected, bolstered, and expanded across our state if we have any hope of competing in a global workforce. I look forward to working on these issues when I assume office.
34	House	DEM	Abel Herrero	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	
37	House	DEM	Luis Villarreal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I was in band at Hanna High school. I had the honor of participating in state marching competitions and I can say it help me become who I am today.
44	House	DEM	Robert Bohmfalk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I was in band in Jr. High in Beeville. I was in sports in high school in Uvalde. The Fine Arts budget should be as big and important as a schools sports program.
45	House	DEM	Erin Zwiener	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
46	House	DEM	Sheryl Cole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	I am a proud supporter of fine arts in our schools, but my support doesn't just end at K-12. I have a record of supporting arts and cultural centers for all, especially for underserved populations that need it the most. I also continually support investment in the professional arts, such as with the Texas Film Incentive program.
46	House	LIB	Thomas Kost	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	I really enjoy music and fine arts. I play the bass and my daughter is heavily involved in art, theater, and music in high school. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views and you have my support.
47	House	DEM	Vikki Goodwin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Undecided	My mom was an artist and taught me an appreciation for the fine arts. My daughter loves to dance, and participated in dance throughout her years in K-12, and into college. She is now a choreographer and dance teacher in Los Angeles. While many parents will discourage their children from pursuing a career in dance or other fine arts, I believe we should all pursue our passions and find a way to make that work. I know children need to be exposed to all forms of art, and encouraged to follow their passions whether as a hobby or a career.
48	House	LIB	Daniel McCarthy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Having been a member of the International Thespian Society myself I am very familiar with the ways in which arts education can benefit students who otherwise don't find a lot of value in the rote memorization prevalent in most curricula. The friendships, outlet for expression and even the ways in which to handle stress under pressure I learned are just as valuable - if not more so - as the lessons about covalent bonds or calculating the area of a sphere. I pledge to do what I can to encourage students, educators and parents to emphasize the arts as part of a balanced, enriching education experience. Dan McCarthy

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49	House	LIB	David Roberson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine Arts education was a pillar of my experience in all levels of scholastic learning. In addition to exposing me to different perspectives and expressions, I found enjoyment, peace, and freedom within these pursuits. Creativity and discipline are deftly joined in fine arts, and every student ought to have the opportunity to benefit from fine arts education.
50	House	DEM	James Talarico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Our students deserve a well-rounded education and as a former teacher, I have seen the impact of a fine arts education firsthand. I am deeply committed to strengthening arts programs in our public schools.
50	House	LIB	Ted Brown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
50	House	REP	Victor Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Yes	No	Yes	I fully support arts and music education in our school systems. I have two fine grandchildren enrolled in Texas schools and both are participating in the arts, and both are band members. They love it and I believe it helps to expand their ability in other subjects, such as math.
51	House	DEM	Lulu Flores	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I strongly support the arts and value fine arts education. I have served on the board of the Mexic-Arte Museum, including as President. In those capacities, I lobbied and passed a bill that made the museum the Official Mexican and Mexican-American Fine Arts Museum of Texas and also passed a city bond election to grant Mexic-Arte its first \$4 million towards its capital fund. Similarly, I serve on the Austin Arts Commission, which I have also chaired in the past. I hope to work with you to advance the arts at the Legislature.
54	House	DEM	Jonathan Hildner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
54	House	REP	Brad Buckley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The benefit of quality fine arts opportunities and education for Texas school students is irrefutable. In the wake of the pandemic, the arts will play even a more important role in providing young people a space for creative expression that will only enhance their ability to achieve in other academic areas. Time and time again, it has been proven true that a robust arts education is a vital component to a positive campus culture that impacts both students enrolled in the arts and those that choose not to participate. A positive campus culture enhances student achievement, social-emotional well-being, and school safety. Now is the time to recognize the power of the arts and create opportunity for more participation for young Texans. I have been proud to serve as the Texas House Chair for the Texas Legislative Fine Arts Education Caucus for the 87th Legislative Session. I look forward to continuing my support of the arts in our Texas schools.
55	House	REP	Hugh Shine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Undecided	
56	House	DEM	Erin Shank	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	I am a product of Texas public schools. I am now a successful attorney running for the Texas House. The teacher that influenced my life the most was David Heath, my high school drama coach. He took a shy child, who was growing up in a broken home, who had no self confidence and pushed her on to a stage. I won award after award and gained the self confidence that I have today. I also served on the Board of the Waco Civic Theatre for many years here in Waco. I will be a strong advocate for the arts when I am representing H.D. 56 the Texas House.

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57	House	LIB	Darren Hamilton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	It is my personal belief that STAAR tests should be removed and not replaced. It seems to me that their only purpose is to statistically rate educationl levels for the sole benefit of school administrations and politiccil bodies, and do not benefit the students themseleves. Assessment tests like these should be used sparingly (if at all) because, in my opinion, they do not make well-prepared students where any participation in fine arts subjects will. As an (at that time) undiagnosed autistic, I excelled at standard school subjects but I was bored. My participation in orchestra, and later in choir and theater helped me personally engage with my education. Students need things that they can dig into, where they can find enjoyment, and (from my own experience) maintain social connections with peers because not everyone can find satisfaction in mathematics, one of the sciences, or history. To quote Robin Williams, " Medicine, law, business, engineering, are all noble pursuits, and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for."
61	House	DEM	Sheena King	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I am a fourth generation Texan with a business degree and over 25 years of experience in the financial services and insurance industry attaining more than 10 designations and licenses. This uniquely provides me with both the depth and breadth of knowledge of this trust based industry and the importance of integrity of our shared humanity. Additional experiences include the following: redistricting, financial budgeting, sales, conflict resolution, negotiation, change adoption, business continuity, and compliance, all of which will position me for success in the role. I am active in every community in which I've lived and the consistent theme of my service has been and will continue to be a light to others through random acts of kindness, volunteerism, education, civic engagement and societal services.
63	House	DEM	H Denise Wooten	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I have been a psychologist with children with developmental differences for over 30 years. Frequently my clients have strengths in the Fine Arts that enhance not only their intellectual growth, but their social connectedness and emotional well-being. I shudder to think what the school lives of many of my clients would have been without being able to engage with a variety of Fine Arts. Further, Fine Arts productions done by children and older students can touch the hearts and souls of those privileged to watch them perform. In summary, it is my strong belief that the Fine Arts are golden in the development of neurotypical and neuroatypical students.
65	House	DEM	Brittney Verdell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As a mother of a 6th grader, her cello means everything to her. She is excited about her private lessons and shows me the new notes she's learned. I truly see the value of fine arts. As a former percussion player from 7th-10th grade, band kept me grounded and my grades high.
65	House	REP	Kronda Thimesch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Fine arts is an important part of our students education experience. Several executives that I worked for in a Fortune 500 Company had undergraduate studies in music. They were incredibly successful in business, and attributed their success to access to fine arts training in school. Regarding this questions: "Should students be removed from music and other fine arts courses for STAAR test preparation and remediation?" School districts should have the flexibility to provide remediation or additional tutoring for students in a manner that works best for all involved. Teacher availability, student schedules and transportation are important considerations when providing additional studies for students. We all want our students to be successful in school and after graduating from school.

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67	House	DEM	Kevin Morris	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Kevin Morris is running to represent Texas House District 67 in Collin County to give regular people a voice in the Texas state legislature. He is a family man who believes in freedom, equality, and the great opportunities Texas can provide. Kevin is heavily involved in his children's extracurricular activities and knows the importance of providing a good education to every child across the state. Some of his top priorities once in office will be ensuring our public schools are properly funded, we address the statewide teacher shortage, and that our students are safely able to learn the lessons they need to be successful. Kevin understands that the fine arts are part of a well rounded education and he will work to ensure the state's budget supports these programs in public schools.
69	House	DEM	Walter Coppage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Music is extremely important in school. I participated in band and choir, don't ask how long ago. My friends from those organizations were important then and important now. Being part of something, like band, like choir, like speech, like drama, in the end makes a better student and I think a better individual. They have students with similar interests that become friends for a lifetime. Music is a positive for anyone and everyone. Thanks.
70	House	DEM	Mihaela Plesa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
70	House	REP	Jamee Jolly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I have also had the pleasure of working hand-in-hand with our local Fine Arts Department on the development of a new Fine Arts facility. I have seen first hand how the arts impacts students, but also how the business community values students who have received this type of training. We must continue to make sure students have the time and resources made available to them to have access to these valuable programs.
71	House	REP	Stan Lambert	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Through numerous different studies, we have seen that Music and Fine Arts Education enhances learning and creates skills that improve achievement and assessment. It teaches collaboration, problem solving and self-confidence, all skills that benefit our students both inside and outside of the classroom. My own elementary music teacher, Mrs. Drennan, instilled in me the importance of confidence in public speaking, something that has helped greatly throughout my career. As a father, the husband of a career educator, and a school board member, the importance of a Music and Fine Arts Education has been shown to me time and time again, and it is certainly worth the investment in our schools.
73	House	REP	Carrie Isaac	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Yes	Undecided	Undecided	
74	House	DEM	Eddie Morales	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thank you for providing us with an opportunity for input. HD74 is by the largest district by geography but very rural. Any fine art experiences that students can participate in is likely to enhance their resume and open their eyes and views to more possibilities.
74	House	REP	Katherine Parker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
76	House	DEM	Suleman Lalani	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I've always been a fan of the arts and in fact, myself, enjoy painting as a hobby. As a Doctor, I tell my patients these activities are very good for our brain and help improve cognitive function. I support your causes.
83	House	REP	Dustin Burrows	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Undecided	
87	House	LIB	Nick Hearn	Yes	Want more info	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Want more info	Undecided	
87	House	REP	Four Price	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
92	House	DEM	Salman Bhojani	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
95	House	DEM	Nicole Collier	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	

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95	House	REP	Taylor Mondick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thanks for your work, I wholeheartedly believe in the power of music & fine arts education.
98	House	DEM	Shannon Elkins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I studied music throughout my childhood, and my mother was an arts administrator. Fine arts education is paramount to school success. As a Special Education teacher, I prioritize fine arts education for my students. Thank you for the essential work you do to further fine arts development in our schools.
99	House	DEM	Mimi Coffey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	At 53, I am learning to play the piano. I wish I had taken band when I was in school. My oldest son was the drum major, he is about to finish his Phd in stem cell physiology (reproducing a rat intestine). He and I cherish our time doing music. The arts is so critical to a happy and well balanced life for everyone. It is also responsible for the beauty in the world.
100	House	DEM	Venton Jones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	
103	House	DEM	Rafael Anchia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	My youngest daughter is a theater conservatory member at Booker T Washington HS in Dallas.
103	House	IND	Alejandro Arrieta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The Arts are a very important component to our society and culture. Individuals are all unique, and we all have different forms of expressing our uniqueness. For many it is through the arts. Whether that is through acting, dancing, drawing, singing, you name it - these are all various forms of arts. Some of us perform them while ALL us enjoy them as various forms of entertainment. We take music for example. There are different genres of music just in America alone. When you take all of the different countries and backgrounds that make up America it expounds tremendously the types of music, instruments, and experiences that we all enjoy, and in the end has great influence on our lives. The Arts need to be embraced.
105	House	REP	Allan Meagher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	As a former Council Member of 16 years in Irving, I have had the opportunity to watch our community grow. With that growth, we have seen just how important it is to ensure that education is adequately funded. As State Representative, I will work to ensure that the leaders of tomorrow have the resources they need today to be successful.
107	House	LIB	Shane Newsom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	No	Yes	Yes	I think the fine arts can be a good for a lot of kids in a lot of ways. Everything from just pure enjoyment to the point letting out negative ideas. I believe fine arts can just be as any other types of sports or after school programs. It should be about the kid enjoying what they want and not be made to fit in a box. With that said, when I took fine arts classes. They were still pretty set on one way of doing things. The basics are great to have, but at times. You just need to let them do what they see and good. Not everyone has the same view of what is beautiful. Not common things can be great. Then they express themselves with out limits or boundaries.
108	House	DEM	Elizabeth Ginsberg	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I am thrilled to learn about your organization. I know the value of an arts education first hand -- my daughter participated in theater throughout school, and just graduated college as a theater major. The skills she has developed through these experiences have prepared her for the future in developing teamwork skill, creative thinking and critical thinking.
113	House	DEM	Rhetta Bowers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
114	House	DEM	John Bryant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Three years of high school choir under a great choir director, John Magee, at Brazosport Senior High was the most memorable experience of my secondary education. I want every student to experience the arts.
115	House	DEM	Julie Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
115	House	REP	Melisa Denis	Yes	Want more info	No	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Want more info	I believe that arts help our students become better, well-rounded students.

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117	House	REP	Aaron Schwope	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine art programs, I believe help shape many students futures and help develop potential they never knew they had. Many students use that teacher as a mentor.
118	House	DEM	Frank Ramirez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
118	House	REP	John Lujan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Undecided	Fine Arts is very important for our students and many times is a major factor in the success and career advancement within their lives.
120	House	DEM	Barbara Gervin-Hawkins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine Arts play a pivotal role in the development of young people. Having exposure to the arts field (music, dance, art classes, band, plays, choir etc.) helps shape a child and serves as an on ramp for creativity, confidence building, innovation and much much more. If we don't do this how can we have qualified stage hands (set builders), successful actors and actresses, clothes designers, creative thinkers, make-up artist and most importantly address the needs of an artists child. Let's not destroy children and industries like we did when schools got rid of vocational training.
121	House	DEM	Becca Moyer DeFelice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As a Texas public school parent, I am a strong supporter of fine arts in Texas public schools. I have personally experienced the growth in confidence, social skills, creative thinking, and math skills in my own child and her peers as they participated in their elementary & middle school strings program. I believe that every public education student in Texas should have access to fine arts instruction and I am absolutely opposed to restricting student or campus access to fine arts education for below-grade level STAAR performance. I strongly support increasing per-student funding for Texas public education to ensure that each student is able to thrive, all classrooms and programs are adequately funded to meet the needs of their students and educators, and educators are competitively compensated.
121	House	REP	Steve Allison	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine arts education plays such an important part in the development of our students. Thanks for all you do to recognize and enhance the value of fine arts.
122	House	DEM	Angi Aramburu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I have a BA in Theatre, a MA in Arts Administration, and have worked professionally as a marketing and development Director in non-profit theatre and as an arts management consultant. I believe the fine arts are critical to a well-rounded education and will support every effort to improve access and participation for all grade levels.
124	House	DEM	Josey Garcia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I am a strong believer and supporter of the arts, and have teamed up with a local artist to create a unique program that is using art as therapy to help heal. Fine Arts Education aids in the stimulation of children's imaginations, as well as their cognitive and problem-solving skills. Fine Arts was a very important element of education that helped my twins, who both have Autism, navigate their emotions, and improve their basic communication skills. At a time when Texas children have endured so many challenges, I would like to see Fine Arts Education more widely used as a tool to help support children's mental health as they process the changes of our post-pandemic world.
124	House	REP	Johnny Arredondo	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	Want more info	Want more info	Yes	I, myself was in the band in middle and high school. It was a wonderful experience that I still remember to this day.
125	House	DEM	Ray Lopez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	As a former School Board trustee, I have been a strong advocate. As a City Councilmen I also supported investment in Arts and Culture programs.
128	House	DEM	Chuck Crews	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine Arts are what make us human, whether that be through performative arts such as Music, Drama, and Dance, or physical arts such as Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. Art, in all forms, begins with imagining what does not yet exist, and striving to make real what was once just a dream. Without Art, there is no human progress.
129	House	DEM	Kat Marvel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The connection between music and math is long established. If schools are truly interested in a holistic approach to education and child development, there is no excuse for denying arts funding.

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131	House	REP	Gerry Monroe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
134	House	DEM	Ann Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
134	House	LIB	Carol Unsicker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Undecided	Art programs as sport programs should be separated from the school system. As anyone who studied and/or work in the Arts, patronage is hugely needed. Also the separation wouldn't have any censorship, just creativity and new art.
135	House	DEM	Jon Rosenthal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	My father was a Math prodigy and a Math professor at UT Austin for decades. He also loved music and the arts and was a fairly accomplished classical pianist and vocalist. And while I am an Engineer from the Oil & Gas industry, I also play piano and appreciate the arts. My upbringing stressed the importance of well-rounded education to include the arts and also physical activity - and that would already be enough for me personally to support fine arts education initiatives. Beyond my own experiences, numerous studies show that students succeed and develop better when fine arts and robust extracurriculars are integral to public education. I'm also a proponent of STEAM initiatives that combine technical and arts learning to great effect for both. Finally I'll say that as a mechanical design and systems engineer, I believe that the very best engineered solutions are elegant, simple, and crafted and represent a blending of art and science. "The best of both worlds"
136	House	DEM	John Bucy III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I run youth athletic, academic, and arts competitions and fully understand the vital role the arts play in fostering essential skills, developing well-rounded individuals, and in enriching our lives. I've sponsored legislation to make Fine Arts part of the core curriculum and supported local artists, from youth to adults, by featuring their work in my office and on social media. I've also been active as a supporter of the local Penfold Theater.
136	House	LIB	Burton Culley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	My career work is in IT Consulting, yet I was heavily involved in the Fine Arts from elementary school through college. I do not recall all of the lessons in my "core courses", but I can remember most if not all of the songs sung in choir, and performances of plays four decades (and more) later. For what it's worth, I do not like the STAAR testing. I do not believe it is of value, and actually does harm to education by barring students from other activities.
136	House	REP	Michelle Evans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
137	House	DEM	Gene Wu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Undecided	
137	House	LIB	Lee Sharp	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Undecided	Yes	One of the problems we are seeing in education today is that is it becoming too focused. College prep, OR vocational training. And even secondary education is becoming highly focused. The problem with that is that you often learn the most where you least expect it. And you rarely know what you want to do for your entire life at the very beginning of it. This is why a classical education was historically very well rounded. If you never take art, you may never know you want to be a graphic designer, or an architect, or a pottery maker... The more we expose ourselves to in your youth, the more likely we are to find work we love as adults. Everyone should take art. And shop. And cooking. And music appreciation. That is where the next generation will come from.

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138	House	DEM	Stephanie Morales	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine arts is near and dear to my heart. I joined band when I was in sixth grade. In high school, I stayed in band even while I was a cheerleader and on the dance team. My dance instructor would hold my cymbals while we performed, then she would hand them to me as I ran to take my spot for the band performance. I then went on to march a Snare Drum in the Famous Fighting Texas Aggie Band. I marched all 4 years of college and being in the Corps of Cadets allowed me to learn the leadership skills I will use everyday as a legislator. I credit a lot of my success in life to fine arts and I want to ensure that our state fully funds our schools fine arts programs and that our children have the opportunity to study fine arts in schools.
145	House	DEM	Christina Morales	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I believe that students should have a well rounded education which includes fine arts. Our office made history by passing an Ethnic Studies bill in the 87th Legislative Session. I will continue to support and fight for quality public education for Texas kids. I believe that fine arts are an important part of a world class education that every young Texan deserves.
146	House	DEM	Shawn Thierry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As a legislator and parent of a creative child who appreciates the arts, I gave seen first hand how art education inspires and motivates students to enjoy learning. I believe it supports creative and critical thinking skills, and builds confidence.
148	House	DEM	Penny Morales Shaw	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Want more info	I believe that a fine arts education is a critical component in developing well-rounded Texas students and look forward to working with you in the coming legislative session in support of this.
149	House	REP	Lily Truong	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
150	House	DEM	Ginny Brown Daniel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Fine arts provide many opportunities for young people to develop their education in a well-rounded learning environment. I personally benefitted from symphonic, marching, and jazz bands in junior and senior high playing the alto and baritone sax. When we remove fine arts education as a priority, we hinder the wholistic educational opportunities for all students. When I am elected, I will advocate for the funding and priority of fine arts education in all public schools.
2	Senate	DEM	Prince Giadolor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
3	Senate	DEM	Steve Russell	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	Want more info	No	Yes	If I marked any answers as "undecided" or "Want more info," I might have marked "somewhat" or "very likely" if such answers were available. "Zero sum" answers of "all in" or "not at all in" many cases are not able to communicate a more thoughtful and answer.
8	Senate	REP	Angela Paxton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	Brain science supports the correlation between the arts and academic achievement (mathematics and music, for example). As a former educator and school counselor I would also add my belief that the arts are not only healthy for the brain, but for the body and the soul. I am grateful that my four children all had the opportunity to participate in the fine arts. When scheduling decisions must be made to allocate time for test preparation in a school setting, I strongly support parent engagement and input.
9	Senate	DEM	Gwenn Burud	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As as band mom, I've seen first hand the work our music educators put in to fostering children's overall growth. I also understand their need for a better work - life balance. A key priority is working with TMEA region chairs and ATSSB members to improve resources and funding as districts rebound from COVID and to support personnel retention and improved retirement benefits for music educators who have relocated from another state.
12	Senate	DEM	Francine Ly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	When children's motor skills are developed, they learn to communicate through artistic expression, right. So I do not understand why we not continue to engaging with art as it is essential to human experience.

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12	Senate	REP	Tan Parker	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Want more info	As the father of two daughters who graduated from public school and as a former member of my high school band, I look forward to a great 88th Session for fine arts in Texas.
14	Senate	DEM	Sarah Eckhardt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	Arts education has been crucial in my life and I know of its power to tap the talents of every child in ways that other curricula may fall short. My first career was in the arts. I am a proud graduate of the Houston High School for the Performing Arts and a founding member of a still-thriving professional theater company with presence in New York City and Los Angeles - the Atlantic Theater Company. I have no doubt that I am a better lawyer and a better policy maker because of my education and practice in the arts.
14	Senate	LIB	Steven Haskett	Yes	Want more info	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	I started playing viola in El Dorado, AR. I worked summers on a farm, saved my money, and sent myself to the Interlochen Arts Academy (paid half, rest scholarship.) I went on to study string pedagogy in Indiana. I played in orchestras in Midland/Odessa and retired as principal violist of the Brazos Valley Orchestra in Bryan, while pursuing an engineering degree. I've taught violin privately and I subbed as conductor for the orchestra program in the Bryan ISD back in the dark ages. More recently I worked as an officer in the LBJ/LASA Theatre Booster Club in Austin. I'm a lifelong supporter of the arts. I've worked as a programmer most of my career. There's a lot in common with music - it's creative, it relies on breaking down problems into manageable pieces and putting it all back together again as a whole work which plays well with others, standard practice room stuff! And the experience of presenting your work in front of the public is of lifelong value. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. If you're in Travis County I'd appreciate your vote!
15	Senate	DEM	John Whitmire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
15	Senate	REP	George Brian Vachris	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Yes	Want more info	Undecided	Undecided	
16	Senate	DEM	Nathan Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Want more info	
19	Senate	DEM	Roland Gutierrez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
19	Senate	REP	Robert Garza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
20	Senate	DEM	Juan Hinojosa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Art is an expression of life. To me, all art is beautiful. From music, paintings, performances, to other forms of art, all are key for the positive growth and development of our children and to our quality of life.
20	Senate	REP	Westley Wright	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Both of children started piano lessons when they where five. It was important for us they learned to read music.
21	Senate	DEM	Judith Zaffirini	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Appreciation of art in general and of the fine arts in particular is an important aspect of education ranging from early to higher levels. As a former President of the Laredo Ballet Society and Board Member of the Laredo Civic Music Association I saw how creative arts transformed students and enriched the quality of their lives as they were exposed to such joy and beauty. Including art education in public schools is especially important for low-income students who otherwise might not enjoy such wonderful learning experiences. Count on my support.
21	Senate	LIB	Arthur DiBianca	Want more info	Want more info	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	I am personally a supporter of fine arts instruction. (And I have been involved in fine arts as a performer throughout my life.) However, as a Libertarian, I oppose taxpayer-financed K-12 education. And I believe that parents should decide on the best levels of fine arts education for their children, rather than having those levels set through government policy.

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21	Senate	REP	Julie Dahlberg	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strong support for fine arts education for our children. The skills I learned from instruction in music and dance from early elementary throughout high school - I played the clarinet for years in orchestra and marching band and dance from age 8 to well into my adult years - have been an enriching foundation in my life, well beyond simply learning music and dance; and, I believe it is critical as a standard for the future of our children and grandchildren.
22	Senate	LIB	Jeremy Schroppel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Participation in Fine Arts education stimulates creativity in children. This moves mountains. Our greatest thinkers, entrepreneurs, and leaders, throughout history, have had this in common.
24	Senate	REP	Peter Flores	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I have two sisters and a brother in law who were band directors.
27	Senate	DEM	Morgan LaMantia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
1	State Board of Edu	DEM	Melissa Ortega	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	Fine arts education has been one of the highlights of my educational journey. I excelled in art classes and orchestra in middle school, performed in dance and theater in high school and studied music theater in College. I Performed in my university's music theater production of Victor/Victoria in 2000 and Saturday Night in 2020 as was an extra in the movie Glory Road. I understand first hand how influential fine arts education can be on a student and will do everything in my power to protect and sustain these educational opportunities for students across Texas.
1	State Board of Edu	REP	Michael Stevens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
2	State Board of Edu	DEM	Victor Perez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
2	State Board of Edu	REP	LJ Francis								
4	State Board of Edu	DEM	Staci Childs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Music is my life. It made me the person I am. I am smarter, wiser, competitive, and in tune with the world because of music. Children deserve these opportunities ten fold.
6	State Board of Edu	DEM	Michelle Palmer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Thank you for your advocacy for fine arts education in Texas. As a history/social studies teacher, I KNOW how important fine arts education is to developing a well rounded human being.
7	State Board of Edu	DEM	Daniel Hochman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I'm Dr. Dan Hochman, scientist and dual credit biology teacher at Ball High School in Galveston ISD. I'm running for Texas state board of education district #7 to help make our schools better. In addition to being a teacher, I am a public school parent as well. My daughter is a thriving high school student at Ball High, in large part to her involvement in performing arts. I have watched her develop as both a musician and a leader with her involvement in band, and she is now captain of the percussion line. Every student should have the opportunities to grow and learn music and art that my daughter has had.
7	State Board of Edu	LIB	Alan Pyeatt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Want more info	Yes	No	Yes	I was raised with the arts, and firmly believe that they are vital for ensuring a well-balanced education. My mother taught art classes at the local intermediate school, and my late father and older brother played trumpet duets at home. I also played trumpet in intermediate school and high school. I play guitar now, and double on bass guitar and mandolin. I have played in rock and funk bands in Texas, and I played in a Los Angeles blues band for approximately 5 years. I hold two degrees in commercial music from Long Beach (CA) City College, and I have written a small number of songs. I also produced and scored a short film which was screened at the Second Annual Cherokee International Film Festival. STEM education is very important and I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, which has been my primary occupation. But I am convinced that it is important to develop the right side of one's brain, as well as the left side.

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8	State Board of Edu	LIB	Rhett Smith								
8	State Board of Edu	REP	Dr. Audrey Young	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Students who have the opportunity to practice fine arts are proven to achieve higher class scores and higher test scores. Music, painting, sculpture, and poetry are all areas that engage the mind. Music fosters creativity, it expands a student's spatial temporal learning capacity. The brain decodes music the same way that the brain decodes language - which is the key to the door of the world. Fine arts brings people of all different environments together in rhythm and for that alone, fine arts is invaluable.
10	State Board of Edu	REP	Tom Maynard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	As a member of the State Board of Education, I'm not part of the legislative branch, but I will continue to be a supporter of fine arts education in general and music education in particular. I was a band student and a choir student and can point to specific skills from those experiences which were critical my success in my career, public service and service in Christian ministry.
11	State Board of Edu	DEM	Luis Miguel Sifuentes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	We are at a turning point in Education in Texas. Across Texas, politicians are trying to change how our students learn about race and history in the classroom, and they are attacking our public schools and teachers along the way. My name is Luis Miguel Sifuentes, and I am running to represent District 11 on the Texas State Board of Education. As a former educator and a father, I am committed to defend our students, our teachers, and our public schools. We need to fight for factual and inclusive curriculum standards. We need to fight to increase funding for our public schools. We need to fight to ensure that every child has access to a high quality and safe education. Education has been a very important part of my life. As a child of immigrants, the value of an education was instilled in me at a young age. Now, as a father of a 2 year old, I hope to fight to create the best public schools right here in Texas, not just for my daughter, but for all the students in Texas. Thank you so much for all that you do and I hope to see you on the campaign trail!
12	State Board of Edu	DEM	Alex Cornwallis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I have always been a strong supporter of Fine Arts Education. It opens up a student's creative mind that is crucial to success in life.
12	State Board of Edu	LIB	Christy Mowrey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I believe that the fine arts are undervalued in Texas public schools. Performing arts teach children problem-solving skills, adaptability, and resilience. Now, more than ever, kids need to participate in activities that boost mental health and self-esteem. There are undeniable benefits I would support specialized and charter schools focusing on the arts as alternatives to traditional public schools. Parents who want their children to attend a school that specializes in music, dance, or other arts should have that option. Arts-integrated curriculum and education are vital for academic success and must be prioritized. The creativity, opportunity, and success of future generations will depend on this.
13	State Board of Edu	DEM	Aicha Davis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Want more info	
13	State Board of Edu	REP	Kathryn Monette	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I truly believe that the arts are fundamental for a well rounded education. I saw 1st hand how learning to read music and play the trombone helped my son to be able to read. He had difficulties reading due to learning disabilities and he excelled with music. So much of our world and who we are is in the arts. It is a great disservice to our children to not include them. That is where so many children exceed and find their talents. We place so much value in sports, but the arts are also very valuable.

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14	State Board of Edu	DEM	Tracy Fisher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	I know firsthand what an art-enriched education does for our students. My sons played musical instruments; one finished at the all-state level here in Texas. They both developed strong work ethics and fantastic attention to detail. I would never recommend removing a child from music, theatre, dance, or art to make up academic work because a child engaged in the fine arts has improved academics and test scores. Our family moved with my dad in the military, but I continued to develop a love for drawing and painting that I engage in today as an adult. I took art through public school and private lessons, and later my college art classes enhanced my performance in my business classes. As an adult, I continued art classes moving from watercolor to oils, including Plein Air trips. As a school board member, I attend student theatre and music performances, art shows, classes, and even rehearsals. As a parent, I served in the band booster organization, working with other parents to support our high school program. I have attended TMEA performances, State band, orchestra, and choir and have briefly observed VASE competitions. Our son marched DCI for five summers, and I saw many of his events across the country. My husband and I are community arts supporters through our local theatre. I believe the arts are as important to our society as the academic or science fields. The arts enrich all of our lives.
14	State Board of Edu	REP	Evelyn Brooks	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Want more info	Yes	As a child attending public schools, many of my elementary teachers played the piano in our classroom. We were taught patriotic songs, along with popular festival songs for the holidays. This was very meaningful for learners and helped us to develop an appreciation for music while sparking our imagination and creativity. Integrating fine arts in core subjects is a wonderful way to inspire children to perform well academically, and can also be very beneficial to the well-being of a child's development. I totally support fine arts education opportunities.