

Answers by - Mike Heffernan Republican Candidate for State Treasurer

Questions for State Treasurer Candidates:

(Note: Questions 1-3 can be answered with a yes or no, but please feel free to elaborate beyond a one word answer)

1. MALC has had a great working relationship with the last two Treasurers and their administrations. Would you continue this open door policy to MALC and by extension to the arts and creative economy communities?

Yes.

2. The Treasurer's Office was one of the cofounders of the Annual Artist Under the Dome event at the State House and it remains one of its key supporters. If elected Treasurer, will you continue the office's support for this annual event?

Yes.

3. MALC has been working to establish a disaster/emergency fund for artists of all disciplines that would be held/managed by the Treasurer's office. All funds would be from outside sources, but in the case of a national disaster (ie Katrina/9/11 type of emergencies) it would allow for additional funding from the Federal government and/or other governmental/private sources to address the increased critical need.

I look forward to working with MALC to form such a fund for Massachusetts artists in the event of an emergency or disaster.

4. Is there anything else you would like to share in regards to your policy and/or platforms that directly impacts artists of all disciplines and by extension the arts and creative economy communities?

I love Massachusetts. I am proud to have been born here, and my wife and I are raising our three teenagers here. I view the treasurer's role as public service, not politics. I view arts as integral to what makes Massachusetts a truly great, world-class place to live and raise a family. Although a lapsed childhood musician, my family includes both fine and musical artists. I will bring 30 years of direct financial and investment leadership experience to the office, and I plan to use the skills I have honed to responsibly protect and manage your money so that we are granted the financial freedom to invest in making Massachusetts a leader across the board again – including in the arts.

As a father of children in the public schools, I am concerned that across Massachusetts we see art, music and theater programs being cut for lack of funding. Local programs suffer when there are cuts in aid from the state to cities and towns. Since 2009, unrestricted state aid to towns and cities has been cut by \$400 million while the overall state budget has grown more than \$6 billion. I will work with the Legislature to restore local aid and to maximize net revenues from the state Lottery, which goes back to cities and towns as funds they are free to spend as they see fit.

The treasurer also oversees the Massachusetts School Building Authority, which helps school districts build new facilities. I will support the construction of artistic spaces in our new schools so students have access to theaters and art studios, as well as science labs and gymnasiums.

I believe a healthy state economy will help artists of all disciplines to thrive in Massachusetts, whether they are performing in the local theatre or showcasing their latest canvas at the State House. We are fortunate to be surrounded by some of the best talent in the world, and I believe a thriving creative economy should be an essential component of the overall robust Massachusetts economy I hope to help improve. I plan to triple to \$1 billion the amount of state reserve revenues invested in the Small Business Banking Partnership Program, and will work with businesses to ensure the program is open to artists.

The treasurer manages the Commonwealth's credit and cash, helps deliver and protect pension benefits, builds better schools and supplies local aid – all things I believe affect our artists, young and old. I want the job as treasurer to help the state better manage its money, reduce state debt, and help our entire state thrive.